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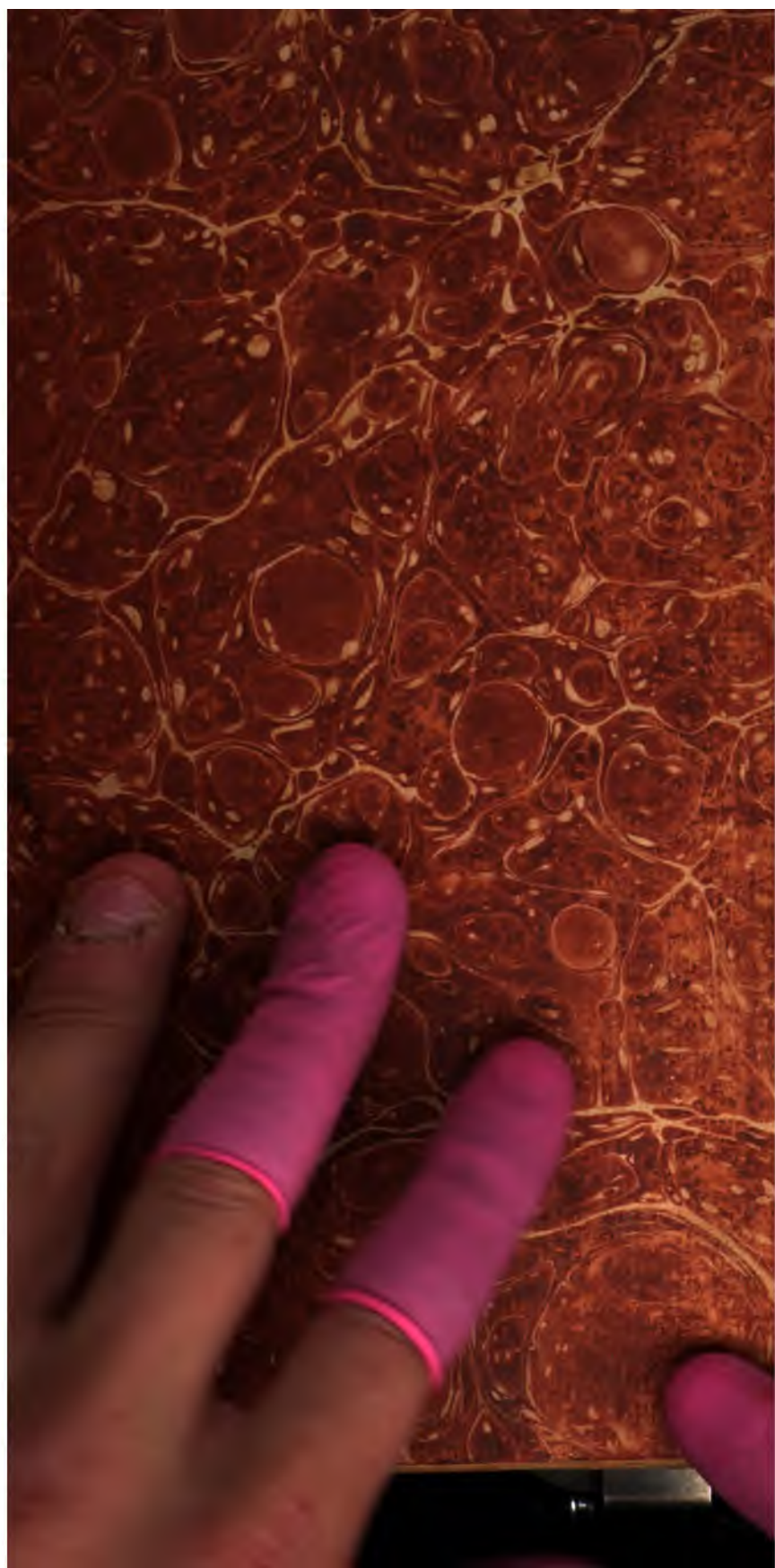
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**THE
SPECTATOR:**

WITH NOTES
AND
A GENERAL INDEX.

**THE
EIGHT VOLUMES.
COMPRISED IN ONE.**



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— 212 —

These are my companions.

Page IV.

L O N D O N :

Printed for SHARPE and HALES, Beccadilly;
TAYLOR and HESSEY, Fleet Street; CRADOCK and JOY,
Paternoster Row; and J. M. RICHARDSON, Cornhill.

1811.

THE
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WITH
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(19)

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RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN LORD SOMERS,

BARON OF EYESHAM.*



at the part of an impartial Spectator the following papers to one of the most consummate and most accurate.

Person of a finished character can perform a work which endeavours to polish human life, by promoting virtue, and by recommending what is either useful or ornamental to society.

The homage I now pay you, is offered to one who is as solicitous to be as assiduous to deserve it. But, perhaps the only particular in which I shall be always disappointed.

Candour, equanimity, a zeal for the country, and the most persuasive reasoning over others to it, are values you are not to expect that they will comply with your inclinations, by braving such extraordinary qualifications that you have endeavoured to re of merit in the many national

services which you have effected. Do what you will, the present age will be talking of your virtues, though posterity alone will do them justice.

Other men pass through oppositions and contending interests in the ways of ambition; but your great abilities have been invited to power, and importuned to accept of advancement. Nor is it strange that this should happen to your lordship, who could bring into the service of your sovereign the arts and policies of ancient Greece and Rome; as well as the most exact knowledge of our own constitution in particular, and of the interests of Europe in general; to which I must also add, a certain dignity in yourself, that (to say the least of it) has been always equal to those great honours which have been conferred upon you.

It is very well known how much the church owed to you, in the most dangerous day it ever saw, that of the arraignment of its prelates; and how far the civil power, in the late and present reign, has been indebted to your counsels and wisdom.

But to enumerate the great advantages which the public has received from your administration,

at a time when he was justly said to have by his life, and planned them for posterity. Worcester, 1652. He was educated at the Middle Temple, and with great vigour, judiciously blended with great moderation. He soon distinguished himself in a piece called *modest Vindication of the two last* 1681 he was of counsel for the seven bishops and argued with great learning and *dispensing power*. In the convention of the Prince of Orange's summons, Jan. 22, Worcester; and was one of the managers of the commons, at a conference with the house of lords *abdicated*. Soon after the accession of Queen Mary to the throne, he was appointed, and received the honour of knight-made attorney-general, and in 1693 appointed keeper of the great seal of England. An expedient to prevent the practice of the same year was constituted one of England during his majesty's absence, the two following years. In 1697 he was, Baron of Eyesham, and made

lord high chancellor of England. In the beginning of 1700 he was removed from his post of lord chancellor; and the year after was impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors by the house of commons, of which he was acquitted upon trial by the house of lords. He then retired to a studious course of life, and was chosen president of the Royal Society. In 1706 he proposed a bill for the regulation of the law; and the same year was one of the principal managers for the union between England and Scotland. In 1708 he was made lord president of the council, from which post he was removed in 1710, upon the change of the ministry. In the latter end of Queen Anne's reign, his lordship grew very infirm in his health; which indisposition is supposed to have been the reason that he held no other post than a seat at the council table after the accession of King George I. He died of an apoplectic fit, April 26, 1716. Lord Somers, besides being a most incorrupt lawyer, and honest statesman, was a master- orator, a genius of the finest taste, a great patron of men of parts and learning, and was the person who redeemed Milton's 'Paradise Lost' from that obscurity in which party-prejudice and hatred had suffered it long to lie neglected. He wrote several pieces on the subject of politics, and translated certain parts of Plutarch and Ovid.

* Trial of the seven bishops, June 29, 1680.

would be a more proper work for an history, than for an address of this nature.

Your lordship appears as great in your private life, as in the most important offices which you have borne. I would, therefore, rather choose to speak of the pleasure you afford all who are admitted to your conversation, of your elegant taste in all the polite arts of learning, of your great humanity and complacency of manners, and of the surprising influence which is peculiar to you, in making every one who converses with your lordship prefer you to

himself, without thinking the less * meanly of his own talents. But if I should take notice of all that might be observed in your lordship, I should have nothing new to say upon any other character of distinction. I am, MY LORD,

Your lordship's most devoted,

Most obedient humble servant,

THE SPECTATOR.

* This must certainly be an error; and for *less* we should read *more*.

THE
SPECTATOR.

VOL. I.

N^o 1. THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1710-11.

*Non fumum ex fulgore, sed ex fumo dare lucem
Cogitat, ut speciosa dehinc miracula promat.*
HOB. Ars Poet. ver. 143.

One with a flash begins, and ends in smoke;
Another out of smoke brings glorious light,
And (without raising expectation high)
Surprises us with dazzling miracles.

ROSCOMMON.

I HAVE observed, that a reader seldom peruses a book with pleasure, till he knows whether the writer of it be a black or a fair man, of a mild or choleric disposition, married or a bachelor, with other particulars of the like nature, that conduce very much to the right understanding of an author. To gratify this curiosity, which is so natural to a reader, I design this paper and my next as prefatory discourses to my following writings, and shall give some account in them of the several persons that are engaged in this work. As the chief trouble of compiling, digesting, and correcting, will fall to my share, I must do myself the justice to open the work with my own history.

I was born to a small hereditary estate, which, according to the tradition of the village where it lies, was bounded by the same hedges and ditches in William the Conqueror's time that it is at present, and has been delivered down from father to son, whole and entire, without the loss or acquisition of a single field or meadow, during the space of six hundred years. There runs a story in the family, that when my mother was gone with child of me about three months, she dreamt that she was brought to bed of a judge. Whether this might proceed from a law-suit which was then depending in the family, or my father's being a justice of the peace, I cannot determine; for I am not so vain as to think it presaged any dignity that I should arrive at in my future life, though that was the interpretation which the neighbourhood put upon it. The gravity of my behaviour at my very first appearance in the world, and at the time that I suckled, seemed to favour my mother's dream: for, as she has often told me, I threw away my rattle before I was two months old, and would not make use of my coral until they and taken away the beads from it.

As for the rest of my infancy; there being nothing in it remarkable, I shall pass it over in silence. I find that, during my noddage, I had the reputation of a very sullen youth, but was always a favourite of my schoolmaster, who used to say, that my parts were solid, and would wear well. I had not been long at the university before I distinguished myself by a most profound silence; for, during the space of eight years, excepting in the public exercises of the college, I scarce uttered the quantity of a hundred words; and indeed do not remember that I ever spoke three sentences together in my whole life. Whilst I was in this searfed body, I applied myself with so much diligence to my studies, that there are very few celebrated

books, either in the learned or the modern tongues which I am not acquainted with.

Upon the death of my father I was resolved to travel into foreign countries, and therefore left the university, with the character of an odd unaccountable fellow, that had a great deal of learning, if I would but show it. An insatiable thirst after knowledge carried me into all the countries of Europe, in which there was any thing new or strange to be seen; nay, to such a degree was my curiosity raised, that, having read the controversies of some great men concerning the antiquities of Egypt, I made a voyage to Grand Cairo, on purpose to take the measure of a pyramid; and, as soon as I had set myself right in that particular, returned to my native country with great satisfaction*.

I have passed my latter years in this city, where I am frequently seen in most public places, though there are not above half a dozen of my select friends that know me; of whom my next paper shall give a more particular account. There is no place of general resort wherein I do not often make my appearance: sometimes I am seen thrusting my head into a round of politicians at Will's, and listening with great attention to the narratives that are made in those little circular audiences; sometimes I smoke a pipe at Child's†, and, while I seem attentive to nothing but the Post man, overhear the conversation of every table in the room. I appear on Sunday night at St. James's coffee-house, and sometimes join the little committee of politics in the inner room, as one who comes there to hear and improve. My face is likewise very well known at the Grecian, the Cocoa-Tree, and in the theatres both of Drury Lane and the Haymarket. I have been taken for a merchant upon the Exchange for above these ten years, and sometimes pass for a Jew in the assembly of stock-jobbers at Jonathan's‡. In short; wherever I see a cluster of people, I always mix with them, though I never open my lips but in my own club.

Thus I live in the world rather as a Spectator of mankind than as one of the species; by which means I have made myself a speculative statesman, soldier, merchant, and artizan, without ever meddling with any practical part in life. I am very well versed in the theory of a husband or a father, and can discern the errors in the economy, business, and diversion of others, better than those who are engaged in them; as standers-by discover blots, which are apt to escape those who are in the game. I never espoused any party with violence, and am resolved to observe an exact neutrality between the whigs and tories, unless I shall be forced to declare myself by the hostilities of either side. In short, I have acted in all the parts of my life as a looker-on, which is the character I intend to preserve in this paper.

* An allusion, no doubt, to Mr. John Greaves, a mathematician and antiquary, who, after visiting Egypt, published a book entitled 'Pyramidographia.'

† This coffee-house, in St. Paul's Church-yard, was the resort of the clergy.

‡ In 'Change Alley.

I have given the reader just so much of my history and character, as to let him see I am not altogether unqualified for the business I have undertaken. As for other particulars in my life and adventures, I shall insert them in following papers, as I shall see occasion. In the mean time, when I consider how much I have seen, read, and heard, I begin to blame my own taciturnity; and since I have neither time nor inclination to communicate the fulness of my heart in speech, I am resolved to do it in writing, and to print myself out, if possible, before I die. I have been often told by my friends, that it is pity, so many useful discoveries which I have made should be in the possession of a silent man. For this reason, therefore, I shall publish a sheet-full of thoughts every morning for the benefit of my contemporaries; and if I can any way contribute to the diversion or improvement of the country in which I live, I shall leave it, when I am summoned out of it, with the secret satisfaction of thinking that I have not lived in vain.

There are three very material points which I have not spoken to in this paper; and which, for several important reasons, I must keep to myself, at least for some time; I mean, an account of my name, my age, and my lodgings. I must confess, I would gratify my reader in any thing that is reasonable; but as for these three particulars, though I am sensible they might tend very much to the embellishment of my paper, I cannot yet come to a resolution of communicating them to the public. They would indeed draw me out of that obscurity which I have enjoyed for many years, and expose me in public places to several salutes and civilities, which have been always very disagreeable to me; for the greatest pain I can suffer, is the being talked to, and being stared at. It is for this reason, likewise, that I keep my complexion and dress as very great secrets; though it is not impossible but I may make discoveries of both in the progress of the work I have undertaken.

After having been thus particular upon myself, I shall in to-morrow's paper give an account of those gentlemen who are concerned with me in this work; for, as I have before intimated, a plan of it is laid and concerted (as all other matters of importance are) in a club. However, as my friends have engaged me to stand in the front, those who have a mind to correspond with me may direct their letters to the Spectator, at Mr. Hackley's, in Little Britain; for I must further acquaint the reader, that though our club meets only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have appointed a committee, to sit every night for the inspection of all such papers as may contribute to the advancement of the public weal.

ADDITION*.

C.

Nº 2. FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1710-11.

— *At illi sex*
Et plures, uno conclamant ore —
JUV. Sat. vii. 167.

Six more at least join their consenting voice.

THE first of our society is a gentleman of Worcestershire, of an ancient descent, a baronet, his name Sir Roger de Coverley†. His great grandfather

* His papers in the Spectator are all marked by some one of the letters composing the word CLIO. See Nº 555.

† This character is said by Mr. Tyers to have been drawn for Sir John Paclington of Worcestershire; a tory, not without good sense, but abounding in absurdities. But this may,

was inventor of that famous country-dance which is called after him. All who know that shire are very well acquainted with the parts and merits of Sir Roger. He is a gentleman that is very singular in his behaviour, but his singularities proceed from his good sense, and are contradictions to the manners of the world, only as he thinks the world is in the wrong. However, this humour creates him no enemies, for he does nothing with sourness or obstinacy; and his being unconfined to modes and forms, makes him but the readier and more capable to please and oblige all who know him. When he is in town, he lives in Soho Square*. It is said, he keeps himself a bachelor by reason he was crossed in love by a perverse beautiful widow† of the next county to him. Before this disappointment Sir Roger was what you call a fine gentleman, had often supped with my Lord Rochester and Sir George Etheridge, fought a duel upon his first coming to town, and kicked bully Dawson‡ in a public coffee-house for calling him youngster. But being ill used by the above-mentioned widow, he was very serious for a year and a half: and though, his temper being naturally jovial, he at last got over it, he grew careless of himself, and never dressed afterwards. He continues to wear a coat and doublet of the same cut that were in fashion at the time of his repulse, which, in his merry humours, he tells us, has been in and out twelve times since he first wore it. It is said Sir Roger grew humble in his desires after he had forgot his cruel beauty, inasmuch that it is reported he has frequently offended in point of chastity with beggars and gipsies; but this is looked upon, by his friends, rather as matter of raillery than truth. He is now in his fifty-sixth year, cheerful, gay, and hearty; keeps a good house both in town and country; a great lover of mankind; but there is such a mirthful cast in his behaviour, that he is rather beloved than esteemed.

His tenants grow rich, his servants look satisfied, all the young women profess love to him, and the young men are glad of his company. When he comes into a house he calls the servants by their names, and talks all the way up stairs to a visit. I must not omit, that Sir Roger is a justice of the quorum; that he fills the chair at a quarter-session with great abilities; and three months ago gained universal applause, by explaining a passage in the game-act.

The gentleman next in esteem and authority among us is another bachelor, who is a member of the Inner-Temple; a man of great probity, wit, and understanding; but he has chosen his place of residence rather to obey the direction of an old humorous father, than in pursuit of his own inclinations. He was placed there to study the laws of the land, and is the most learned of any of the house in those of the stage. Aristotle and Longinus are much better understood by him than Littleton or Coke. The father sends up every post questions relating to marriage-articles, leases, and tenures, in the neighbourhood; all which questions he agrees with an attorney to answer and take care of in

probably, have been only a vague report. Mr. Tickell seems to have been of opinion, that the account of the Spectator and the club are altogether fictitious.

* Then the most fashionable part of the town.

† Dr. Johnson said it appeared to him, that the story of the widow was intended to have something superinduced upon it; but the superstructure did not come. Boswell's Life of Johnson, vol. ii. p. 376, 3d edit.

‡ A noted sharper, swaggerer, and debauchee, well known in Black Friars and its then infamous purlies; and to expose whom, it has been said, the character of Captain Hackum, in Shadwell's comedy called The Squire of Alsatia, was drawn.

He is studying the passions themselves could be inquiring into the debates which arise from them. He knows of each of the orations of Demosthenes, but not one case in the reports of courts. No one ever took him for a wit, except his intimate friends, know a deal of wit. This turn makes him disinterested and agreeable. As few are drawn from business, they are not fit for conversation. His taste of life is too just for the age he lives in; he does not approve of very few. His family, the customs, manners, actions, and the ancients, makes him a very delicate critic, and the time of the play of business; exactly at five he passes the Inn, crosses through Ranelagh, and at eight till the play begins; he has bed and his perwig powdered at the same time as the Rose*. It is for the audience when he is at a play, for the ambition to please him.

Of next consideration is Sir Andrew, a merchant of great eminence in the city; a person of indefatigable industry, and great experience. His notions are noble and generous, and (as every one usually says) a way of jesting, which no great figure were he not a rich man in the sea the British Common. He is a man of commerce in all its parts, and will not let it be a stupid and barbarous way to gain by arms; for true power is to be found in industry. He will often argue, that our trade were well cultivated, and gain from one nation; and if another, I have heard him prove, that diligence in more lasting acquisitions than valour, has ruined more nations than the abundance in several frugal maxims, of which the greatest favourite is, 'A penny enny got.' A general trader, of good character, a company than a general scholar. Andrew having a natural unaffectedness, the perspicuity of his discourse gives the effect that wit would in another man. He is fortunate himself; and says, that England is richer than other kingdoms, by as much as he himself is richer than other nations at the same time I can say this of England is not a point in the compass, but a ship in which he is an owner.

Sir Andrew in the club-room sits Captain; a gentleman of great courage, good judgment, but invincible modesty. He is one who deserves very well, but are very awkward in their talents within the observation should take notice of them. He was a captain, and behaved himself with bravery in several engagements, and without having a small estate of his own, next heir to Sir Roger, he has quitted a

way of life in which no man can rise suitably to his merit, who is not something of a courtier, as well as a soldier. I have heard him often lament, that in a profession where merit is placed in so conspicuous a view, impudence should get the better of modesty. When he has talked to this purpose, I never heard him make a sour expression, but frankly confess that he left the world, because he was not fit for it. A strict honesty and an even regular behaviour, are in themselves obstacles to him that must press through crowds, who endeavour at the same end with himself, the favour of a commander. He will however, in his way of talk, excuse generals, for not disposing according to men's desert, or inquiring into it; for, says he, that great man who has a mind to help me, has as many to break through to come at me, as I have to come at him; therefore he will conclude, that the man who would make a figure, especially in a military way, must get over all false modesty, and assist his patron against the importunity of other pretenders, by a proper assurance in his own vindication. He says it is a civil cowardice to be backward in asserting what you ought to expect, as it is a military fear to be slow in attacking when it is your duty. With this candour does the gentleman speak of himself and others. The same frankness runs through all his conversation. The military part of his life has furnished him with many adventures, in the relation of which he is very agreeable to the company; for he is never overbearing, though accustomed to command men in the utmost degree below him; nor ever too obsequious, from an habit of obeying men highly above him.

But that our society may not appear a set of humorists, unacquainted with the gallantries and pleasures of the age, we have among us the gallant Will Honeycomb*, a gentleman who, according to his years, should be in the decline of his life; but having ever been very careful of his person, and always had a very easy fortune, time has made but very little impression, either by wrinkles on his forehead, or traces in his brain. His person is well turned, and of a good height. He is very ready at that sort of discourse with which men usually entertain women. He has all his life dressed very well, and remembers habits as others do men. He can smile when one speaks to him, and laughs easily. He knows the history of every mode, and can inform you from which of the French king's wenches our wives and daughters had this manner of curling their hair, that way of placing their hoods; whose frailty was covered by such a sort of petticoat, and whose vanity to show her foot made that part of the dress so short in such a year. In a word, all his conversation and knowledge has been in the female world. As other men of his age will take notice to you what such a minister said upon such and such an occasion, he will tell you, when the Duke of Monmouth danced at court, such a woman was then smitten, another was taken with him at the head of his troops in the Park. In all these important relations, he has ever about the same time received a kind glance, or a blow of a fan, from some celebrated beauty, mother of the present Lord Such-a-one. If you speak of a young commoner that said a lively thing in the house, he starts up, 'He has good blood in his veins, Tom Mirabel begot him, the rogue cheated me in that affair, that young fellow's mother used

* Side of Temple-Bar.

is conjectured, and not without an appearance that this character was sketched from Mr. H. a gentleman acknowledged by Steele (No 555) to be in the Spectator; and known to have been sketched in 'The British Merchant,' 3 vols.

to have been Captain Kerpenfeldt, a native of father of the rear-admiral of that name, who the Royal George of 100 guns, which sunk at sea, 1782.

* A Colonel Cleland is thought to have been alluded to under this character.

me more like a dog than any woman I ever made advances to.' This way of talking of his very much enlivens the conversation among us of a more sedate turn; and I find there is not one of the company, but myself, who rarely speak at all, but speaks of him as of that sort of man, who is usually called a well-bred fine gentleman. To conclude his character, where women are not concerned, he is an honest worthy man.

I cannot tell whether I am to account him, whom I am next to speak of, as one of our company; for he visits us but seldom, but when he does, it adds to every man else a new enjoyment of himself. He is a clergyman, a very philosophic man, of general learning, great sanctity of life, and the most exact good breeding. He has the misfortune to be of a very weak constitution, and consequently cannot accept of such cares and business as preferments in his function would oblige him to; he is therefore among divines, what a chamber-counsellor is among lawyers. The probity of his mind, and the integrity of his life, create him followers, as being eloquent or loud advances others. He seldom introduces the subject he speaks upon; but we are so far gone in years, that he observes when he is among us, an earnestness to have him fall on some divine topic, which he always treats with much authority, as one who has no interests in this world, as one who is hastening to the object of all his wishes, and conceives hope from his decays and infirmities. These are my ordinary companions.

STEELÉ *.

R.

NO 3. SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1710-11.

*Et quod quisque fere studio devinctus adheret,
Aut quibus in rebus multum sumus ante morati,
Atque in qua ratione fuit contraria magis mens,
In somnis eadem plerumque videmur obire.*

LUCR. 1. iv. 959.

— What studies please, what most delight,
And fill men's thoughts, they dream them o'er at night.
CREECH.

In one of my late rambles, or rather speculations, I looked into the great hall where the Bank is kept, and was not a little pleased to see the directors, secretaries, and clerks, with all the other members of that wealthy corporation, ranged in their several stations, according to the parts they act in that just and regular economy. This revived in my memory the many discourses which I had both read and heard, concerning the decay of public credit, with the methods of restoring it, and which, in my opinion, have always been defective, because they have always been made with an eye to separate interests, and party principles.

The thoughts of the day gave my mind employment for the whole night, so that I fell insensibly into a kind of methodical dream, which disposed all my contemplations into a vision or allegory, or what else the reader shall please to call it.

Methought I returned to the great hall, where I had been the morning before, but to my surprise, instead of the company that I left there, I saw, towards the upper end of the hall, a beautiful virgin, seated on a throne of gold. Her name (as they told me) was Public Credit. The walls, instead of being adorned with pictures and maps,

* His papers in the Spectator are signed either with an R, an L, or a T; which distinctions have been thus interpreted: R (the initial of his christian name) is thought to mark the paper as of his own writing; L, perhaps, composed from hints dropped into the Letter-box; and T, his editorial mark, signifying Transcribed from anonymous communications.

were hung with many acts of parliament written in golden letters. At the upper end of the hall was the magna charta, with the act of uniformity on the right hand, and the act of toleration on the left. At the lower end of the hall was the act of settlement, which was placed full in the eye of the virgin that sat upon the throne. Both the sides of the hall were covered with such acts of parliament as had been made for the establishment of public funds. The lady seemed to set an unspeakable value upon these several pieces of furniture, inasmuch that she often refreshed her eye with them, and often smiled with a secret pleasure, as she looked upon them; but, at the same time, showed a very particular uneasiness, if she saw any thing approaching that might hurt them. She appeared, indeed, infinitely timorous in all her behaviour: and whether it was from the delicacy of her constitution, or that she was troubled with the vapours, as I was afterwards told by one, who I found was none of her well-wishers, she changed colour, and started at every thing she heard. She was likewise (as I afterwards found) a greater valetudinarian than any I had ever met with, even in her own sex, and subject to such momentary consumptions, that, in the twinkling of an eye, she would fall away from the most florid complexion, and most healthful state of body, and wither into a skeleton. Her recoveries were often as sudden as her decays, inasmuch that she would revive in a moment out of a wasting distemper, into a habit of the highest health and vigour.

I had very soon an opportunity of observing these quick turns and changes in her constitution. There sat at her feet a couple of secretaries, who received every hour letters from all parts of the world, which the one or the other of them was perpetually reading to her; and according to the news she heard, to which she was exceedingly attentive, she changed colour, and discovered many symptoms of health or sickness.

Behind the throne was a prodigious heap of bags of money, which were piled upon one another so high that they touched the ceiling. The floor on her right hand, and on her left, was covered with vast sums of gold that rose up in pyramids on either side of her. But this I did not so much wonder at, when I heard, upon inquiry, that she had the same virtue in her touch, which the poets tell us a Lydian king was formerly possessed of; and that she could convert whatever she pleased into that precious metal.

After a little dizziness, and confused hurry of thought, which a man often meets with in a dream, methought the hall was alarmed, the doors flew open, and there entered half a dozen of the most hideous phantoms that I had ever seen (even in a dream) before that time. They came in two by two, though matched in the most disociable manner, and mingled together in a kind of dance. It would be tedious to describe their habits and persons; for which reason I shall only inform my reader, that the first couple were Tyranny and Anarchy, the second were Bigotry and Atheism, the third the Genius of a commonwealth, and a young man of about twenty-two years of age *, whose name I could not learn. He had a sword in his right hand, which in the dance he often brandished at the act of settlement; and a citizen, who stood by me, whispered in my ear, that he saw a sponge in his left hand. The dance of so many jarring natures put me in mind of the sun, moon,

* James Stuart, the pretended Prince of Wales.

be Rehearsal, that danced together and but to eclipse one another. I will easily suppose by what has been said the lady on the throne would have been lighted to distraction, had she seen of these spectres; what then must condition when she saw them all inainted and died away at the sight.

*in color est misto candore rubori;
et vires, et quæ modo visa placebant;
conaret*

OVID. Met. iii. 491.

Her spirits faint,
Her cheeks assume a pallid teint,
Her form remains.

great a change in the bill of money-caps of money, the former shrinking to so many empty bags, that I now ve a tenth part of them had been key.

I took up the same space, and made as the bags that were ready filled had been blown up with air, and memory the bags full of wind, which his hero received as a present from great heaps of gold on either side the red to be only heaps of paper, or notched sticks, bound up together in lath faggots.

is lamenting this sudden desolation made before me, the whole scene the room of the frightful spectres, red a second dance of apparitions matched together, and made up of phantoms. The first pair was Lianarchy at her right hand. The seration leading in Religion; and the whom I had never seen, with the at Britain. At the first entrance d, the bags swelled to their former of faggots and heaps of paper pyramids of guineas: and, for my as so transported with joy, that I h, I must confess, I would fain have gain to have closed my vision, if I ie it.

C.

ONDAY, MARCH 5, 1710-11.

Egregii mortalem aliquæ silentii?

HOR. 2 Sat. vi. 58.

common silence and reserve.

hen he first appears in the world, believe it has nothing to think of but res. With a good share of this var, I made it my business these three after my own fame; and as I have t with circumstances which did not I have been encountered by others, much mortification. It is incredible empty I have in this time observed the species to be, what mere blanks they first come abroad in the mornly they are at a stand, until they are some paragraph in a newspaper. is are very acceptable to a young y desire no more in any thing but be agreeable. -If I found consolath, I was as much disquieted by the

of Hanover, afterwards King George I.

incapacity of others. These are mortals who have a certain curiosity without power of reflection, and perused my papers like spectators rather than readers. But there is so little pleasure in inquiries that so nearly concern ourselves (it being the worst way in the world to fame, to be too anxious about it), that upon the whole I resolved for the future, to go on in my ordinary way; and without too much fear or hope about the business of reputation, to be very careful of the design of my actions, but very negligent of the consequences of them.

It is an endless and frivolous pursuit to act by any other rule, than the care of satisfying our own minds in what we do. One would think a silent man, who concerned himself with no one breathing, should be very little liable to misinterpretations; and yet I remember I was once taken up for a jesuit, for no other reason but my profound taciturnity. It is from this misfortune that, to be out of harm's way, I have ever since affected crowd. He who comes into assemblies only to gratify his curiosity, and not to make a figure, enjoys the pleasures of retirement in a more exquisite degree, than he possibly could in his closet; the lover, the ambitious, and the miser, are followed thither by a worse crowd than any they can withdraw from. To be exempt from the passions with which others are tormented, is the only pleasing solitude. I can very justly say with the ancient sage, 'I am never less alone than when alone.'

As I am insignificant to the company in public places, and as it is visible I do not come thither, as most do, to show myself, I gratify the vanity of all who pretend to make an appearance, and have often as kind looks from well-dressed gentlemen and ladies, as a poet would bestow upon one of his audience. There are so many gratifications attend this public sort of obscurity, that some little distastes I daily receive have lost their anguish; and I did the other day, without the least displeasure, overhear one say of me, that strange fellow; and another answer, I have known the fellow's face these twelve years, and so must you; but I believe you are the first ever asked who he was. There are, I must confess, many to whom my person is as well known as that of their nearest relations, who give themselves no further trouble about calling me by my name or quality, but speak of me very currently by the appellation of Mr. What d'ye call him.

To make up for these trivial disadvantages, I have the high satisfaction of beholding all nature with an unprejudiced eye; and having nothing to do with men's passions or interests, I can, with the greater sagacity, consider their talents, manners, failings, and merits.

It is remarkable, that those who want any one sense, possess the others with greater force and vivacity. Thus my want of, or rather resignation of speech, gives me all the advantages of a dumb man. I have, methinks, a more than ordinary penetration in seeing; and flatter myself that I have looked into the highest and lowest of mankind; and make shrewd guesses, without being admitted to their conversation, at the inmost thoughts and reflections of all whom I behold. It is from hence that good or ill fortune has no manner of force towards affecting my judgment. I see men flourishing in courts, and languishing in jails, without being prejudiced, from their circumstances, to their favour or disadvantage; but, from their inward manner of bearing their condition, often pity the prosperous, and admire the unhappy.

Those who converse with the dumb, know from

the turn of their eyes, and the changes of their countenance, their sentiments of the objects before them. I have indulged my silence to such an extravagance, that the few who are intimate with me, answer my smiles with concurrent sentences, and argue to the very point I shook my head at, without my speaking. Will Honeycomb was very entertaining the other night at a play, to a gentleman who sat on his right hand, while I was at his left. The gentleman believing Will was talking to himself, when upon my looking with great approbation at a young thing in a box before us, he said, 'I am quite of another opinion. She has, I will allow, a very pleasing aspect, but, methinks, that simplicity in her countenance is rather childish than innocent.' When I observed her a second time, he said, 'I grant her dress is very becoming, but perhaps the merit of that choice is owing to her mother; for though,' continued he, 'I allow a beauty to be as much to be commended for the elegance of her dress, as a wit for that of his language; yet if she has stolen the colour of her ribands from another, or had advice about her trimmings, I shall not allow her the praise of dress, any more than I would call a plagiarist an author.' When I threw my eye towards the next woman to her, Will spoke what I looked, according to his romantic imagination, in the following manner:

'Behold, you who dare, that charming virgin; behold the beauty of her person chastised by the innocence of her thoughts. Chastity, good-nature, and affability, are the graces that play in her countenance; she knows she is handsome, but she knows she is good. Conscious beauty adorned with conscious virtue! What a spirit is there in those eyes! What a bloom in that person! How is the whole woman expressed in her appearance! Her air has the beauty of motion, and her look the force of language.'

It was prudence to turn away my eyes from this object, and therefore I turned them to the thoughtless creatures who make up the lump of that sex, and move a knowing eye no more than the portraiture of insignificant people by ordinary painters, which are but pictures of pictures.

Thus the working of my own mind is the general entertainment of my life; I never enter into the commerce of discourse with any but my particular friends, and not in public even with them. Such an habit has perhaps raised in me uncommon reflections; but this effect I cannot communicate but by my writings. As my pleasures are almost wholly confined to those of the sight, I take it for a peculiar happiness, that I have always had an easy and familiar admittance to the fair sex. If I never praised or flattered, I never belied or contradicted them. As these compose half the world, and are, by the just complaisance and gallantry of our nation, the more powerful part of our people, I shall dedicate a considerable share of these my speculations to their service, and shall lead the young through all the becoming duties of virginity, marriage, and widowhood. When it is a woman's day, in my works, I shall endeavour at a style and air suitable to their understanding. When I say this, I must be understood to mean, that I shall not lower but exalt the subjects I treat upon. Discourse for their entertainment, is not to be debased, but refined. A man may appear learned without talking sentences, as in his ordinary gesture he discovers he can dance, though he does not cut capers. In a word, I shall take it for the greatest glory of my work, if among reasonable women this paper may furnish tea-table talk. In order to it, I shall

treat on matters which relate to females, as they are concerned to approach or fly from the other sex, or as they are tied to them by blood, interest, or affection. Upon this occasion I think it but reasonable to declare, that whatever skill I may have in speculation, I shall never betray what the eyes of lovers say to each other in my presence. At the same time I shall not think myself obliged by this promise to conceal any false protestations which I observe made by glances in public assemblies; but endeavour to make both sexes appear in their conduct what they are in their hearts. By this means, love, during the time of my speculations, shall be carried on with the same sincerity as any other affair of less consideration. As this is the greatest concern, men shall be from henceforth liable to the greatest reproach for misbehaviour in it. Falseness in love shall hereafter bear a blacker aspect than infidelity in friendship, or villany in business. For this great and good end, all breaches against that noble passion, the cement of society, shall be severely examined. But this, and all other matters loosely hinted at now, and in my former papers, shall have their proper place in my following discourses. The present writing is only to admonish the world, that they shall not find me an idle, but a busy Spectator.

STEELE.

R.

Nº 5. TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1710-11.

Spectatum admissi rium teneatis t

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 5.

Admitted to the sight, would you not laugh t

An opera may be allowed to be extravagantly lavish in its decorations, as its only design is to gratify the senses, and keep up an indolent attention in the audience. Common sense however requires, that there should be nothing in the scenes and machines which may appear childish and absurd. How would the wits of King Charles's time have laughed, to have seen Nicolini exposed to a tempest in robes of ermine, and sailing in an open boat upon a sea of pasteboard? What a field of raillery would they have been led into, had they been entertained with painted dragons spitting wild-fire, enchanted chariots drawn by Flanders mares, and real cascades in artificial landscapes? A little skill in criticism would inform us, that shadows and realities ought not to be mixed together in the same piece; and that the scenes which are designed as the representations of nature should be filled with resemblances, and not with the things themselves. If one would represent a wide campaign country filled with herds and flocks, it would be ridiculous to draw the country only upon the scenes, and to crowd several parts of the stage with sheep and oxen. This is joining together inconsistencies, and making the decoration partly real, and partly imaginary. I would recommend what I have here said to the directors, as well as to the admirers, of our modern opera.

As I was walking in the streets about a fortnight ago, I saw an ordinary fellow carrying a cage full of little birds upon his shoulder; and, as I was wondering with myself what use he would put them to, he was met very luckily by an acquaintance, who had the same curiosity. Upon his asking him what he had upon his shoulder, he told him that he had been buying sparrows for the opera. Sparrows for the opera, says his friend, licking his lips,

to be roasted? No, no, says the poet, to enter towards the end of the first act upon the stage.

The dialogue awakened my curiosity so immediately bought the opera, by which I lived the sparrows were to act the birds in a delightful grove; though, in inquiry, I found the sparrows put upon the audience, that Sir Martin lived upon his mistress; for though, at first, the music proceeded from a concert and bird-calls, which were planted upon the stage. At the same time I made this sound, by the discourse of the actors, the great designs on foot for the immediate opera; that it had been proposed to build a part of the wall, and to surprise with a party of an hundred horse, was actually a project of bringing them into the house, to be employed in water-works. This project, as I have said, was postponed till the summer season; and the coolness that proceeds from cascades will be more acceptable to people of quality. In the mean time, at a more agreeable entertainment for the season, the opera of Rinaldo is tender and lightning, illuminations and fire, which the audience may look upon as cold, and indeed without much burning; for there are several enchantments with water, and ready to play at a moment, in case any such accident should however, as I have a very great friend and patron of this theatre, I hope that he will be enough to insure his house before the opera be acted in it.

Under that those scenes should be very rich were contrived by two poets of the name, and raised by two magicians of the name. Armida (as we are told in the first of the Amazonian enchantment, and poor Christian (as we learn from the persons re-acted by the Christian conjurer (*Mago Cristiano*)). I am very much puzzled to find out should be versed in the black art, or Christian, for such is the part of the old deal with the devil.

The poet after the conjurers, I shall quote of the Italian from the first lines: '*Eccoti, benigno lettore, un parto di se ben natodi not te, non è però abortito si farà conoscere figlio d'Apollo con la di Parnasso*.' 'Behold, gentle birth of a few evenings, which, though ring of the night, is not the abortive but will make itself known to be the birth, with a certain ray of Parnassus.' It proceeds to call Mynheer Handel of our age, and to acquaint us, in the style of style, that he composed this tonight. Such are the wits to whose ambitiously conform ourselves. The finest writers among the moderns are themselves in such a florid form of such tedious circumlocutions, as are

comedy of that name.

It had evidently this paper in mind when he wrote that was spoken by Miss Farren (now dead) on the opening of New Drury-lane theatre. The reader may refer to it in the *European*, xxv. p. 385.

used by none but pedants in our own country; and at the same time fill their writings with such poor imaginations and conceits, as our youths are ashamed of, before they have been two years at the university. Some may be apt to think that it is the difference of genius which produces this difference in the works of the two nations; but to show that there is nothing in this, if we look into the writings of the old Italians, such as Cicero and Virgil, we shall find that the English writers, in their way of thinking and expressing themselves, resemble those authors much more than the modern Italians pretend to do. And as for the poet himself, from whom the dreams of this opera* are taken, I must entirely agree with Monsieur Boileau, that one verse in Virgil is worth all the claque and tinsel of Tasso.

But to return to the sparrows: there have been so many flights of them let loose in this opera, that it is feared the house will never get rid of them; and that in other plays they may make their entrance in very wrong and improper scenes, so as to be seen flying in a lady's bed-chamber, or perching upon a king's throne; besides the inconveniences which the heads of the audience may sometimes suffer from them. I am credibly informed, that there was once a design of casting into an opera the story of Whittington and his Cat†, and that in order to it, there had been got together a great quantity of mice; but Mr. Rich, the proprietor of the playhouse, very prudently considered that it would be impossible for the cat to kill them all, and that consequently the princes of the stage might be as much infested with mice, as the prince of the island was before the cat's arrival upon it; for which reason he would not permit it to be acted in his house. And indeed I cannot blame him; for, as he said very well upon that occasion, I do not hear that any of the performers in our opera pretend to equal the famous pied piper‡, who made all the mice of a great town in Germany follow his music, and by that means cleared the place of those little noxious animals.

Before I dismiss this paper, I must inform my reader, that I hear there is a treaty on foot between London and Wise§ (who will be appointed gardeners of the playhouse) to furnish the opera of Rinaldo and Armida with an orange-grove; and that the next time it is acted, the singing birds will be personated by tom-tits: the undertakers being resolved to spare neither pains nor money for the gratification of the audience.

ADDISON.

C.

* Rinaldo, an opera, by Aaron Hill.

† See No 14; and Tat. No 78.

‡ The records of Hamelen, an ancient city on the banks of the Weser, give an account of a strange accident which befel them, on the 26th of June, 1284.

§ Being at that time much pestered with rats, which they could by no means destroy, a stranger at last undertook it, on the promise of reward; and immediately taking a tabret and pipe, the rats followed his music to the river, where they were all drowned; but, being denied his reward, he left the town in a rage, and threatened revenge: accordingly he returned next year, and by the same music enticed most of the children of the town after him to the mouth of a great cave on the top of a neighbouring hill called Koppelberg, where he and they entered, but were never more heard of. In remembrance of this sad accident, the citizens, for many years after, dated all their public writings from the day they lost their children, as appears by many old deeds and records. They still call the street through which the children passed, Tabret Street; and at the mouth of the cave there is a monument of stone, with an inscription, in barbarous Latin verse, giving an account of this tragical story, by which the citizens lost 130 boys.

† The queen's gardeners.

Nº 6. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1710-11.

*Cradebant hoc grande nefas, et morte piandum,
Si juvenis vetulo don assurrexerat—*

JUV. Sat. xiii. 54.

'Twas impious then (so much was age rever'd)
For youth to keep their seats when an old man appear'd.

I know no evil under the sun so great as the abuse of the understanding, and yet there is no one vice more common. It has diffused itself through both sexes, and all qualities of mankind; and there is hardly that person to be found, who is not more concerned for the reputation of wit and sense, than of honesty and virtue. But this unhappy affectation of being wise rather than honest, witty than good-natured, is the source of most of the ill habits of life. Such false impressions are owing to the abandoned writings of men of wit, and the awkward imitation of the rest of mankind.

For this reason Sir Roger was saying last night, that he was of opinion none but men of fine parts deserve to be hanged. The reflections of such men are so delicate upon all occurrences which they are concerned in, that they should be exposed to more than ordinary infamy and punishment, for offending against such quick admonitions as their own souls give them, and blunting the fine edge of their minds in such a manner, that they are no more shocked at vice and folly than men of slower capacities. There is no greater monster in being, than a very ill man of great parts. He lives like a man in a palsy, with one side of him dead. While perhaps he enjoys the satisfaction of luxury, of wealth, of ambition, he has lost the taste of good-will, of friendship, of innocence. Scarecrow, the beggar in Lincoln's-Inn Fields, who disabled himself in his right leg, and asks alms all day to get himself a warm supper and a trull at night, is not half so despicable a wretch as such a man of sense. The beggar has no relish above sensations; he finds rest more agreeable than motion; and while he has a warm fire and his doxy, never reflects that he deserves to be whipped. Every man who terminates his satisfactions and enjoyments within the supply of his own necessities and passions, is, says Sir Roger, in my eye, as poor a rogue as Scarecrow. 'But,' continued he, 'for the loss of public and private virtue we are beholden to your men of fine parts forsooth; it is with them no matter what is done, so it be done with an air. But to me, who am so whimsical in a corrupt age as to act according to nature and reason, a selfish man, in the most shining circumstance and equipage, appears in the same condition with the fellow above mentioned, but more contemptible in proportion to what more he robs the public of, and enjoys above him. I lay it down therefore for a rule, that the whole man is to move together; that every action of any importance, is to have a prospect of public good; and that the general tendency of our indifferent actions ought to be agreeable to the dictates of reason, of religion, of good-breeding; without this, a man, as I have before biated, is hopping instead of walking, he is not in his entire and proper motion.'

While the honest knight was thus bewildering himself in good starts, I looked attentively upon him, which made him, I thought, collect his mind a little. 'What I am at,' says he, 'is to represent, that I am of opinion, to polish our understandings, and neglect our manners, is of all things the most inexcusable. Reason should govern passion, but

instead of that, you see, it is often subservient to it; and, as unaccountable as one would think it, a wise man is not always a good man.' This degeneracy is not only the guilt of particular persons, but also at some times of a whole people; and perhaps it may appear, upon examination, that the most polite ages are the least virtuous. This may be attributed to the folly of admitting wit and learning as merit in themselves, without considering the application of them. By this means it becomes a rule, not so much to regard what we do, as how we do it. But this false beauty will not pass upon men of honest minds, and true taste. Sir Richard Blackmore says, with as much good sense as virtue, 'It is a mighty shame and dishonour to employ excellent faculties and abundance of wit, to humour and please men in their vices and follies.' The great enemy of mankind, notwithstanding his wit and angelic faculties, is the most odious being in the whole creation.' He goes on soon after to say very generously, that he undertook the writing of his poem*, 'to rescue the Muses out of the hands of ravishers, to restore them to their sweet and chaste mansions, and to engage them in an employment suitable to their dignity.' This certainly ought to be the purpose of every man who appears in public; and whoever does not proceed upon that foundation, injures his country as fast as he succeeds in his studies. When modesty ceases to be the chief ornament of one sex, and integrity of the other, society is upon a wrong basis, and we shall be ever after without rules to guide our judgment in what is really becoming and ornamental. Nature and reason direct one thing, passion and humour another. To follow the dictates of these two latter, is going into a road that is both endless and intricate; when we pursue the other, our passage is delightful, and what we aim at easily attainable.

I do not doubt but England is at present as polite a nation as any in the world; but any man who thinks can easily see, that the affectation of being gay and in fashion has very near eaten up our good sense and our religion. Is there any thing so just, as that mode and gallantry should be built upon exerting ourselves in what is proper and agreeable to the institutions of justice and piety among us? And yet is there any thing more common, than that we run in perfect contradiction to them? All which is supported by no other pretension, than that it is done with what we call a good grace.

Nothing ought to be held laudable or becoming, but what nature itself should prompt us to think so. Respect to all kind of superiors is founded, I think, upon instinct; and yet what is so ridiculous as age? I make this abrupt transition to the mention of this vice more than any other, in order to introduce a little story, which I think a pretty instance, that the most polite age is in danger of being the most vicious.

It happened at Athens, during a public representation of some play exhibited in honour of the commonwealth, that an old gentleman came too late for a place suitable to his age and quality. Many of the young gentlemen who observed the difficulty and confusion he was in, made signs to him that they would accommodate him if he came where they sat. The good man bustled through the crowd accordingly; but when he came to the seats to which he was invited, the jest was to sit close and expose him, as he stood, out of countenance, to the whole audience. The frolic went round the Athenian benches. But on those occasions there were also particular places assigned for

* Creation.

ben the good man skulked towards
inted for the Lacedemonians, that
more virtuous than polite, rose up
ad with the greatest respect received
m. The Athenians being suddenly
ense of the Spartan virtue, and their
, gave a thunder of applause; and
ried out, "The Athenians under-
good, but the Lacedemonians prac-

R.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1710-11.

*res magice, miracula, tages,
ures, portentaque Thetisale ridet?*
HOR. 2 Ep. ll. 308.

magic spells, can you despise,
witches, ghosts, and prodigies:

ly to dine with an old acquaintance,
rtune to find his whole family very

Upon asking him the occasion of
that his wife had dreamt a strange
ht before, which they were afraid
: misfortune to themselves or to their
er coming into the room, I observed
choly in her countenance, which I
een troubled for, had I not heard
it proceeded. We were no sooner
: after having looked upon me as
My dear,' says she, turning to her
may now see the stranger that was
ast night.' Soon after this, as they
of family affairs, a little boy at the
be table told her, that he was to go
on Thursday. 'Thursday!' says she,
it please God, you shall not begin
nas-day; tell your writing-master
ll be soon enough.' I was reflect-
f on the oddness of her fancy, and
at any body would establish it as a
day in every week. In the midst of
ng, she desired me to reach her a
the point of my knife, which I did
dation and hurry of obedience, that
by the way; at which she immedi-
and said it fell towards her. Upon
very blank; and, observing the com-
table, began to consider myself,
fusion, as a person that had brought
as the family. The lady, however,
neif after a little space, said to her
a sigh, 'My dear, misfortunes never

My friend, I found, acted but as
his table, and being a man of more
than understanding, thinks himself
in with all the passions and humours
flow. 'Do not you remember, child,'
the pigeon-house fell the very after-
careless wench spilt the salt upon the
' says he, 'my dear, and the next
as an account of the battle of Al-
reader may guess at the figure I
aving done all this mischief. I dis-
tioner as soon as I could with my
ity; when, to my utter confusion, the
e quitting my knife and fork, and
wren one another upon my plate, de-
t I would humour her so far as to
t of that figure, and place them side
but the absurdity was which I had
did not know, but I suppose there

was some traditionary superstition in it; and
therefore, in obedience to the lady of the house, I
disposed of my knife and fork in two parallel
lines, which is the figure I shall always lay them
in for the future, though I do not know any rea-
son for it.

It is not difficult for a man to see that a person
has conceived an aversion to him. For my own
part, I quickly found, by the lady's looks, that
she regarded me as a very odd kind of fellow, with
an unfortunate aspect. For which reason I took
my leave immediately after dinner, and withdrew
to my own lodgings. Upon my return home I fell
into a profound contemplation on the evils that
attend these superstitious follies of mankind; how
they subject us to imaginary afflictions, and addi-
tional sorrows, that do not properly come within
our lot. As if the natural calamities of life were
not sufficient for it, we turn the most indifferent
circumstances into misfortunes, and suffer as much
from trifling accidents as from real evils. I have
known the shooting of a star spoil a night's rest;
and have seen a man in love grow pale, and lose
his appetite, upon the plucking of a merrythought.
A screech-owl at midnight has alarmed a family
more than a band of robbers; nay, the voice of a
cricket hath struck more terror than the roaring of
a lion. There is nothing so inconsiderable, which
may not appear dreadful to an imagination that is
filled with omens and prognostics. A rusty nail, or
a crooked pin, shoot up into prodigies.

I remember I was once in a mixt assembly, that
was full of noise and mirth, when on a sudden an
old woman unluckily observed there were thirteen
of us in company. The remark struck a panic
terror into several who were present, inasmuch
that one or two of the ladies were going to leave
the room; but a friend of mine, taking notice that
one of our female companions was big with child,
affirmed there were fourteen in the room, and that,
instead of portending one of the company should
die, it plainly foretold one of them should be born.
Had not my friend found this expedient to break
the omen, I question not but half the women in
the company would have fallen sick that very
night.

An old maid that is troubled with the vapours,
produces infinite disturbances of this kind among
her friends and neighbours. I know a maiden
aunt of a great family, who is one of these anti-
quated Sybils, that forebodes and prophesies from
one end of the year to the other. She is always
seeing apparitions, and hearing death-watches;
and was the other day almost frightened out of her
wits by the great house-dog that howled in the
stable, at a time when she lay ill of the tooth-ach.
Such an extravagant cast of mind engages multi-
tudes of people, not only in impertinent terrors,
but in supernumerary duties of life; and arises
from that fear and ignorance which are natural to
the soul of man. The horror with which we enter-
tain the thoughts of death (or indeed of any future
evil), and the uncertainty of its approach, fill a
melancholy mind with innumerable apprehensions
and suspicions, and consequently dispose it to the
observation of such groundless prodigies and pre-
dictions. For as it is the chief concern of wise
men to retrench the evils of life by the reasonings
of philosophy; it is the employment of fools to
multiply them by the sentiments of superstition.

For my own part, I should be very much trou-
bled were I endowed with this divining quality,
though it should inform me truly of every thing
that can befall me. I would not anticipate the

relish of any happiness, nor feel the weight of any misery, before it actually arrives.

'I know but one way of fortifying my soul against these gloomy presages and terrors of mind, and that is, by securing to myself the friendship and protection of that Being who disposes of events, and governs futurity. He sees, at one view, the whole thread of my existence, not only that part of it which I have already passed through, but that which runs forward into all the depths of eternity. When I lay me down to sleep, I commend myself to his care: when I wake, I give myself up to his directions. Amidst all the evils that threaten me, I will look up to him for help, and question not but he will either avert them, or turn them to my advantage. Though I know neither the time nor the manner of the death I am to die, I am not at all solicitous about it; because I am sure that he knows them both, and that he will not fail to comfort and support me under them.'

ADDISON.

G.

Nº 8. FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1710-11.

*Ut Venus obscure gradientibus aere sepuit,
Et multo nebula circum Dea fudit amictu,
cernere ne quis eo.*

VIRG. Æn. i. 415.

They march obscure, for Venus kindly shrouds
With mists their persons, and involves in clouds.
DRYDEN.

I SHALL here communicate to the world a couple of letters, which I believe will give the reader as good an entertainment as any that I am able to furnish him with, and therefore shall make no apology for them:

'TO THE SPECTATOR, &c.

'SIR,

'I AM one of the directors of the society for the reformation of manners, and therefore think myself a proper person for your correspondence. I have thoroughly examined the present state of religion in Great Britain, and am able to acquaint you with the predominant vice of every market-town in the whole island. I can tell you the progress that virtue has made in all our cities, boroughs, and corporations; and know as well the evil practices that are committed in Berwick or Exeter, as what is done in my own family. In a word, sir, I have my correspondents in the remotest parts of the nation, who send me up punctual accounts from time to time of all the little irregularities that fall under their notice in their several districts and divisions.

'I am no less acquainted with the particular quarters and regions of this great town, than with the different parts and distributions of the whole nation. I can describe every parish by its impieties, and can tell you in which of our streets lewdness prevails; which gaming has taken the possession of, and where drunkenness has got the better of them both. When I am disposed to raise a fine for the poor, I know the lanes and alleys that are inhabited by common swearers. When I would encourage the hospital of Bridewell, and improve the hempen manufacture, I am very well acquainted with all the haunts and resorts of female night-walkers.

'After this short account of myself, I must let you know, that the design of this paper is to give you information of a certain irregular assembly, which I think falls very properly under your ob-

servation, especially since the persons it is composed of are criminals too considerable for the animadversions of our society. I mean, sir, the Midnight Mask, which has of late been frequently held in one of the most conspicuous parts of the town, and which I hear will be continued with additions and improvements*. As all the persons who compose this lawless assembly are masked, we dare not attack any of them in our way, lest we should send a woman of quality to Bridewell, or a peer of Great Britain to the Counter; besides that their numbers are so very great, that I am afraid they would be able to rout our whole fraternity, though we were accompanied with all our guard of constables. Both these reasons, which secure them from our authority, make them obnoxious to yours; as both their disguise and their numbers will give no particular person reason to think himself affronted by you.

'If we are rightly informed, the rules that are observed by this new society are wonderfully contrived for the advancement of cuckoldom. The women either come by themselves, or are introduced by friends who are obliged to quit them, upon their first entrance, to the conversation of any body that addresses himself to them. There are several rooms where the parties may retire, and, if they please show their faces by consent. Whispers, squeezes, nods, and embraces, are the innocent freedoms of the place. In short, the whole design of this libidinous assembly seems to terminate in assignation and intrigues; and I hope you will take effectual methods, by your public advice and admonitions, to prevent such a promiscuous multitude of both sexes from meeting together in so clandestine a manner. I am

'Your humble servant,

'and fellow-labourer,

'T. B.'

Not long after the perusal of this letter I received another upon the same subject; which, by the date and style of it, I take to be written by some young Templar:

'Middle Temple, 1710-11.

'SIR,

'WHEN a man has been guilty of any vice or folly, I think the best atonement he can make for it, is to warn others not to fall into the like. In order to this I must acquaint you, that some time in February last I went to the Tuesday's masquerade. Upon my first going in I was attacked by half a dozen female quakers, who seemed willing to adopt me for a brother; but, upon a nearer examination, I found they were a sisterhood of coquettes, disguised in that precise habit. I was soon after taken out to dance, and, as I fancied, by a woman of the first quality, for she was very tall, and moved gracefully. As soon as the minuet was over, we ogled one another through our masks; and as I am very well read in Waller, I repeated to her the four following verses out of his poem to Vandyke:

'The heedless lover does not know
Whose eyes they are that wound him so;
But confounded with thy art,
Inquires her name that has his heart.'

'I pronounced these words with such a languishing air, that I had some reason to conclude I had made a conquest. She told me that she hoped my face was not akin to my tongue, and looking upon her watch, I accidentally discovered the figure of a coronet on the back part of it. I was so trans-

* See Nos. 14 and 101.

thought of such an amour, that I ne room to another with all the d invent; and at length brought y an issue, that she gave me a e next day, without page or foot- quipage. My heart danced in id not lived in this golden dream y, before I found good reason to ontinued true to my landress. I y, by a very great accident, that s not live far from Covent Gar- m not the first cully whom she upon for a countess.

see how I have mistaken a cloud if you can make any use of this e benefit of those who may pos- ousing coxcombs as myself, I do : you leave.

'I am, sir,
Your most humble admirer,
'B. L.'

t the next masquerade myself, in wore at Grand Cairo *; and till d my judgment of this midnight

C.

DAY, MARCH 10, 1710-11.

*Et rabida cum tigride pacem
vis inter se convenit uris.*

JUV. Sat. xv. 163.

er, bear with bear, you'll find
insive and defensive join'd.
TATE.

e a sociable animal, and as an in- nay observe, that we take all oc- ences of forming ourselves into rnal assemblies, which are com- the name of clubs. When a set selves agree in any particular, trivial, they establish themselves ernity, and meet once or twice e account of such a fantastic re- now a considerable market-town, as a club of fat men, that did not s you may well suppose) to enter- with sprightliness and wit, but to in countenance. The room where something of the largest, and had e one by a door of a moderate er by a pair of folding-doors. If his corpulent club could make his e first, he was looked upon as if he stuck in the passage, and his way through it, the folding- ediate thrown open for his re- was saluted as a brother. I have lub, though it consisted but of ffigh above three too.

o this society, there sprung up ano- f scarecrows and skeletons, who, re and envious, did all they could designs of their bulky brethren, eated as men of dangerous prin- neth they worked them out of the ople, and consequently out of the e factions tore the corporation eral years, till at length they came dation; that the two bailiffs of the

town should be annually chosen out of the two clubs; by which means the principal magistrates are at this day coupled like rabbits, one fat and one lean.

Every one has heard of the club, or rather the confederacy, of the Kings. This grand alliance was formed a little after the return of King Charles the Second, and admitted into it men of all qualities and professions, provided they agreed in the surname of King, which, as they imagined, sufficiently declared the owners of it to be altogether untainted with republican and anti-monarchical principles.

A christian name has likewise been often used as a badge of distinction, and made the occasion of a club. That of the George's, which used to meet at the sign of the George, on St. George's day, and swear 'Before George,' is still fresh in every one's memory.

There are at present in several parts of this city what they call Street-clubs, in which the chief inhabitants of the street converse together every night. I remember, upon my inquiring after lodgings in Ormond-street, the landlord, to recommend that quarter of the town, told me there was at that time a very good club in it; he also told me, upon further discourse with him, that two or three noisy country squires, who were settled there the year before, had considerably sunk the price of house-rent; and that the club (to prevent the like inconveniences for the future) had thoughts of taking every house that became vacant into their own hands, till they had found a tenant for it, of a sociable nature and good conversation.

The Hum Drum club, of which I was formerly an unworthy member, was made up of very honest gentlemen of peaceable dispositions, that used to sit together, smoke their pipes, and say nothing till midnight. The Mum club (as I am informed) is an institution of the same nature, and as great an enemy to noise.

After these two innocent societies, I cannot forbear mentioning a very mischievous one, that was erected in the reign of King Charles the Second; I mean the club of Duellists, in which none was to be admitted that had not fought his man. The president of it was said to have killed half a dozen in single combat; and as for the other members, they took their seats according to the number of their slain. There was likewise a side table, for such as had only drawn blood, and shown a laudable ambition of taking the first opportunity to qualify themselves for the first table. This club, consisting only of men of honour, did not continue long, most of the members of it being put to the sword, or hanged, a little after its institution.

Our modern celebrated clubs are founded upon eating and drinking, which are points wherein most men agree, and in which the learned and illiterate, the dull and the airy, the philosopher and the buffoon, can all of them bear a part. The Kit-Cat itself * is said to have taken its original

* This club, consisting of the most distinguished wits and statesmen among the Whigs, met in Shire-lane, and was named from a pastry-cook (Christopher Cat), who was famous for making mutton-pies, which constantly formed a part of their refreshment. The portraits of its members, done by Sir Godfrey Kneller, were all at Barnes, in the possession of the late Mr. Jacob Tonson, whose father was secretary to the club. From Mr. Tonson's, they have since become, by inheritance, the property of William Baker, Esq. In order to adapt them to the height of the club-room, the pictures were painted of a size less than a whole, and larger than a half length, admitting only one arm; and hence all pictures of that size have since been called *Kit-Cats*.

* See No 2.

from a mutton-pie. The Beef-Steak *, and October + clubs, are neither of them averse to eating and drinking, if we may form a judgment of them from their respective titles.

When men are thus knit together, by a love of society, not a spirit of faction, and do not meet to censure or annoy those that are absent, but to enjoy one another; when they are thus combined for their own improvement, or for the good of others, or at least to relax themselves from the business of the day, by an innocent and cheerful conversation, there may be something very useful in these little institutions and establishments.

I cannot forbear concluding this paper with a scheme of laws that I met with upon a wall in a little alehouse. How I came thither I may inform my reader at a more convenient time. These laws were enacted by a knot of artisans and mechanics, who used to meet every night; and as there is something in them which gives us a pretty picture of low life, I shall transcribe them word for word:

Rules to be observed in the Two-penny club, erected in this place for the preservation of friendship and good neighbourhood.

I. Every member at his first coming in shall lay down his two-pence.

II. Every member shall fill his pipe out of his own box.

III. If any member absents himself, he shall forfeit a penny for the use of the club, unless in case of sickness or imprisonment.

IV. If any member swears or curses, his neighbour may give him a kick upon the shins.

V. If any member tell stories in the club that are not true, he shall forfeit for every third lie an halfpenny.

VI. If any member strikes another wrongfully, he shall pay his club for him.

VII. If any member brings his wife into the club, he shall pay for whatever she drinks or smokes.

VIII. If any member's wife comes to fetch him home from the club, she shall speak to him without the door.

IX. If any member calls another a cuckold, he shall be turned out of the club.

X. None shall be admitted into the club that is of the same trade with any member of it.

XI. None of the club shall have his clothes or shoes made or mended, but by a brother-member.

XII. No non-juror shall be capable of being a member.

The morality of this little club is guarded by such wholesome laws and penalties, that I question not but my reader will be as well pleased with them, as he would have been with the *Leges Comicales* of Ben Jonson †, the regulations of an old Roman club cited by Lipsius, or the rules of a *Symposium* in an ancient Greek author.

ADDISON.

C.

* See Dr. King's Works, vol. III. p. 390, 8vo. edit. 1776. This club also consisted of the chief wits and greatest men in the kingdom. It is said, that Mrs. Wollington, the only woman in it, was president. Richard Boscourt, the comedian, was their providore; and, as an honourable badge of his office, wore a small gridiron of gold hung round his neck with a green silk riband.

† Swift, in a letter to Stella, (London, Feb. 10, 1710-11) says, "We are plagued here with an October club; that is, a set of above a hundred parliament men of the country, who drink October beer at home, and meet every evening at a tavern near the parliament to consult affairs, and drive things on to extremes against the Whigs, to call the old ministry to account, and get off five or six heads."

‡ See Whalley's edit. vol. vii.

Nº 10. MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1710-11.

*Non aliter quem qui advenit via flumine lumbum
Remigis migit: si brachia forte remant,
Atque illum in præceps prona rapit alveus amni.*

VIRG. Georg. l. 201

So the boat's brawny crew the current stem,
And slow advancing, struggle with the stream:
But if they slack their hands, or cease to strive,
Then down the flood with headlong haste they drive.

DRYDEN.

It is with much satisfaction that I hear this great city inquiring day by day after these my papers and receiving my morning lectures with a becoming seriousness and attention. My publisher tells me, that there are already three thousand of the distributed every day: so that if I allow twenty readers to every paper, which I look upon as a modest computation, I may reckon about three score thousand disciples in London and Westminster, who I hope will take care to distinguish themselves from the thoughtless herd of their ignorant and inattentive brethren. Since I have raised myself so great an audience, I shall spare no pains to make their instruction agreeable, and their diversion useful. For which reasons I shall endeavour to enliven morality with wit, and to temper wit with morality, that my readers may, if possible both ways find their account in the speculation of the day. And to the end that their virtue and discretion may not be short, transient, intermitting starts of thought, I have resolved to refresh the memories from day to day, till I have recovered them out of that desperate state of vice and folly into which the age is fallen. The mind that lies fallow but a single day, sprouts up in follies that are only to be killed by a constant and assiduous culture. It was said of Socrates, that he brought philosophy down from heaven, to inhabit among men; and I shall be ambitious to have it said of me, that I have brought philosophy out of closets and libraries, schools and colleges, to dwell in clubs and assemblies, at tea-tables and in coffee-houses.

I would therefore in a very particular manner recommend these my speculations to all well-regulated families, that set apart an hour in every morning for tea and bread and butter; and would earnestly advise them for their good to order their paper to be punctually served up, and to be looked upon as a part of the tea equipage.

Sir Francis Bacon observes, that a well-written book, compared with its rivals and antagonists, like Moses's serpent, that immediately swallowed up, and devoured those of the Egyptians. I shall not be so vain as to think, that where the Spectator appears, the other public prints will vanish; but shall leave it to my reader's consideration whether it is not much better to be let into the knowledge of one's self, than to hear what pass in Muscovy or Poland; and to amuse ourselves with such writings as tend to the wearing out of ignorance, passion, and prejudice, than such a naturally conduce to inflame hatreds, and malice, and enmities irreconcilable.

In the next place I would recommend this paper to the daily perusal of those gentlemen whom I cannot but consider as my good brothers and allies. I mean the fraternity of Spectators, who live in the world without having any thing to do in it, and either by the affluence of their fortunes, or the laziness of their dispositions, have no other business

mankind, but to look upon them. of men are comprehended all commoners, titular physicians, fellows of society, Templars that are not given to arms, and statesmen that are out of court, every one that considers the theatre, and desires to form a right notion who are the actors on it.

Another set of men that I must likewise mention, whom I have lately called the idlers, as being altogether unfurnished with the business and conversation of the world. I have often considered the souls with an eye of great compassion. I have heard them asking the first man I met with, whether there was any news, and by that means gathering together for thinking. These needy persons are what to talk of, till about twelve o'clock in the morning; for by that time they are sensible of the weather, know which way the wind blows, and whether the Dutch mail has come or no. They lie at the mercy of the first man they meet, and are grave or impertinent all the day long, according to the notions which they have in their heads. In the morning, I would earnestly intreat them to stir out of their chambers till they have done their paper, and do promise them that I will insert into them such sound and wholesome advice, as shall have a good effect on their minds for the ensuing twelve hours.

There are none to whom this paper will be so useful as to the female world. I have often observed that there has not been sufficient pains taken to get out proper employments and diversions for the fair ones. Their amusements seem to be trifles, rather as they are women, than as they are reasonable creatures; and are not so proper for the sex than to the species. The great scene of business, and the right way to get their hair the principal employment.

The sorting of a suit of ribands is a very good morning's work; and if a person goes on an excursion to a mercer's or a toy-shop, a fatigue makes them unfit for any business the day after. Their more serious employments are sewing and embroidery, and their great business the preparations of jellies and preserves. This, I say, is the state of ordinary life. I know there are multitudes of people who are elevated life and conversation, in an exalted sphere of knowledge and wisdom, and in all the beauties of the mind to be seen in dress, and inspire a kind of awe as well as love, into their male-beholders, to increase the number of these

beholders, this daily paper, which I shall endeavour to make an innocent, if not an entertaining, and by that means at the disposal of my female readers from time to time. At the same time, as I would fain wish to touch those which are almost beautiful pieces in human nature, I would point out all those imperfections, the blemishes, as well as those virtues and embellishments, of the sex. In the hope these my gentle readers, who are in the hands of time, will not grudge me a quarter of an hour in a day once in a while they may do it without any hindrance.

Several of my friends and well-wishers have been so kind to send me, lest I should not be able to get the spirit of a paper which I oblige

myself to furnish every day: but to make them easy in this particular, I will promise them faithfully to give it over as soon as I grow dull. This I know will be matter of great raillery to the small wits; who will frequently put me in mind of my promise, desire me to keep my word, assure me that it is high time to give over, with many other little pleasantries of the like nature, which men of a little smart genius cannot forbear throwing out against their best friends, when they have such an opportunity given them of being witty. But let them remember that I do hereby enter my caveat against this piece of raillery.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 11. TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1710-11.

Dat veniam corvis, vixit censura columbas.

JUV. Sat. ii. 63.

The doves are acquar'd, while the crows are spar'd.

ARIETTA is visited by all persons of both sexes, who have any pretence to wit and gallantry. She is in that time of life which is neither affected with the follies of youth, or infirmities of age: and her conversation is so mixed with gaiety and prudence, that she is agreeable both to the old and the young. Her behaviour is very frank, without being in the least blameable; as she is out of the track of any amorous or ambitious pursuits of her own, her visitants entertain her with accounts of themselves very freely, whether they concern their passions or their interests. I made her a visit this afternoon, having been formerly introduced to the honour of her acquaintance by my friend Will Honeycomb, who has prevailed upon her to admit me sometimes into her assembly, as a civil inoffensive man. I found her accompanied with one person only, a common-place talker, who, upon my entrance, arose, and after a very slight civility sat down again; then turning to Arietta, pursued his discourse, which I found was upon the old topic of constancy in love. He went on with great facility in repeating what he talks every day of his life; and with the ornaments of insignificant laughs and gestures, enforced his arguments by quotations out of plays and songs, which allude to the perjuries of the fair, and the general levity of women. Methought he strove to shine more than ordinarily in his talkative way, that he might insult my silence, and distinguish himself before a woman of Arietta's taste and understanding. She had often an inclination to interrupt him, but could find no opportunity, till the larum ceased of itself; which it did not till he had repeated and murdered the celebrated story of the Ephesian Matron.

Arietta seemed to regard this piece of raillery as an outrage done to her sex; as indeed I have always observed that women, whether out of a nicer regard to their honour, or what other reason I cannot tell, are more sensibly touched with those general aspersions which are cast upon their sex, than men are by what is said of theirs.

When she had a little recovered herself from the serious anger she was in, she replied in the following manner:

'Sir, when I consider how perfectly new all you have said on this subject is, and that the story you have given us is not quite two thousand years old, I cannot but think it a piece of presumption to dispute it with you; but your quotations put me in mind of the fable of the lion and the man. The man, walking with that noble animal, showed

him, in the ostentation of human superiority, a sign of a man killing a lion. Upon which, the lion said very justly, "We lions are none of us painters, else we could show a hundred men killed by lions, for one lion killed by a man." You men are writers, and can represent us women as unbecoming as you please in your works, while we are unable to return the injury. You have twice or thrice observed in your discourse, that hypocrisy is the very foundation of our education; and that an ability to dissemble our affections is a professed part of our breeding. These, and such other reflections, are sprinkled up and down the writings of all ages, by authors, who leave behind them memorials of their resentment against the scorn of particular women, in invectives against the whole sex. Such a writer, I doubt not, was the celebrated Petronius, who invented the pleasant aggravations of the frailty of the Ephesian lady; but when we consider this question between the sexes, which has been either a point of dispute or ratiery, ever since there were men and women, let us take facts from plain people, and from such as have not either ambition, or capacity to embellish their narrations with any beauties of imagination. I was the other day amusing myself with Ligon's Account of Barbadoes*; and, in answer to your well-wrought tale, I will give you (as it dwells upon my memory) out of that honest traveller, in his fifty-fifth page, the history of Inkle and Yarico.

"Mr. Thomas Inkle, of London, aged twenty years, embarked in the Downs, in the good ship called the Achilles, bound for the West Indies, on the 16th of June, 1647, in order to improve his fortune by trade and merchandise. Our adventurer was the third son of an eminent citizen, who had taken particular care to instil into his mind an early love of gain, by making him a perfect master of numbers, and consequently giving him a quick view of loss and advantage, and preventing the natural impulses of his passion, by prepossession towards his interests. With a mind thus turned, young Inkle had a person every way agreeable, a ruddy vigour in his countenance, strength in his limbs, with ringlets of fair hair loosely flowing on his shoulders. It happened, in the course of the voyage, that the Achilles, in some distress, put into a creek on the main of America, in search of provisions. The youth who is the hero of my story, among others, went on shore on this occasion. From their first landing they were observed by a party of Indians, who hid themselves in the woods for that purpose. The English unadvisedly marched a great distance from the shore into the country, and were intercepted by the natives, who slew the greatest number of them. Our adventurer escaped, among others, by flying into a forest. Upon his coming into a remote and pathless part of the wood, he threw himself, tired and breathless, on a little hillock, when an Indian maid rushed from a thicket behind him. After the first surprise, they appeared mutually agreeable to each other. If the European was highly charmed with the limbs, features, and wild graces of the naked American; the American was no less taken with the dress, complexion, and shape of an European, covered from head to foot. The Indian grew immediately enamoured of him, and consequently solicitous for his preservation. She therefore conveyed him to a cave, where she gave him a delicious repast of fruits, and led him to a stream to slake his thirst.

* A true and exact History of Barbadoes, &c. by Richard Ligon, gent. fol. 1673.

In the midst of these good offices, she would sometimes play with his hair, and delight in the opposition of its colour to that of her fingers: then open his bosom, then laugh at him for covering it. She was, it seems, a person of distinction, for she every day came to him in a different dress, of the most beautiful shells, bugles, and breides. She likewise brought him a great many spoils, which her other lovers had presented to her, so that his cave was richly adorned with all the spotted skins of beasts and most party-coloured feathers of fowls, which that world afforded. To make his confinement more tolerable, she would carry him in the dusk of the evening, or by the favour of moon-light, to unfrequented groves and solitudes, and show him where to lie down in safety, and sleep amidst the falls of waters and melody of nightingales. Her part was to watch and hold him awake in her arms, for fear of her countrymen, and wake him on occasions to consult his safety. In this manner did the lovers pass away their time, till they had learned a language of their own, in which the voyager communicated to his mistress, how happy he should be to have her in his country, where she should be clothed in such silks as his waistcoat was made of, and be carried in houses drawn by horses, without being exposed to wind or weather. All this he promised her the enjoyment of, without such fears and alarms as they were there tormented with. In this tender correspondence these lovers lived for several months, when Yarico, instructed by her lover, discovered a vessel on the coast, to which she made signals; and in the night, with the utmost joy and satisfaction, accompanied him to a ship's crew of his countrymen, bound for Barbadoes. When a vessel from the main arrives in that island, it seems, the planters come down to the shore, where there is an immediate market of the Indians and other slaves, as with us of horses and oxen.

"To be short, Mr. Thomas Inkle, now coming into English territories, began seriously to reflect upon his loss of time, and to weigh with himself how many days interest of his money he had lost during his stay with Yarico. This thought made the young man pensive, and careful what account he should be able to give his friends of his voyage. Upon which consideration, the prudent and frugal young man sold Yarico to a Barbadian merchant; notwithstanding that the poor girl, to incline him to commiserate her condition, told him that she was with child by him; but he only made use of that information, to rise in his demands upon the purchaser."

I was so touched with this story (which I think should be always a counterpart to the Ephesian Matron) that I left the room with tears in my eyes, which a woman of Arietta's good sense did, I am sure, take for greater applause, than any compliments I could make her.

STERLE.

R.

Nº 12. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1710-11.

— *Veteris avias tibi de palmarum revollo.*

PERS. Sat. v. 92.

I root th' old woman from thy trembling heart.

At my coming to London, it was some time before I could settle myself in a house to my liking. I was forced to quit my first lodgings by reason of an officious landlady, that would be asking me every morning how I had slept. I then fell into an honest family, and lived very happily for above a week; when my landlord, who was a jolly good-

ook it into his head that I wanted therefore would frequently come to me, to keep me from being alone. Two or three days; but telling me I was afraid I was melancholy, I thought it high time for me to be gone, and took new lodgings that very night. After, I found my jolly landlord, before, was an honest hearty man, to an advertisement of the Daily following words: 'Whereas a me-rit his lodgings on Thursday last in and was afterwards seen going to: if any one can give notice of a roomer in the Strand, he shall be for his pains.' As I am the best to keep my own counsel, and my roomer not knowing my name, my life was never discovered to

ttled with a widow woman, who my children, and complies with my thing. I do not remember that I used a word together these five years comes into my chamber every day asking for it; if I want fire I money, if water to my basin; upon lady nods, as much as to say she goes, and immediately obeys my signal likewise modelled her family so her little boy offers to pull me by the nose in my face, his eldest sister imitates him off, and bids him not disturb

At my first entering into the fabulous with the civility of their rising time I came into the room; but serving, that upon these occasions I wish, and went out again, has for ceremony to be used in the house; at I walk into the kitchen or paring taken notice of, or giving any the business or discourse of the maid will ask her mistress (though I the gentleman is ready to go to mistress (who is indeed an excellent) at the servants as heartily before my back. In short, I move up house, and enter into all companies liberty as a cat, or any other do-and am as little suspected of telling bear or see.

last winter there were several young neighbourhood sitting about the fire y's daughters, and telling stories of aritions. Upon my opening the women broke off their discourse, y's daughters telling them that it it the gentleman (for that is the y in the neighbourhood as well as they went on without minding me. f by the candle that stood on a l of the room; and pretending to t I took out of my pocket, heard stories of ghosts, as pale as ashes, at the feet of a bed, or walked ard by moon-light: and of others enjured into the Red-sea, for dis-rest, and drawing their curtains b many other old women's fables re. As one spirit raised another, I the end of every story the whole their ranks, and crowded about k notice in particular of a little attentive to every story, that I

am mistaken if he ventures to go to bed by himself this twelvemonth. Indeed they talked so long, that the imaginations of the whole assembly were manifestly crazed, and, I am sure, will be the worse for it as long as they live. I heard one of the girls, that had looked upon me over her shoulder, asking the company how long I had been in the room, and whether I did not look paler than I used to do. This put me under some apprehensions that I should be forced to explain myself, if I did not retire; for which reason I took the candle in my hand, and went up into my chamber, not without wondering at this unaccountable weakness in reasonable creatures, that they should love to astonish and terrify one another. Were I a father, I should take a particular care to preserve my children from these little horrors and imaginations, which they are apt to contract when they are young, and are not able to shake off when they are in years. I have known a soldier that has entered a breach, affrighted at his own shadow, and look pale upon a little scratching at his door, who the day before had marched up against a battery of cannon. There are instances of persons who have been terrified, even to distraction, at the figure of a tree, or the shaking of a bullrush. The truth of it is, I look upon a sound imagination as the greatest blessing of life, next to a clear judgment and a good conscience. In the mean time, since there are very few whose minds are not more or less subject to these dreadful thoughts and apprehensions, we ought to arm ourselves against them by the dictates of reason and religion, 'to pull the old woman out of our hearts,' (as Pervius expresses it in the motto of my paper), and extinguish those impertinent notions which we limbed at a time that we were not able to judge of their absurdity. Or if we believe, as many wise and good men have done, that there are such phantoms and apparitions as those I have been speaking of, let us endeavour to establish to ourselves an interest in him who holds the reins of the whole creation in his hands, and moderates them after such a manner, that it is impossible for one being to break loose upon another, without his knowledge and permission.

For my own part, I am apt to join in opinion with those who believe that all the regions of nature swarm with spirits; and that we have multitudes of spectators on all our actions, when we think ourselves most alone: but instead of terrifying myself with such a notion, I am wonderfully pleased to think that I am always engaged with such an innumerable society, in searching out the wonders of the creation, and joining in the same consort of praise and adoration.

Milton * has finely described this mixed communion of men and spirits in Paradise; and had doubtless his eye upon a verse in old Hesiod, which is almost word for word the same with his third line in the following passage:

* — Nor think, though men were none,
That heav'n would want spectators, God want praise:
Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth
Unseen, both when we wake and when we sleep;
All these with ceaseless praise his works behold
Both day and night. How often from the steep
Of echoing hill or thicket have we heard
Celestial voices to the midnight air,
Sole, or responsive each to other's note,
Singing their great Creator! Oft in bands,
While they keep watch, or nightly rounding walk,
With heavenly touch of instrumental sounds,
In full harmonic number join'd, their songs
Divide the night, and lift our thoughts to heav'n.'

ADDISON.

* In his Paradise Lost.

C.

N° 13. THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1710-11.

Dic mihi, si fueris tu leo, qualis eris?

MART.

Were you a lion, how wou'd you behave?

THERE is nothing that of late years has afforded matter of greater amusement to the town than Signor Nicolini's* combat with a lion in the Haymarket, which has been very often exhibited to the general satisfaction of most of the nobility and gentry in the kingdom of Great Britain. Upon the first rumour of this intended combat, it was confidently affirmed, and is still believed, by many in both galleries, that there would be a tame lion sent from the Tower every opera night, in order to be killed by Hydaspes; this report, though altogether groundless, so universally prevailed in the upper regions of the playhouse, that some of the most refined politicians in those parts of the audience, gave it out in whisper, that the lion was a cousin-german of the tiger who made his appearance in King William's days, and that the stage would be supplied with lions at the public expence, during the whole season. Many likewise were the conjectures of the treatment which this lion was to meet with from the hands of Signor Nicolini; some supposed that he was to subdue him in recitative, as Orpheus used to serve the wild beasts in his time, and afterwards to knock him on the head; some fancied that the lion would not pretend to lay his paws upon the hero, by reason of the received opinion, that a lion will not hurt a virgin. Several, who pretended to have seen the opera in Italy, had informed their friends, that the lion was to act a part in High Dutch, and roar twice or thrice to a thorough-bam, before he fell at the feet of Hydaspes. To clear up a matter that was so variously reported, I have made it my business to examine whether this pretended lion is really the savage he appears to be, or only a counterfeit.

But before I communicate my discoveries, I must acquaint the reader, that upon my walking behind the scenes last winter, as I was thinking on something else, I accidentally jostled against a monstrous animal that extremely startled me, and, upon my nearer survey of it, appeared to be a lion rampant. The lion seeing me very much surprised, told me, in a gentle voice, that I might come by him if I pleased; 'fer,' says he, 'I do not intend to hurt any body.' I thanked him very kindly, and passed by him: and in a little time after saw him leap upon the stage, and act his part with very great applause. It has been observed by several, that the lion has changed his manner of acting twice or thrice since his first appearance; which will not seem strange, when I acquaint my reader that the lion has been changed upon the audience three several times. The first lion was a candle-snuffer, who, being a fellow of a testy choleric temper, overdid his part, and would not suffer himself to be killed so easily as he ought to have done; besides, it was observed of him, that he grew more surly every time he came out of the lion; and having dropped some words in ordinary conversation, as if he had not fought his best, and that he suffered himself to be thrown upon his back in the scuffle, and that he would wrestle with Mr. Nicolini for what he pleased, out of his lion's skin, it

was thought proper to discard him: and it is very believed, to this day, that had he been broag upon the stage another time, he would certainly have done mischief. Besides, it was objected against the first lion, that he reared himself high upon his hinder paws, and walked in so ere a posture, that he looked more like an old man than a lion.

The second lion was a tailor by trade, who belonged to the playhouse, and had the character a mild and peaceable man in his profession. The former was too furious, this was too obsequious for his part; insomuch, that after a short mope walk upon the stage, he would fall at the first touch of Hydaspes, without grappling with him, and giving him an opportunity of showing his variety of Italian trips. It is said, indeed, that he once gave him a rip in his flesh-colour doublet but this was only to make work for himself, in a private character of a tailor. I must not omit that it was this second lion who treated me with much humanity behind the scenes.

The acting lion at present is, as I am informed a country gentleman, who does it for his diversion but desires his name may be concealed. He says very handsomely, in his own excuse, that he do not act for gain; that he indulges an innocent pleasure in it; and that it is better to pass away an evening in this manner than in gaming or drinking: but at the same time says, with a very agreeable raillery upon himself, that if his name should be known, the ill-natured world might call him, 'the ass in the lion's skin.' This gentleman's temper is made out of such a happy mixture of the mild and the choleric, that he outdoes his predecessors, and has drawn together greater audiences than have been known in the memory of man.

I must not conclude my narrative, without taking notice of a groundless report that has been raised to a gentleman's disadvantage, of whom I may declare myself an admirer; namely, that Signor Nicolini and the lion have been seen sitting peaceably by one another, and smoking a pipe together behind the scenes; by which their enmities would insinuate, that it is but a sham combat which they represent upon the stage; but upon inquiry I find that if any such correspondence has passed between them, it was not till the combat was over, when the lion was to be looked upon as dead, according to the received rules of the drama. Besides this what is practised every day in Westminster-hall where nothing is more usual than to see a couple of lawyers, who have been tearing each other's pieces in the court, embracing one another as soon as they are out of it.

I would not be thought, in any part of this relation, to reflect upon Signor Nicolini, who in acting this part only complies with the wretched taste of his audience; he knows very well, that the lion has many more admirers than himself; as they as of the famous equestrian statue on the Pont-Neuf at Paris, that more people go to see the horse than the king who sits upon it. On the contrary, gives me a just indignation to see a person who action gives new majesty to kings, resolution to heroes, and softness to lovers, thus sinking from the greatness of his behaviour, and degraded in the character of a London Prentice. I have often wished, that our tragedians would copy after this great master in action. Could they make the same use of their arms and legs, and inform their faces with as significant looks and passions, how glorious would an English tragedy appear with that action

* See N° 405; and Tot. N° 115.

of giving dignity to the forced conceits, and unnatural expressions of the era! In the mean time, I have got of the lion, to show what are the reigning entertainments of the present Britain.

I have often been reproached by writers of their taste: but our present seems to be the want of a good common sense.

C.

DAY, MARCH 16, 1710-11.

Infelix, eras monstrii.

OVID. Met. iv. 590.

'an art' put off this monstrous shape.

this morning upon the spirit and public diversions five and twenty years of the present time; and last, that, though in those days they were of morality, they kept up their good behaviour, as the bean-monde, at present, is only dish, not more innocent, than the lion was in this train of thought, and the face I have often seen at the time the following letter with these words.

Lion presents his humble service and me to give this into your own

my den in the Haymarket, March 15.

If your papers, and have stifled against your reflections upon operas, this day, wherein you plainly imitate Nicolini and myself have a more friendly than is consistent of his character, or the fierceness of you would, for your own sake, preparations for the future; and must piece of ill-nature in you, to show me for a foreigner, and to discountenance your own countryman. Of your fable of the lion and equally concerned in that matter, be offended to whichever of the priority is given. You have misrepresending saying that I am a country gentleman only for my diversion; whereas, same woods to range in which I I was a fox-hunter, I should not od for a maintenance; and assure my circumstances are at present, I an of honour, that I would scorn for bread, but a lion.

'Yours, &c.'

ended this, than one of my land- brought me in several others, with shall make up my present paper, tendency to the same subject, viz. our present diversions.

Covent-Garden, March 13.

for twenty years under-tenon of Paul's, Covent-Garden, and have ing in to prayers six times in all ch office I have performed to my n, until this fortnight last past, e I find my congregation take the

* See No 11.

warning of my bell, morning and evening, to go to a puppet-show set forth by one Powell under the Piazzas. By this means I have not only lost my two customers, whom I used to place for six-pence a-piece, over against Mrs. Rachael Eye-bright, but Mrs. Rachel herself is gone thither also. There now appear among us none but a few ordinary people, who come to church only to say their prayers, so that I have no work worth speaking of but on Sundays. I have placed my son at the Piazzas, to acquaint the ladies, that the bell rings for church, and that it stands on the other side of the Garden; but they only laugh at the child.

'I desire you would lay this before all the world, that I may not be made such a tool for the future, and that Punchinello may choose hours less canonical. As things are now, Mr. Powell has a full congregation, while we have a very thin house; which if you can remedy, you will very much oblige,

'Sir, yours, &c.

The following epistle I find is from the undertaker of the masquerade.

'SIR,

'I HAVE observed the rules of my mask * so carefully (in not inquiring into persons), that I cannot tell whether you were one of the company or not, last Tuesday; but if you were not, and still design to come, I desire you would, for your own entertainment, please to admonish the town, that all persons indifferently are not fit for this sort of diversion. I could wish, sir, you could make them understand, that it is a kind of acting to go in masquerade, and a man should be able to say or do things proper for the dress in which he appears. We have now and then rakes in the habit of Roman senators, and grave politicians in the dress of rakes. The misfortune of the thing is, that people dress themselves in what they have a mind to be, and not what they are fit for. There is not a girl in the town, but let her have her will in going to a mask, and she shall dress as a shepherdess. But let me beg of them to read the Arcadia, or some other good romance, before they appear in any such character at my house. The last day we presented, every body was so rashly habited, that when they came to speak to each other, a nymph with a crook had not a word to say but in the pert style of the pit bawdry; and a man in the habit of a philosopher was speechless, till an occasion offered of expressing himself in the refuse of the tying rooms. We had a judge that danced a minuet, with a quaker for his partner, while half a dozen harlequins stood by as spectators: a Turk drank me off two bottles of wine, and a Jew eat me up half a ham of bacon. If I can bring my design to bear, and make the maskers preserve their characters in my assemblies, I hope you will allow there is a foundation laid for more elegant and improving gallantries than any the town at present affords; and consequently that you will give your approbation to the endeavours of

'SIR,

'Your most obedient humble servant.'

I am very glad the following epistle obliges me to mention Mr. Powell a second time in the same paper; for indeed there cannot be too great encouragement given to his skill in motions †, provided he is under proper restrictions.

'SIR,

'The opera at the Haymarket, and that under the

* See Nos. 8 and 101; Guesd. Nos. 142 and 154.

† Puppet-shows were formerly so called.

little Piazza in Covent-Garden, being at present the two leading diversions of the town, and Mr. Powell professing in his advertisements to set up Whittington and his Cat against Rinaldo and Armida, my curiosity led me, the beginning of last week, to view both these performances, and make my observations upon them.

'First, therefore, I cannot but observe, that Mr. Powell wisely forbearing to give his company a bill of fare beforehand, every scene is new and unexpected; whereas it is certain, that the undertakers of the Haymarket, having raised too great an expectation in their printed opera, very much disappoint their audience on the stage.

'The King of Jerusalem is obliged to come from the city on foot, instead of being drawn in a triumphant chariot by white horses, as my opera-book had promised me; and thus, while I expected Armida's dragons should rush forward towards Argentea, I found the hero was obliged to go to Armida, and hand her out of her coach. We had also but a very short allowance of thunder and lightning; though I cannot in this place omit doing justice to the boy who had the direction of the two painted dragons, and made them spit fire and smoke. He flashed out his rosin in such just proportions, and in such due time, that I could not forbear conceiving hopes of his being one day a most excellent player. I saw, indeed, but two things wanting to render his whole action complete, I mean the keeping his head a little lower, and hiding his candle.

'I observe that Mr. Powell and the undertakers of the opera had both the same thought, and I think much about the same time, of introducing animals on their several stages, though indeed with very different success. The sparrows and chaffinches at the Haymarket, fly as yet very irregularly over the stage; and instead of perching on the trees, and performing their parts, these young actors either got into the galleries, or put out the candles; whereas Mr. Powell has so well disciplined his pig, that in the first scene he and Punch dance a minuet together. I am informed, however, that Mr. Powell resolves to excel his adversaries in their own way; and introduce larks in his next opera of *Susannah, or Innocence Betrayed*, which will be exhibited next week, with a pair of new Elders.

'The moral of Mr. Powell's drama is violated, I confess, by Punch's national reflections on the French, and King Harry's laying his leg upon the queen's lap, in too ludicrous a manner before so great an assembly.

'As to the mechanism and scenery, every thing, indeed, was uniform, and of a-piece, and the scenes were managed very dexterously; which calls on me to take notice, that at the Haymarket, the undertakers forgetting to change the side-scenes, we were presented with a prospect of the ocean in the midst of a delightful grove; and though the gentlemen on the stage had very much contributed to the beauty of the grove, by walking up and down between the trees, I must own I was not a little astonished to see a well-dressed young fellow, in a full-bottomed wig, appear in the midst of the sea, and without any visible concern taking snuff.

'I shall only observe one thing further, in which both dramas agree; which is, that by the squeak of their voices the heroes of each are eunuchs; and as the wit in both pieces is equal, I must prefer the performance of Mr. Powell, because it is in our own language.

'I am, &c.'

ADVERTISEMENT.

On the first of April will be performed, at the playhouse in the Haymarket, an opera called 'The Cruelty of Atreus.'

N. B. *The scene, wherein Thyestes eats his own children, is to be performed by the famous Mr. Pealmanazar*, lately arrived from Formosa: the whole supper being set to kettle-drums.*

STEEL.

R.

Nº 15. SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1710-11.

Parva leves capiunt animos —

OVID. *Art. Am.* l. 159

Light minds are pleas'd with trifles.

WHEN I was in France, I used to gaze with great astonishment at the splendid equipages and party-coloured habits of that fantastic nation. I was one day in particular contemplating a lady that sat in a coach adorned with gilded Cupids, and finely painted with the loves of Venus and Adonis. The coach was drawn by six milk-white horses, and loaded behind with the same number of powdered footmen. Just before the lady were a couple of beautiful pages, that were stuck among the harness, and by their gay dresses and smiling features, looked like the elder-brothers of the little boys that were carved and painted in every corner of the coach.

The lady was the unfortunate Cleanthe, who afterwards gave an occasion to a pretty melancholy novel. She had for several years received the addresses of a gentleman, whom, after a long and intimate acquaintance, she forsook, upon the account of this shining equipage, which had been offered to her by one of great riches, but a crazy constitution. The circumstances in which I saw her were, it seems, the disguises only of a broken heart, and a kind of pageantry to cover distress; for in two months after she was carried to her grave with the same pomp and magnificence; being sent thither partly by the loss of one lover, and partly by the possession of another.

I have often reflected with myself on this unaccountable humour in womankind, of being smitten with every thing that is showy and superficial; and on the numberless evils that befall the sex from this light fantastical disposition. I myself remember a young lady that was very warmly solicited by a couple of importunate rivals, who, for several months together, did all they could to recommend themselves, by complacency of behaviour and agreeableness of conversation. At length, when the competition was doubtful, and the lady undetermined in her choice, one of the young lovers very luckily bethought himself of adding a supernumerary lace to his liveries, which had so good an effect that he married her the very week after.

The usual conversation of ordinary women very much cherishes this natural weakness of being taken with outside and appearance. Talk of a new-married couple, and you immediately hear whither they keep their coach and six, or eat in place. Mention the name of an absent lady, and it is soon to one but you learn something of her gown and petticoat. A ball is a great help to discourse, and a birth-day furnishes conversation for a twelvemonth after. A furbelow of precious stones, and hat buttoned with a diamond, a brocade waistcoat

* For an account of this singular character, see the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xxxiv. xxxv.

standing topics. In short, they drapey of the species, and never ought on those ornaments of the persons illustrious in themselves, &c. When women are thus per- one another's imaginations, and with nothing but colours, it is no more attractive to the super- e, than the solid and substantial girl, who has been trained up in- ration, is in danger of every em- hat comes in her way. A pair of ay be her ruin. In a word, lace and gold galloons, with the like ws, are so many lures to women d low educations, and, when artifi- re able to fetch down the most airy wildest of her flights and rambles. as is of a retired nature, and an and noise: it arises, in the first enjoyment of one's self; and in be friendship and conversation of npanions: it loves shade and soli- ally haunts groves and fountains, ws; in short, it feels every thing self, and receives no addition from itness and spectators. On the Happiness loves to be in a crowd, eyes of the world upon her. She any satisfaction from the applauses herself, but from the admiration in others. She flourishes in courts- atres and assemblies, and has no hen she is looked upon.

gh a woman of great quality, de- vacy of a country life, and passes art of her time in her own walks Her husband, who is her bosom panion in her solitudes, has been r ever since he knew her. They th good sense, consummate virtue, deem; and are a perpetual enter- another. Their family is under so omly, in its hours of devotion and rent and diversion, that it looks mmonwealth within itself. They mpany, that they may return with ght to one another; and sometimes ot to enjoy it so properly, as to it, that they may renew in them- of a country life. By this means in each other, beloved by their d by their servants, and are be- , or rather the delight, of all that

t to this is the life of Fulvia! she usband as her steward, and looks and good housewifery as little do- unbecoming a woman of quality. lost in her own family, and fancies the world when she is not in the ouse, or the drawing-room. She etual motion of body and restless- and is never easy in any one place, there is more company in another. an opera the first night, would be to her than the death of a child. She valuable part of her own sex, and mas of a prudent, modest, and re- poor-spirited, unpolished creature. cation would it be to Fulvia, if she setting herself to view, is but ex- and that she grows contemptible by ous!

I cannot conclude my paper without observing, that Virgil has very finely touched upon this female passion for dress and show, in the character of Camilla; who, though she seems to have shaken off all the other weaknesses of her sex, is still described as a woman in this particular. The poet tells us, that, after having made a great slaughter of the enemy, she unfortunately cast her eye on a Trojan, who wore an embroidered tunic, a beautiful coat of mail, with a mantle of the finest purple. 'A golden bow,' says he, 'hung upon his shoulder; his garment was buckled with a golden clasp; and his head covered with an helmet of the same shining metal.' The Amazon immediately singled out this well-dressed warrior, being seized with a woman's longing for the pretty trappings that he was adorned with:

*Tantumque incensa per agmen
Furiosus prædæ et spoliarum ardebat amore.*
ÆN. xi. 782.

This heedless pursuit after these glittering trifles, the poet (by a nice-concealed moral) represents to have been the destruction of his female hero.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 16. MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1710-11.

Quid verum atque decus, cure et rogo, et omnis in hoc sum.
HOR. l Ep. l. 11.

What right, what true, what 'st we justly call,
Let this be all my care—for this is all.

POPE.

I HAVE received a letter, desiring me to be very satirical upon the little muff that is now in fashion; another informs me of a pair of silver garters buckled below the knee, that have been lately seen at the Rainbow Coffee-house in Fleet-Street; a third sends me an heavy complaint against fringed gloves. To be brief, there is scarce an ornament of either sex which one or the other of my correspondents has not inveighed against with some bitterness, and recommended to my observation. I must, therefore, once for all, inform my readers, that it is not my intention to sink the dignity of this my paper with reflections upon red-heels or top-knots, but rather to enter into the passions of mankind, and to correct those depraved sentiments that give birth to all these little extravagancies which appear in their outward dress and behaviour. Foppish and fantastic ornament are only indications of vice, not criminal in themselves. Extinguish vanity in the mind, and you naturally retrench the little superfluities of garniture and equipage. The blossoms will fall of themselves when the root that nourished them is destroyed.

I shall therefore, as I have said, apply my remedies to the first seeds and principles of an affected dress, without descending to the dress itself; though at the same time I must own, that I have thoughts of creating an officer under me, to be entitled, The Censor of Small Wares, and of allotting him one day in the week for the execution of such his office. An operator of this nature might act under me, with the same regard as a surgeon to a physician; the one might be employed in healing those blotches and tumours which break out in the body, while the other is sweetening the blood, and rectifying the constitution. To speak truly, the young people of both sexes are so wonderfully apt to shoot out into long swords or sweeping trains, bushy head-dresses, or full-bottomed periwigs, with several other encumbrances of dress, that they

stand in need of being pruned very frequently, lest they should be oppressed with ornaments, and overrun with the luxuriance of their habits. I am much in doubt, whether I should give the preference to a quaker that is trimmed close, and almost cut to the quick, or to a beau that is laden with such a redundancy of excrescences. I must therefore desire my correspondents to let me know how they approve my project, and whether they think the erecting of such a petty censorship may not turn to the emolument of the public; for I would not do any thing of this nature rashly and without advice.

There is another set of correspondents to whom I must address myself in the second place; I mean such as fill their letters with private scandal, and black accounts of particular persons and families. The world is so full of ill-nature, that I have lampoons sent me by people who cannot spell, and satires composed by those who scarce know how to write. By the last post in particular, I received a packet of scandal which is not legible; and have a whole bundle of letters in women's hands, that are full of blots and cummies, inasmuch, that when I see the name Cælia, Phillis, Pastora, or the like, at the bottom of a scrawl, I conclude of course that it brings me some account of a fallen virgin, a faithless wife, or an amorous widow. I must therefore inform these my correspondents, that it is not my design to be a publisher of intrigues and cuckoldoms, or to bring little infamous stories out of their present lurking holes into broad day-light. If I attack the vicious, I shall only set upon them in a body; and will not be provoked by the worst usage I can receive from others, to make an example of any particular criminal. In short, I have so much of a *Drawcausir** in me, that I shall pass over a single foe to charge whole armies. It is not *Lais* or *Silenus*, but the harlot and the drunkard, whom I shall endeavour to expose; and shall consider the crime as it appears in a species, not as it is circumstanced in an individual. I think it was *Caligula*, who wished the whole city of Rome had but one neck, that he might behead them at a blow. I should do, out of humanity, what that emperor would have done in the cruelty of his temper, and aim every stroke at a collective body of offenders. At the same time I am very sensible, that nothing spreads a paper like private calumny and defamation; but as my speculations are not under this necessity, they are not exposed to this temptation.

In the next place, I must apply myself to my party correspondents, who are continually teasing me to take notice of one another's proceedings. How often am I asked by both sides, if it is possible for me to be an unconcerned spectator of the rogueries that are committed by the party which is opposite to him that writes the letter? About two days since, I was reproached with an old Grecian law, that forbids any man to stand as neuter, or a looker-on in the divisions of his country. However, as I am very sensible my paper would lose its whole effect, should it run out into the outrages of a party, I shall take care to keep clear of every thing which looks that way. If I can any way assuage private inflammations, or allay public ferments, I shall apply myself to it with my utmost endeavours; but will never let my heart reproach me with having done any thing towards increasing those fruds and animosities, that extinguish religion, deface government, and make a nation miserable.

* A character in the comedy of *The Rehearsal*.

What I have said under the three foregoing heads, will, I am afraid, very much retrench the number of my correspondents. I shall therefore acquaint my reader, that if he has started any hint which he is not able to pursue, if he has met with any surprising story which he does not know how to tell, if he has discovered any epidemical vice which has escaped my observation, or has heard of any uncommon virtue which he would desire to publish; in short, if he has any materials that can furnish out an innocent diversion, I shall promise him my best assistance in the working of them up for a public entertainment.

This paper my reader will find was intended for an answer to a multitude of correspondents; but I hope he will pardon me if I single out one of them in particular, who has made me so very humble a request, that I cannot forbear complying with it.

‘ TO THE SPECTATOR.

‘ March 15, 1710-11.

‘ SIR,
‘ I am at present so unfortunate, as to have nothing to do but to mind my own business; and therefore beg of you that you will be pleased to put me into some small post under you. I observe that you have appointed your printer and publisher to receive letters and advertisements for the city of London; and shall think myself very much honoured by you, if you will appoint me to take in letters and advertisements for the city of Westminster and the duchy of Lancaster. Though I cannot promise to fill such an employment with sufficient abilities, I will endeavour to make up with industry and fidelity, what I want in parts and genius.

‘ I am, sir,
‘ Your most obedient servant,
‘ CHARLES LILLIE.’

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 17. TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1710-11.

Tetrum ante omnia vultus.

JOV. x. 191.

— A visage rough,
Deform'd, unfeatur'd.

DRYDEN.

SINCE our persons are not of our own making, when they are such as appear defective or uncomely, it is, methinks, an honest and laudable fortitude to dare to be ugly; at least to keep ourselves from being abashed with a consciousness of imperfections which we cannot help, and in which there is no guilt. I would not defend an haggard brow, for passing away much time at a glass, and giving softness and languishing graces to deformity: all I intend is, that we ought to be contented with our countenance and shape, so far, as never to give ourselves an uneasy reflection on that subject. It is to the ordinary people, who are not accustomed to make very proper remarks on any occasion, matter of great jest, if a man enters with a prominent pair of shoulders into an assembly, or is distinguished by an expansion of mouth, or obliquity of aspect. It is happy for a man that has any of these oddnesses about him, if he can be as merry upon himself, as others are apt to be upon that occasion. When he can possess himself with such a cheerfulness, women and children, who are at first frighted at him, will afterwards be as much pleased with him. As it is barbarous in others to rally

fects, it is extremely agreeable upon himself for them.

Enon's first husband was an hero and has drawn many pleasant varieties of his shape, which he denouch resembling the letter Z. He likewise by representing to his the of an engine and pulley, with take off his hat. When there y thing ridiculous in a visage, and thinks it an aspect of dignity, he great quality to be exempt from -st expedient therefore is to be nself. Prince Harry and Falstaff, ave carried the ridicule upon fat as it will go. Falstaff is humor-sack, bedpinner, and hill of flesh; ng, an elves-skin, a sheeth, a bow-

There is, in several incidents of between them, the jest still kept up

Great tenderness and sensibility me of the greatest weaknesses of y own part, I am a little unhappy y face, which is not quite so long Whether this might not partly arise y mouth much seldomer than nd by consequence not so much ibres of my visage, I am not at ine. However it be, I have been countenance by the shortness of is formerly at great pains in con-aring a periwig with an high fore-my beard grow. But now I have er this delicacy, and could be conch shorter, provided it might qu-ber of the Merry club, which the gives me an account of. I have re-xford, and as it abounds with the nd good humour, which is natural ball set it down word for word as

END SIR,

ery well entertained, in the last of s that I have yet seen, by your lubs, which I therefore hope you hall take the liberty to furnish you unt of such a one as, perhaps, you all your travels, unless it was your pon some of the woody parts of the t, in your voyage to or from Grand ave arose in this university (long without saying any thing) several hebdomadal societies, as the Pun-itty club, and amongst the rest, lub; as a burlesque upon which, species, that seem to have come masquerade, for some years last ted themselves together, and as- of the Ugly club. This ill-fa- consists of a president and twelve ce of which is not confined by par-icular foundation, (as St. John's: the world believe, and have l a separate society within them- y is left to elect from any school provided the candidates be within ub, as set forth in a table, entitled, mity; a clause or two of which o you.

trou whatsoever shall be admitted querity in his aspect, or peculiar

been well done by William Hay, Esq. on Deformity,' published in Dodsley's to. vol. i. p. 65.

cast of countenance; of which the president and officers for the time being are to determine, and the president to have the casting voice.

'II. That a singular regard be had upon examination, to the gibbosity of the gentlemen that offer themselves as founder's kinsmen; or to the obliquity of their figure, in what sort soever.

'III. That if the quantity of any man's nose be eminently miscalculated, whether as to length or breadth, he shall have a just pretence to be elected.

'Lastly, That if there shall be two or more competitors for the same vacancy, *ceteris paribus*, he that has the thickest skin to have the preference.

'Every fresh member, upon his first night, is to entertain the company with a dish of cod-fish, and a speech in praise of *Æsop*; whose portraiture they have, in full proportion, over the chimney; and their design is, as soon as their funds are sufficient, to purchase the heads of Thersites, Duns Scotus, Scarron, Hudibras, and the old gentleman in Oldham, with all the celebrated ill faces of antiquity, as furniture for the club-room.

'As they have always been professed admirers of the other sex, so they unanimously declare that they will give all possible encouragement to such as will take the benefit of the statute, though none yet have appeared to do it.

'The worthy president, who is their most devoted champion, has lately shown me two copies of verses composed by a gentleman of his society; the first, a congratulatory ode, inscribed to Mrs. Touchwood, upon the loss of her two fore-teeth; the other, a panegyric upon Mrs. Andiron's left shoulder. Mrs. Vizard (he says), since the small-pox, is grown tolerably ugly, and a top toast in the club; but I never heard him so lavish of his fine things, as upon old Nell Trot, who constantly officiates at their table; her he even adores and extols as the very counterpart of Mother Shipton; in short, Nell (says he) is one of the extraordinary works of nature; but as for complexion, shape, and features, so valued by others, they are all mere outside and symmetry, which is his aversion. Give me leave to add, that the president is a facetious pleasant gentleman, and never more so, than when he has got (as he calls them) his dear mummery about him; and he often protests it does him good to meet a fellow with a right genuine grimace in his air (which is so agreeable in the generality of the French nation); and as an instance of his sincerity in this particular, he gave me a sight of a list in his pocket-book of all this clam, who for these five years have fallen under his observation, with himself at the head of them, and in the rear (as one of a promising and improving aspect)

SIR,

Your obliged and humble servant,

ALEXANDER CARRUNCLE.

Oxford, March 12, 1710.

STEELE.

R.

Nº 18. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1710-11.

—*Equitis quoque jam migravit ab auro voluptas
Omnis ad incertus oculos, et gaudia vacat.*

HOR. 2 Ep. 1. 197.

But now our nobles too are fops and vain,
Neglect the sense, but love the painted scene.

CREECH.

It is my design in this paper to deliver down to posterity a faithful account of the Italian opera,

and of the gradual progress which it has made upon the English stage; for there is no question but our great grand-children will be very curious to know the reason why their forefathers used to sit together like an audience of foreigners in their own country, and to hear whole plays acted before them, in a tongue which they did not understand.

Arminio was the first opera that gave us a taste of Italian music. The great success this opera met with produced some attempts of forming pieces upon Italian plans, which should give a more natural and reasonable entertainment than what can be met with in the elaborate trifles of that nation. This alarmed the poetasters and fiddlers of the town, who were used to deal in a more ordinary kind of ware; and therefore laid down an established rule, which is received as such to this day, 'That nothing is capable of being well set to music, that is not nonsense.'

This maxim was no sooner received, but we immediately fell to translating the Italian operas; and as there was no great danger of hurting the sense of these extraordinary pieces, our authors would often make words of their own, which were entirely foreign to the meaning of the passages they pretended to translate; their chief care being to make the numbers of the English verse answer to those of the Italian, that both of them might go to the same tune. Thus the famous song in Camilla:

'Barbara si s'intende,' &c.

'Barbarous woman, yes, I know your meaning;'

which expresses the resentments of an angry lover, was translated into that English lamentation:

'Frail are a lover's hopes,' &c.

And it was pleasant enough to see the most refined persons of the British nation dying away and languishing to notes that were filled with a spirit of rage and indignation. It happened also very frequently, where the sense was rightly translated, the necessary transposition of words, which were drawn out of the phrase of one tongue into that of another, made the music appear very absurd in one tongue that was very natural in the other. I remember an Italian verse that ran thus, word for word:

'And turn'd my rage into pity;'

which the English for rhyme sake translated,

'And into pity turn'd my rage.'

By this means the soft notes that were adapted to pity in the Italian, fell upon the word rage in the English; and the angry sounds that were turned to rage in the original, were made to express pity in the translation. It oftentimes happened likewise, that the finest notes in the air fell upon the most insignificant words in the sentence. I have known the word 'and' pursued through the whole gamut, have been entertained with many a melodious 'the,' and have heard the most beautiful graces, quavers, and divisions bestowed upon 'then, for, and from;' to the eternal honour of our English particles.

The next step to our refinement, was the introducing of Italian actors into our opera; who sang their parts in their own language, at the same time that our countrymen performed theirs in our native

tongue. The king or hero of the play generally spoke in Italian, and his slaves answered him in English. The lover frequently made his court, and gained the heart of his princess, in a language which she did not understand. One would have thought it very difficult to have carried on dialogue after this manner without an interpreter between the persons that conversed together; but this was the state of the English stage for about three years.

At length the audience grew tired of understanding half the opera; and therefore, to ease themselves entirely of the fatigue of thinking, have ordered it at present, that the whole opera is performed in an unknown tongue. We no longer understand the language of our own stage; in so much that I have often been afraid, when I have seen our Italian performers chattering in the vehemence of action, that they have been calling names, and abusing us among themselves; but hope, since we do put such an entire confidence in them, they will not talk against us before our face though they may do it with the same safety as if we were behind our backs. In the mean time, I can not forbear thinking how naturally our historians who write two or three hundred years hence, and does not know the taste of his wise forefathers will make the following reflections: 'In the beginning of the eighteenth century, the Italian tongue was so well understood in England, that operas were acted on the public stage in that language.'

One scarce knows how to be serious in the confusion of an absurdity that shows itself at the first sight. It does not want any great measure of sense to see the ridicule of this monstrous practice but what makes it the more astonishing, is that the taste of the rabble, but of persons of the greatest politeness, which has established it.

If the Italians have a genius for music above the English, the English have a genius for other performances of a much higher nature, and capable of giving the mind a much nobler entertainment. Would one think it was possible (at a time when an author lived that was able to write the Phædra and Hippolytus) for a people to be so stupidly fond of the Italian opera, as scarce to give a third day's hearing to that admirable tragedy? Music is certainly a very agreeable entertainment but if it would take the entire possession of our ears, if it would make us incapable of hearing sense, if it would exclude arts that have a much greater tendency to the refinement of human nature; I must confess I would allow it no better quarter than Plato has done, who banishes it out of his commonwealth.

At present our notions of music are so very uncertain, that we do not know what it is we like; only, in general, we are transported with anything that is not English: so it be of a foreign growth, let it be Italian, French, or High Dutch it is the same thing. In short, our English music is quite rooted out, and nothing yet planted in its stead.

When a royal palace is burnt to the ground every man is at liberty to present his plan for a new one; and though it be but indifferently put together, it may furnish several hints that may be of use to a good architect. I shall take the same liberty, in a following paper, of giving my opinion upon the subject of music; which I shall lay down only in a problematical manner, as to be considered by those who are masters in the art.

ADDISON.

C.

SDAY, MARCH 22, 1710-11.

*scapis me quondam puilli
caro et perpanca loquenti.*

HOR. 1 Sat. iv. 17.

at made me of a humble mind;
came to words inclin'd!

erson behold another, who was
to him, with a cast of his eye,
, expressed an emotion of heart
what could be raised by an ob-
as the gentleman he looked at, I
, not without some secret sorrow,
an envious man. Some have fan-
as a certain magical force in it,
s of the envious have by their
d the enjoyments of the happy.
s says, some have been so curious
times and seasons when the stroke
e is most effectually pernicious,
I that it has been when the per-
son in any circumstance of glory
such a time the mind of the pro-
as it were, abroad, among things
is more exposed to the maligni-
ot dwell upon speculations so ab-
or repeat the many excellent
might collect out of authors upon
ction: but, keeping in the road
onsider the envious man with re-
te heads, his pains, his reliefs, and

un is in pain upon all occasions
give him pleasure. The relish of
; and the objects which admini-
satisfaction to those who are exempt
give the quickest pangs to persons
it. All the perfections of their
are odious. Youth, beauty, va-
re provocations of their displen-
etched and upstart state is this
th excellence, and to hate a man
ove him! The condition of the
he most emphatically miserable;
n capable of rejoicing in another's
but lives in a world wherein all
plot against his quiet, by study-
appiness and advantage. Will
onest tale-bearer. He makes it
in in conversation with envious
to such an handsome young fel-
s that he is secretly married to a
When they doubt, he adds cir-
ve it; and never fails to aggra-
s, by assuring them, that, to his
is an uncle will leave him some
has many arts of this kind to
temper, and delights in it. When
ange colour, and say faintly they
of news is true, he has the malice
od or other of every man of their

the envious man are those little
perfections that discover them-
selves character. It is a matter of
to an envious person, when a
honour does a thing unworthy
any action which was well exe-

cuted, upon better information appears so altered
in its circumstances, that the fame of it is divided
among many, instead of being attributed to one.
This is a secret satisfaction to these malignants; for
the person whom they before could not but admire,
they fancy is nearer their own condition as soon as
his merit is shared among others. I remember
some years ago there came out an excellent poem
without the name of the author. The little wits,
who were incapable of writing it, began to pull in
pieces the supposed writer. When that would not
do, they took great pains to suppress the opinion
that it was his. That again failed. The next re-
fuge was, to say it was overlooked by one man,
and many pages wholly written by another. An
honest fellow who sat among a cluster of them in
debate on this subject, cried out, 'Gentlemen, if
you are sure none of you yourselves had a hand in
it, you are but where you were, whoever writ it.'
But the most usual succour to the envious, in cases
of nameless merit in this kind, is to keep the pro-
perty, if possible, unfixed, and by that means to
hinder the reputation of it from falling upon any
particular person. You see an envious man clear
up his countenance, if in the relation of any man's
great happiness in one point, you mention his un-
easiness in another. When he hears such a one is
very rich he turns pale, but recovers when you add
that he has many children. In a word, the only
sure way to an envious man's favour, is not to de-
serve it.

But if we consider the envious man in delight, it
is like reading of the seat of a giant in a romance;
the magnificence of his house consists in the many
limbs of men whom he has slain. If any who pro-
mised themselves success in any uncommon under-
taking miscarry in the attempt, or he that aimed
at what would have been useful and laudable,
meets with contempt and derision, the envious man,
under the colour of hating vain-glory, can smile
with an inward wantonness of heart at the ill ef-
fect it may have upon an honest ambition for the
future.

Having thoroughly considered the nature of this
passion, I have made it my study how to avoid the
envy that may accrue to me from these my specu-
lations; and if I am not mistaken in myself, I
think I have a genius to escape it. Upon hearing
in a coffee-house one of my papers commended, I
immediately apprehended the envy that would
spring from that applause; and therefore gave a
description of my face the next day; being re-
solved, as I grew in reputation for wit, to resign
my pretensions to beauty. This, I hope, may give
some ease to those unhappy gentlemen who do me
the honour to torment themselves upon the account
of this my paper. As their case is very deplorable,
and deserves compassion, I shall sometimes be
dull, in pity to them, and will from time to time
administer consolations to them by further disco-
veries of my person. In the meanwhile, if any one
says the Spectator has wit, it may be some relief
to them to think that he does not show it in com-
pany. And if any one praises his morality, they
may comfort themselves by considering that his
face is none of the longest.

STELLA.

R.

№ 20. FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1710-11.

— Κίτος σφίμμιτ' εχων. —

HOM. II. l. 225.

Thou dog in forehead —

POPE.

Among the other hardy undertakings which I have proposed to myself, that of the correction of impudence is what I have very much at heart. This in a particular manner is my province as Spectator; for it is generally an offence committed by the eyes, and that against such as the offenders would perhaps never have an opportunity of injuring any other way. The following letter is a complaint of a young lady, who sets forth a trespass of this kind, with that command of herself as befits beauty and innocence, and yet with so much spirit as sufficiently expresses her indignation. The whole transaction is performed with the eyes; and the crime is no less than employing them in such a manner, as to divert the eyes of others from the best use they can make of them, even looking up to Heaven:

'SIR,
'THERE never was (I believe) an acceptable man but had some awkward imitators. Ever since the Spectator appeared, have I remarked a kind of men, whom I choose to call Starkers; that without any regard to time, place, or modesty, disturb a large company with their impertinent eyes. Spectators make up a proper assembly for a puppet-show or a bear-garden; but devout supplicants and attentive hearers, are the audience one ought to expect in churches. I am, sir, member of a small pious congregation near one of the north gates of this city; much the greater part of us indeed are females, and used to behave ourselves in a regular attentive manner, till very lately one whose aisle has been disturbed by one of these monstrous starters: he is the head taller than any one in the church; but for the greater advantage of exposing himself, stands upon a hamock, and commands the whole congregation, to the great annoyance of the devoutest part of the auditory; for what with blushing, confusion, and vexation, we can neither mind the prayers nor sermon. Your animadversion upon this insolence would be a great favour to,

'SIR,

'Your most humble servant,

'A. C.'

I have frequently seen of this sort of fellows, and do think there cannot be a greater aggravation of an offence, than that it is committed where the criminal is protected by the sacredness of the place which he violates. Many reflections of this sort might be very justly made upon this sort of behaviour, but a starker is not usually a person to be convinced by the reason of the thing; and a fellow that is capable of showing an impudent front before a whole congregation, and can bear being a public spectacle, is not so easily rebuked as to amend by admonitions. If, therefore, my correspondent does not inform me, that within seven days after this date the barbarian does not at least stand upon his own legs only, without an eminence, my friend Will Prosper* has promised to take an hamock opposite to him, and stare against him in defence of the ladies. I have given him

* See № 19.

directions, according to the most exact rules of optics, to place himself in such a manner, that I shall meet his eyes wherever he throws them. I have hopes, that when Will confronts him, and the ladies, in whose behalf he engages him, cast kind looks and wishes of success at their champion he will have some shame, and feel a little of the pain he has so often put others to, of being out of countenance.

It has indeed been, time out of mind, general remarked, and as often lamented, that this family of starters have infested public assemblies: and know no other way to obviate so great an evil except, in the case of fixing their eyes upon women, some male friend will take the part of such as are under the oppression of impudence, as encounter the eyes of the starters wherever they meet them. While we suffer our women to be thus impudently attacked, they have no defence, but in the end to cast yielding glances at the starters. In this case, a man who has no sense of shame has the same advantage over his mistress, as I who has no regard for his own life has over his adversary. While the generality of the world are fettered by rules, and move by proper and just methods; he who has no respect to any of them carries away the reward due to that propriety of behaviour, with no other merit but that of having neglected it.

I take an impudent fellow to be a sort of outlaw in good-breeding, and therefore what is said of him no nation or person can be concerned for. For this reason one may be free upon him. I have put myself to great pains in considering this prevailing quality which we call impudence, and have taken notice that it exerts itself in a different manner, according to the different soils where such subjects of these dominions, as are masters of it, were born. Impudence in an Englishman is sullen and insolent; in a Scotchman it is untractable and rapacious; in an Irishman, absurd and fawning: as the course of the world now runs, the impudent Englishman behaves like a surly landlord, the Scot like an ill-received guest, and the Irishman like a stranger, who knows he is not welcome. There is seldom any thing entertaining either in the impudence of a South or North Briton; but that of an Irishman is always comic. A true and genuine impudence is ever the effect of ignorance without the least sense of it. The best and most successful starters now in this town are of that nation: they have usually the advantage of the stature mentioned in the above letter of a correspondent, and generally take their stands in the eye of women of fortune; inasmuch that I have known one of them, three months after he came from plough, with a tolerable good air, lean out a woman from a play, which one of our own breed, after four years at Oxford and two at the Temple, would have been afraid to look at.

I cannot tell how to account for it, but these people have usually the preference to our own fools, in the opinion of the sillier part of women kind. Perhaps it is that an English coxcomb is seldom so obsequious as an Irish one; and where the design of pleasing is visible, an absurdity in the way toward it is easily forgiven.

But those who are downright impudent, and go on without reflection that they are such, are not to be tolerated, than a set of fellows among whom who profess impudence with an air of humour, as think to carry off the most inexcusable of all faults in the world, with no other apology than saying in a gay tone, 'I put an impudent face upon the

man shall be allowed the audience, who is conscious that he is as he is impudent, he may as well and it shall be expected that he does he makes another do it. For e for the want of modesty: with- is ungraceful, and wit detestable.

R.

RDAY, MARCH 24, 1710-11.

et pluribus umbris.

HOR. 1 Ep. v. 28.

ough, and each may bring his friend.

CREECH.

very much troubled, when I reflect great professions of divinity, law, they are each of them overburdened, and filled with multitudes of men that starve one another.

le the clergy into generals, field alterns. Among the first we may deans, and arch-deacons. Among doctors of divinity, prebendaries, or scarfs. The rest are comprehensubalterns. As for the first class, reserves it from any redundancy notwithstanding competitors are on a strict calculation, it is found on a great exceeding of late years ision, several brevets having been converting of subalterns into scarfs, that within my memory the

is raised above two-pence in a subalterns, they are not to be old our clergy once enter into the of the laity, by the splitting of hey would be able to carry most England.

e law is no less encumbered with ers, that are like Virgil's army, was so crowded, many of them use their weapons. This prodigious may be divided into the litigious Under the first are comprehended e carried down in coach-falls to every morning in term time. tion of this species of lawyers is

traus et verba locant.

out their words and anger; that passionate according as they are allow their client a quantity of able to the fee which they receive t, however, observe to the reader, parts of those whom I reckon us are such as are only quarrel- erts, and have no opportunity of sion at the bar. Nevertheless, now what strifes may arise, they ll every day, that they may show adiness to enter the lists, whenever asion for them.

lawyers are, in the first place, chers of the several inns of court, he dignitaries of the law, and are ose qualifications of mind that ac- rather for a ruler than a pleader. ceaseably in their habitations, eat- and dancing once a year*, for ir respective societies.

* *Origines Juridicales*, folio, 1666.

Another numberless branch of peaceable lawyers, are those young men who, being placed at the inns of court in order to study the laws of their country, frequent the playhouse more than Westminster-Hall, and are seen in all public assemblies, except in a court of justice. I shall say nothing of those silent and busy multitudes that are employed within doors in the drawing up of writings and conveyances; nor of those greater numbers that palliate their want of business with a pretence to such chamber practice.

If, in the third place, we look into the profession of physic, we shall find a most formidable body of men. The sight of them is enough to make a man serious; for we may lay it down as a maxim, that when a nation abounds in physicians, it grows thin of people. Sir William Temple is very much puzzled to find out a reason why the Northern Hive, as he calls it, does not send out such prodigious swarms, and overrun the world with Goths and Vandals, as it did formerly; but had that excellent author observed that there were no students in physic among the subjects of Thor and Woden, and that this science very much flourishes in the north at present, he might have found a better solution for this difficulty than any of those he has made use of. This body of men in our own country may be described like the British army in Caesar's time. Some of them slay in chariots, and some on foot. If the infantry do less execution than the charioteers, it is because they cannot be carried so soon into all quarters of the town, and dispatch so much business in so short a time. Besides this body of regular troops, there are stragglers, who, without being duly listed and enrolled, do infinite mischief to those who are so unlucky as to fall into their hands.

There are, besides the above-mentioned, innumerable retainers to physic, who, for want of other patients, amuse themselves with the stifling of cats in an air-pump, cutting up dogs alive, or impaling of insects upon the point of a needle for microscopical observations; besides those that are employed in the gathering of weeds, and the chase of butterflies: not to mention the cockleshell-menchants and spider-catchers.

When I consider how each of these professions are crowded with multitudes that seek their livelihood in them, and how many men of merit there are in each of them, who may be rather said to be of the science than the profession; I very much wonder at the humour of parents, who will not rather choose to place their sons in a way of life where an honest industry cannot but thrive, than in stations where the greatest probity, learning, and good sense may miscarry. How many men are country curates, that might have made themselves aldermen of London by a right improvement of a smaller sum of money than what is usually laid out upon a learned education? A sober frugal person, of slender parts and a slow apprehension, might have thrived, in trade, though he starves upon physic; as a man would be well enough pleased to buy silks of one, whom he would not venture to feel his pulse. Vagellius is careful, studious, and obliging, but withal a little thick-skulled; he has not a single client, but might have had abundance of customers. The misfortune is, that parents take a liking to a particular profession, and therefore desire their sons may be of it; whereas, in so great an affair of life, they should consider the genius and abilities of their children, more than their own inclinations.

It is the great advantage of a trading nation,

that there are very few in it so dull and heavy, who may not be placed in stations of life, which may give them an opportunity of making their fortunes. A well-regulated commerce is not, like law, physic, or divinity, to be overstocked with hands; but, on the contrary, flourishes by multitudes, and gives employment to all its professors. Fleets of merchantmen are so many squadrons of floating shops, that vend our wares and manufactures in all the markets of the world, and find out chapmen under both the tropics.

ADDISON *.

C.

N^o 22. MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1711.*Quodcumque ostendis mihi sic, incredulus odi.*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 188.

— Whatever contradicts my sense
I hate to see, but never can believe.

ROSCOMMON.

THE word Spectator being most usually understood as one of the audience at public representations in our theatres, I seldom fail of many letters relating to plays and operas. But indeed there are such monstrous things done in both, that if one had not been an eye-witness of them, one could not believe that such matters had really been exhibited. There is very little which concerns human life, or is a picture of nature, that is regarded by the greater part of the company. The understanding is dismissed from our entertainments. Our mirth is the laughter of fools, and our admiration the wonder of idiots; else such improbable, monstrous, and incoherent dreams could not go off as they do, not only without the utmost scorn and contempt, but even with the loudest applause and approbation. But the letters of my correspondents will represent this affair in a more lively manner than any discourse of my own; I shall therefore give them to my reader with only this preparation, that they all come from players, and that the business of playing is now so managed that you are not to be surprised when I say one or two of them are rational, others sensitive and vegetative actors, and others wholly inanimate. I shall not place these as I have named them, but as they have precedence in the opinion of their audiences.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

* YOUR having been so humble as to take notice of the epistles of other animals, emboldens me, who am the wild boar that was killed by Mrs. Tofts, to represent to you that I think I was hardly used in not having the part of the lion in Hydaspes given to me. It would have been but a natural step for me to have personated that noble creature, after having behaved myself to satisfaction in the part above-mentioned. That of a lion is too great a character for one that never trod the stage before but upon two legs. As for the little resistance which I made, I hope it may be excused, when it is considered that the dart was thrown at me by so fair a hand. I must confess I had but just put on my brutality; and Camilla's charms were such, that beholding her erect mien, hearing her charming voice, and astonished with her graceful motion, I could not keep up to my assumed fierceness, but died like a man.

I am, SIR,

Your most humble admirer,

THOMAS PROKE.*

* At the close of N^o 108, he desires his readers to compare with this what is said there.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

* THIS is to let you understand, that the playhouse is a representation of the world in nothing so much as in this particular, that no one rises in it according to his merit. I have acted several parts of household-stuff with great applause for many years. I am one of the men in the hangings in The Emperor of the Moon; I have twice performed the third chair in an English opera; and have rehearsed the pump in The Fortune-Hunters. I am now grown old, and hope you will recommend me so effectually, as that I may say something before I go off the stage: in which you will do a great act of charity to

Your most humble servant,

WILLIAM SCRENE.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

* UNDERSTANDING that Mr. Screne has writ to you and desired to be raised from dumb and still parts I desire, if you give him motion or speech, that you would advance me in my way, and let me keep on in what I humbly presume I am a master to wit, in representing human and still life together. I have several times acted one of the finest flower-pots in the same opera wherein Mr. Screne is a chair; therefore, upon his promotion, request that I may succeed him in the hangings, with my hand in the orange-trees.

Your humble servant,

RALPH SIMPLE.*

Drury-Lane, March 24, 1710-11.

* SIR,

* I SAW your friend the Templar this evening in the pit, and thought he looked very little pleased with the representation of the mad scene of The Pilgrim. I wish, sir, you would do us the favour to animadvert frequently upon the false taste of this town is in, with relation to plays as well as opera. It certainly requires a degree of understanding to play justly; but such is our condition, that we are to suspend our reason to perform our parts. As to scenes of madness, you know, sir, there are noble instances of this kind in Shakspeare; but then it is the disturbance of a noble mind, from generous and humane resentments. It is like that grief which we have for the decease of our friends. It is no diminution, but a recommendation of human nature, that in such incidents passion gets the better of reason; and all we can think to comfort ourselves, is impotent against half what we feel. I will not mention that we had an idiot in the scene, and all the sense it is represented to have is that of lust. As for myself, who have long taken pains in personating the passions, I have to-night acted only an appetite. The part I played is Thirst, but it is represented as written rather by a drayman than a poet. I come in with a tub about me, that tub hung with quart pots, with a full gallon at my mouth. I am ashamed to tell you that I pleased very much, and this was introduced as a madness; but sure it was not human madness for a mule or an ass may have been as dry as ever I was in my life.

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient and humble servant.*

From the Savoy in the Strand.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

* IF you can read it with dry eyes, I give you this trouble to acquaint you, that I am the unfortunate king Latinus, and I believe I am the first prince that dated from this palace since John of Gaunt. Such is the uncertainty of all human greatness, that

moved without a guard, am
mon soldier, and am to sail
ind against my brother Lewis
very hard thing to put off a
as appeared in with applause.
since the loss of my diadem;
with another recruit, I spoke
f my part in *recitativo* :

— Most audacious slave,
ry monarch's fury brave!"

sooner out of my mouth, when
me down, and asked me if I
ny, in talking things nobody
e, sir, my unhappy circum-
your mediation you can pro-
prince (who never failed to
him merry at his appearance)
banks of
our friend,

'THE KING OF LATIUM *.'

ERTISEMENT.

ood of the public.

if the masquerade lives an emi-
son, arrived from the carnival
periences in private cures. Ac-
voided, and persons admitted in

his coming hither, in less than
amouches, a mountebank doctor,
three nuns, and a morris-dancer.

its occurrite morbo.'

may agree by the great, and be
year. The doctor draws teeth
our mask.

R.

DAY, MARCH 27, 1711.

*nec teli complicit uquam
ardens inmittere possit.*

VIRG. *Æn.* ix. 420.

with rage, and, gazing round,
gave the fatal wound;

ge

DRYDEN.

hat more betrays a base unge-
he giving of secret stabs to a
ampons and satires, that are
nd spirit, are like poisoned
y inflict a wound, but make it
reason I am very much trou-
talents of humour and ridicule
f an ill-natured man. There
r gratification to a barbarous
than to stir up sorrow in the
ason, to raise unreason among
to expose whole families to
e time that he remains unseen
If, besides the accomplishments
ill-natured, a man is vicious
is one of the most mischievous
nter into a civil society. His

led 'Camilla,' written by Owen Mac

n said to have been levelled at Swift.
a coolness between him and Addi-
ift's Works, vol. xiv. 240, and xv. 76,

satire will then chiefly fall upon those who ought
to be the most exempt from it. Virtue, merit, and
every thing that is praiseworthy, will be made
the subject of ridicule and buffoonery. It is im-
possible to enumerate the evils which arise from
these arrows that fly in the dark, and I know no
other excuse that is or can be made for them, than
that the wounds they give are only imaginary, and
produce nothing more than a secret shame or sor-
row in the mind of the suffering person. It must
indeed be confessed, that a lampoon or a satire do
not carry in them robbery or murder; but at the
same time how few are there that would not rather
lose a considerable sum of money, or even life it-
self, than be set up as a mark of infamy and deri-
sion? and in this case a man should consider, that
an injury is not to be measured by the notions of
him that gives, but of him that receives it.

Those who can put the best countenance upon
the outrages of this nature which are offered them
are not without their secret anguish. I have often
observed a passage in Socrates's behaviour at his
death, in a light wherein none of the critics have
considered it. That excellent man entertaining
his friends, a little before he drank the bowl of
poison, with a discourse on the immortality of the
soul, at his entering upon it says, that he does not
believe any the most comic genius can censure him
far talking upon such a subject at such a time.
This passage, I think, evidently glances upon Ari-
stophanes, who writ a comedy on purpose to ridi-
cule the discourses of that divine philosopher. It
has been observed by many writers, that Socrates
was so little moved at this piece of buffoonery,
that he was several times present at its being acted
upon the stage, and never expressed the least re-
sentment of it. But, with submission, I think the
remark I have here made shows us, that this un-
worthy treatment made an impression upon his
mind, though he had been too wise to discover it.

When Julius Cæsar was lampooned by Catullus,
he invited him to supper, and treated him with
such a generous civility, that he made the poet
his friend ever after. Cardinal Mazarine gave the
same kind of treatment to the learned Quillet, who
had reflected upon his eminence in a famous Latin
poem. The cardinal sent for him, and, after some
kind expostulations upon what he had written,
assured him of his esteem, and dismissed him with
a promise of the next good abbey that should fall,
which he accordingly conferred upon him in a few
months after. This had so good an effect upon the
author, that he dedicated the second edition of his
book to the cardinal, after having expunged the
passages which had given him offence.

Sextus Quintus was not of so generous and for-
giving a temper. Upon his being made pope, the
statue of Pasquin was one night dressed in a very
dirty shirt, with an excuse written under it, that he
was forced to wear foul linen, because his laun-
dress was made a princess. This was a reflection
upon the pope's sister, who, before the promotion
of her brother, was in those mean circumstances
that Pasquin represented her. As this pasquinade
made a great noise in Rome, the pope offered a
considerable sum of money to any person that
should discover the author of it. The author, rely-
ing upon his holiness's generosity, as also on some
private overtures which he had received from him,
made the discovery himself; upon which the pope
gave him the reward he had promised, but at the
same time, to disable the satirist for the future, or-
dered his tongue to be cut out, and both his hands

to be chopped off. Arétine* is too trite an instance. Every one knows that all the kings of Europe were his tributaries. Nay, there is a letter of his extant, in which he makes his boasts that he had laid the Sophi of Persia under contribution.

Though in the various examples which I have here drawn together, these several great men behaved themselves very differently towards the wits of the age who had reproached them; they all of them plainly showed that they were very sensible of their reproaches, and consequently that they received them as very great injuries. For my own part, I would never trust a man that I thought was capable of giving these secret wounds; and cannot but think that he would hurt the person whose reputation he thus assaults, in his body or in his fortune, could he do it with the same security. There is, indeed, something very barbarous and inhuman in the ordinary scribblers of lampoons. An innocent young lady shall be exposed for an unhappy feature. A father of a family turned to ridicule for some domestic calamity. A wife be made uneasy all her life for a misinterpreted word or action. Nay, a good, a temperate, and a just man, shall be put out of countenance by the representation of those qualities that should do him honour. So pernicious a thing is wit, when it is not tempered with virtue and humanity.

I have indeed heard of heedless inconsiderate writers, that without any malice have sacrificed the reputation of their friends and acquaintance to a certain levity of temper, and a silly ambition of distinguishing themselves by a spirit of railery and satire; as if it were not infinitely more honourable to be a good-natured man than a wit. Where there is this little petulant humour in an author, he is often very mischievous without designing to be so. For which reason I always lay it down as a rule, that an indiscreet man is more hurtful than an ill-natured one; for as the latter will only attack his enemies, and those he wishes ill to; the other injures, indifferently, both friends and foes. I cannot forbear, on this occasion, transcribing a fable out of Sir Roger l'Estrange, which accidentally lies before me. 'A company of waggish boys were watching of frogs at the side of a pond, and still as any of them put up their heads, they would be pelting them down again with stones. "Children," says one of the frogs, "you never consider, that though this may be play to you, it is death to us".'

As this week† is in a manner set apart and dedicated to serious thoughts, I shall indulge myself in such speculations as may not be altogether unsuitable to the season; and in the mean time, as the settling in ourselves a charitable frame of mind is a work very proper for the time, I have in this

* Peter Arétine, a native of Arezzo, who lived in the 16th century, was infamous for his satirical writings; and was so bold as to carry his invectives even against sovereigns; whence he got the title of the Scourge of Princes. He used to boast, that his lampoons did more service to the world than sermons; and it was said of him, that he had subjected more princes by his pen, than the greatest warriors had ever done by their arms. Arétine wrote also many irreligious and obscene pieces. Some say, that he afterwards changed his loose, libertine principles; but however this may be, it is certain that he composed several pieces of devotion. He was author likewise of some comedies, which were esteemed pretty good of their kind; and died in the year 1556, being about 65 years old. It is said by some, that he fell into such a fit of laughter, on hearing some obscene conversation, that he overturned the chair upon which he sat, and that falling, he hurt his head, and died upon the spot.

† The week before Easter.

paper endeavoured to expose that particular breach of charity, which has been generally overlooked by divines, because they are but few who can be guilty of it.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 24. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1710-11.

*Accurrit quidam, notus mihi nomine tantum;
Acceptaque manu, Quid agis dulcissime rerum?*
HOR. I Sat. ix. 3.

Comes up a top, (I knew him but by fame)
And seiz'd my hand, and call'd me by my name—
—My dear!—how dost'

There are in this town a great number of insignificant people, who are by no means fit for the better sort of conversation, and yet have an impatient ambition of appearing with those to whom they are not welcome. If you walk in the Park one of them will certainly join with you, though you are in company with ladies; if you drink a bottle, they will find your haunts. What makes such fellows the more burdensome is, that they neither offend nor please so far as to be taken notice of for either. It is, I presume, for this reason that my correspondents are willing by my means to be rid of them. The two following letters are written by persons who suffer by such impertinence. A worthy old bachelor, who sets in for a dose of claret every night at such an hour, is teased by a swarm of them; who, because they are sure of room and a good fire, have taken it in their heads to keep a sort of club in his company; though the sober gentleman himself is an utter enemy to such meetings.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THE aversion I for some years have had to clubs in general, gave me a perfect relish for your speculation on that subject*; but I have since been extremely mortified, by the malicious world's railing me amongst the supporters of such impertinent assemblies. I beg leave to state my case fairly and that done, I shall expect redress from your judicious pen.

'I am, Sir, a bachelor of some standing, and traveller; my business, to consult my own humour which I gratify without controlling other people. I have a room and a whole bed to myself; and have a dog, a fiddle, and a gun; they please me and injure no creature alive. My chief meal a supper, which I always make at a tavern. I am constant to an hour, and not ill-humoured; for which reasons, though I invite nobody, I have no sooner supped, than I have a crowd about me of that sort of good company that know not when their else to go. It is true, every man pays his share; yet, as they are intruders, I have an undoubted right to be the only speaker, or at least the loudest; which I maintain, and that to the great emolument of my audience. I sometimes tell them their own in pretty free language; and sometimes divert them with merry tales, according as I am in humour. I am one of those who live in taverns to a great age, by a sort of regular intemperance: I never go to bed drunk, but always flustered; I wear away very gently; am apt to be peevish, but never angry. Mr. Spectator, if you have kept various company, you know there is every tavern in town some old humorist or other

* See Nº 9.

f the house as much as he that awers are all in awe of him; and who frequent his company, yield nical obedience. I do not know a fellow as this myself. But I whether this is to be called a club, y impertinents will break in upon without appointment? Clinch of ghtly meeting, and shaws to every ne in and pay; but then he is the y should people miscall things? If be a concert, why may not mine owever, sir, I submit it to you,

'SIR,
'Your most obedient, &c.
'THOMAS KIMBOW.'

re pressed against each other last wd, in which uneasy posture we for almost half an hour. I thank civilities ever since, in being of : wherever you meet me. But the pulled off your hat to me in the as walking with my mistress. She r air, and said she wondered what I was acquainted with. Dear sir, much as my life is worth, if she : were intimate; therefore I earn- : for the future to take no manner

'SIR,
Your obliged humble servant,
'WILL FASHION.'

inence is also very troublesome to d more intelligent part of the fair cems, a great inconvenience, that canest capackies will pretend to igh indeed they are qualified rather ruiture of the house (by filling an an to the conversation they come visit. A friend of mine hopes for ase, by the publication of her let- ; which she thinks those she would ke to themselves. It seems to be eye to one of those pert, giddy, , who, upon the recommendation cable person and a fashionable air, to be upon a level with women of rit.

ay to acquaint you with what com- forms would never permit me to ne; to wit, that you and I, though ty and fortune, are by no means ions. You are, it is true, very nce, and make a very good figure sembly; but alas, madam, you urther; distance and silence are commendations; therefore let me ver to make me any more visits. a literal sense to see one, for you to say. I do not say this, that I means lose your acquaintance; but it up with the strictest forms of

Let us pay visits, but never see If you will be so good as to deny s to me, I shall return the obliga- the same orders to my servants. : makes us meet at a third place, we lament the misfortune of never find-

ing one another at home, go in the same party to a benefit-play, and smile at each other, and put down glasses as we pass in our coaches. Thus we may enjoy as much of each other's friendship as we are capable of: for there are some people who are to be known only by sight, with which sort of friendship, I hope you will always honour,

'MADAM,
'Your most obedient humble servant,
'MARY THURSDAY.'

'P. S. I subscribe myself by the name of the day I keep, that my supernumerary friends may know who I am.'

ADVERTISEMENT.

To prevent all mistakes that may happen among gentlemen of the other end of the town, who come but once a week to St. James's coffee-house, either by miscalling the servants, or requiring such things from them as are not properly within their respective provinces; this is to give notice, that Kidney, keeper of the book-debts of the outlying customers, and observer of those who go off without paying, having resigned that employment, is succeeded by John Souton; to whose place of enteror of messages and first coffee-grinder, William Bird is promoted; and Samuel Burdock comes as shoe-cleaner in the room of the said Bird.

STEEL.

R.

N^o 25. THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1710-11.

—Egræticque medendo.

VIRG. *Æd.* xii. 46.

And sickens by the very means of health.

THE following letter will explain itself, and needs no apology:

'SIR,
'I AM one of that sickly tribe who are commonly known by the name of Valetudinarians; and do confess to you, that I first contracted this ill habit of body, or rather of mind, by the study of physic. I no sooner began to peruse books of this nature, but I found my pulse was irregular; and scarce over read the account of any disease that I did not fancy myself afflicted with*. Dr. Sydenham's learned treatise of fevers threw me into a lingering hectic, which hung upon me all the while I was reading that excellent piece. I then applied myself to the study of several authors, who have written upon phthical distempers, and by that means fell into a consumption; till at length, growing fat, I was in a manner shamed out of that imagination. Not long after this I found in myself all the symptoms of the gout, except pain; but was cured of it by a treatise upon the gravel, written by a very ingenious author, who (as it is usual for physicians to convert one distemper into another) eased me of the gout by giving me the stone. I at length studied myself into a complication of distempers; but, accidentally taking into my hand that ingenious discourse written by Sancterius†, I

* Mr. Tickell, in his preface to Addison's Works says, 'that Addison never had a regular pulse.'

† The inventor of the thermometer. He was professor of medicine in the university of Padua in the beginning of the seventeenth century; and, by means of a weighing-chair of his own invention, made many curious and important discoveries relative to insensible perspiration. He published at Venice, in 1634, an ingenious book, entitled "De Medicinis Staticis," which is the work here alluded to.

was resolved to direct myself by a scheme of rules, which I had collected from his observations. The learned world are very well acquainted with that gentleman's invention; who, for the better carrying on of his experiments, contrived a certain mathematical chair, which was so artificially hung upon springs, that it would weigh any thing as well as a pair of scales. By this means he discovered how many ounces of his food passed by perspiration, what quantity of it was turned into nourishment, and how much went away by the other channels and distributions of nature.

Having provided myself with this chair, I used to study, eat, drink, and sleep in it: inasmuch that I may be said, for these last three years, to have lived in a pair of scales. I compute myself, when I am full in health, to be precisely two hundred weight, falling short of it about a pound after a day's fast, and exceeding it as much after a full meal; so that is my continual employment to trim the balance between these two volatile pounds in my constitution. In my ordinary meals I fetch myself up to two hundred weight and half a pound: and if, after having dined, I find myself fall short of it, I drink just so much small beer, or eat such a quantity of bread, as is sufficient to make me weight. In my greatest excesses I do not transgress more than the other half pound: which, for my health's sake, I do the first Monday in every month. As soon as I find myself duly poised after dinner, I walk till I have perspired five ounces and four scruples; and when I discover, by my chair, that I am so far reduced, I fall to my books, and study away three ounces more. As for the remaining parts of the pound, I keep no account of them. I do not dine and sup by the clock, but by my chair; for when that informs me my pound of food is exhausted, I conclude myself to be hungry, and lay in another with all diligence. In my days of abstinence I lose a pound and a half, and on solemn fasts am two pounds lighter than on other days in the year.

I allow myself, one night with another, a quarter of a pound of sleep, within a few grains more or less; and if, upon my rising, I find that I have not consumed my whole quantity, I take out the rest in my chair. Upon an exact calculation of what I expended and received the last year, which I always register in a book, I find the medium to be two hundred weight, so that I cannot discover that I am impaired one ounce in my health during a whole twelvemonth. And yet, sir, notwithstanding this my great care to ballast myself equally every day, and to keep my body in its proper poise, so it is, that I find myself in a sick and languishing condition. My complexion is grown very sallow, my pulse low, and my body hydropical. Let me therefore beg you, sir, to consider me as your patient, and to give me more certain rules to walk by than those I have already observed, and you will very much oblige

‘Your humble servant.’

This letter puts me in mind of an Italian epitaph written on the monument of a valetudinarian: *Morro den, ma per star meglio, sto qui*: which it is impossible to translate*. The fear of death often proves mortal, and sets people on methods to save their lives, which infallibly destroys them. This is a reflection made by some historians, upon observing that there are many more thousands killed

* I was well; I would be better; and here I am; is nearly a verbal translation.

in a slight than in a battle; and may be applied to those multitudes of imaginary sick persons that break their constitutions by physic, and throw themselves into the arms of death, by endeavouring to escape it. This method is not only dangerous, but below the practice of a reasonable creature. To consult the preservation of life, as the only end of it, to make our health our business, to engage in no action that is not part of a regimen, or course of physic, are purposes so abject, so mean, so unworthy human nature, that a generous soul would rather die than submit to them. Besides, that a continual anxiety for life vitiates all the relishes of it, and casts a gloom over the whole face of nature; as it is impossible we should take delight in any thing that we are every moment afraid of losing.

I do not mean, by what I have here said, that I think any one to blame for taking due care of their health. On the contrary, as cheerfulness of mind, and capacity for business, are in a great measure the effects of a well-tempered constitution, a man cannot be at too much pains to cultivate and preserve it. But this care, which we are prompted to, not only by common sense, but by duty and instinct, should never engage us in groundless fears, melancholy apprehensions, and imaginary distempers, which are natural to every man who is more anxious to live, than how to live. In short, the preservation of life should be only a secondary concern, and the direction of it our principal. If we have this frame of mind, we shall take the best means to preserve life, without being over-solicitous about the event; and shall arrive at that point of felicity which Martial has mentioned as the perfection of happiness, of neither fearing nor wishing for death.

In answer to the gentleman, who tempers his health by ounces and by scruples, and instead of complying with those natural solicitations of hunger and thirst, drowsiness or love of exercise, governs himself by the prescriptions of his chair, I shall tell him a short fable. Jupiter, says the mythologist, to reward the piety of a certain countryman, promised to give him whatever he would ask. The countryman desired that he might have the management of the weather in his own estate. He obtained his request, and immediately distributed rain, snow, and sunshine, among his several fields, as he thought the nature of the soil required. At the end of the year, when he expected to see a more than ordinary crop, his harvest fell infinitely short of that of his neighbours. Upon which (says the fable) he desired Jupiter to take the weather again into his own hands, or that otherwise he should utterly ruin himself.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 26. FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1711.

*Pallida mors æquo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas,
Ægumque turres. O bestie Sciti,
Vite summa brevis ipse nos tetat inchoare longam.
Jam te premet nos, fabuleque manes,
Et domus erilis Plutonia—*

HOR. 1 Od. iv. 13.

With equal foot, rich friend, impartial fate
Knocks at the cottage, and the palace gate:
Life's span forbids thee to extend thy cares,
And stretch thy hopes beyond thy destin'd years:
Night soon will seize, and you must quickly go
To story'd ghosts, and Pluto's house below.

CRESCH.

When I am in a serious humour, I very often walk by myself in Westminster Abbey; where the

place, and the use to which it is solemnity of the building, and the people who lie in it, are apt to be a kind of melancholy, or rather, that is not disagreeable. I spent the whole afternoon in the church, and the church, amusing myself with the names and inscriptions that I met in the regions of the dead. Most of the things else of the buried person, known upon one day, and died upon the history of his life being common to two circumstances that are common. I could not but look upon existence, whether of brass or of satire upon the departed perfect in no other memorial of them, born, and that they died. They are several persons mentioned in the poems, who have sounding names, for other reason but that they may be celebrated for nothing but because.

Μιδοντα τι, Θερσίλοχον τι.
HOM.

Medontaque, Thersilochumque.
VIRG.

Medon, and Thersilochus.

These men are finely described in holy writ of an arrow, which is immediately lost.

When I went into the church, I entertained myself with digging of a grave; and saw in the earth that was thrown up, the fragments of a skull intermixed with a kind of earth, that some time or other had been the composition of an human body. I then began to consider with myself, what multitudes of people lay confused together in the pavement of that ancient cathedral, women, friends and enemies, monks and prebendaries, were there together, and blended together in one common mass; how beauty, youth, with old age; weakness, and distinguished in the same promiscuity.

When I surveyed this great magazine of the dead, I was struck with the variety of the monuments which I found raised in that ancient fabric. Some of them were with such extravagant epitaphs, suitable for the dead person to be buried in, he would blush at the praises have bestowed upon him. There were others so modest, that they deliver the person departed in Greek or that means are not understood in the mouth. In the poetical quarter, the poets who had no monuments, which had no poets. I observed, that the present war had filled the church with uninhabited monuments, which were raised to the memory of persons whose ashes were buried in the plains of Blenheim, and the bottom of the ocean.

I was very much delighted with the variety of the epitaphs, which are written with freedom of expression and justness of judgment, before do honour to the living as well as the dead. As a foreigner is very apt to

conceive an idea of the ignorance or politeness of a nation from the turn of their public monuments and inscriptions, they should be submitted to the perusal of men of learning and genius before they are put in execution. Sir Cloudesley Shovel's monument has very often given me great offence. Instead of the brave rough English admiral, which was the distinguishing character of that plain gallant man, he is represented on his tomb by the figure of a beau, dressed in a long periwig, and reposing himself upon velvet cushions under a canopy of state. The inscription is answerable to the monument; for, instead of celebrating the many remarkable actions, he had performed in the service of his country, it acquaints us only with the manner of his death, in which it was impossible for him to reap any honour. The Dutch, whom we are apt to despise for want of genius, show an infinitely greater taste of antiquity and politeness in their buildings and works of this nature, than what we meet with in those of our own country. The monuments of their admirals, which have been erected at the public expense, represent them like themselves, and are adorned with rostral crowns and naval ornaments, with beautiful festoons of seaweed, shells, and coral.

But to return to our subject. I have left the repository of our English kings for the contemplation of another day, when I shall find my mind disposed for so serious an amusement. I know that entertainments of this nature are apt to raise dark and dismal thoughts in timorous minds and gloomy imaginations; but for my own part, though I am always serious, I do not know what it is to be melancholy; and can therefore take a view of nature in her deep and solemn scenes, with the same pleasure as in her most gay and delightful ones. By this means I can improve myself with those objects, which others consider with terror. When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies in me: when I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out; when I meet with the grief of parents upon a tombstone, my heart melts with compassion; when I see the tomb of the parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom we must quickly follow. When I see kings lying by those who deposed them, when I consider rival wits placed side by side, or the holy men that divided the world with their contests and disputes, I reflect with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions, factions, and debates of mankind. When I read the several dates of the tombs, of some that died yesterday, and some six hundred years ago, I consider that great day when we shall all of us be contemporaries, and make our appearance together.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 27. SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1711.

*Ut nox longa quibus mentitur amicae, dicque
Longa videtur opus debentibus; ut piger annus
Pupillis, quos dura premit custodia matrum:
Sic mihi tarda fluunt ingrataque tempora, quæ spem
Consiliumque morantur agendi graviter, id quod
Æque pauperibus prodest, locupletibus æque;
Æque neglectum pueris scribibus nocet.*

HOR. l. Ep. i. 20.

IMITATED.

Long as to him, who works for debt, the day;
Long as the night to her, whose love's away;
Long as the year's dull circle seems to run,
When the brisk major pants for twenty-one;

So slow th' unprofitable moments roll,
That lack up all the functions of my soul;
That keep me from myself, and still delay
Life's instant business to a future day:
That task, which as we follow, or despise,
The siddist is a fool, the youngest wise:
Which done, the poorest can no wants endure,
And which not done, the richest must be poor.
POPE.

There is scarce a thinking man in the world, who is involved in the business of it, but lives under a secret impatience of the hurry and fatigue he suffers, and has formed a resolution to fix himself, one time or other, in such a state as is suitable to the end of his being. You hear men every day in conversation profess, that all the honour, power, and riches, which they propose to themselves, cannot give satisfaction enough to reward them for half the anxiety they undergo in the pursuit or possession of them. While men are in this temper (which happens very frequently) how inconsistent are they with themselves! They are wearied with the toil they bear, but cannot find in their hearts to relinquish it; retirement is what they want, but they cannot betake themselves to it. While they pant after shade and covert, they still affect to appear in the most glittering scenes of life: but sure this is but just as reasonable as if a man should call for more light when he has a mind to go to sleep.

Since then it is certain, that our own hearts deceive us in the love of the world, and that we cannot command ourselves enough to resign it, though we every day wish ourselves disengaged from its allurements; let us not stand upon a formal taking of leave, but wean ourselves from them while we are in the midst of them.

It is certainly the general intention of the greater part of mankind to accomplish this work, and live according to their own approbation, as soon as they possibly can. But since the duration of life is so uncertain, and that has been a common topic of discourse ever since there was such a thing as life itself, how is it possible that we should defer a moment the beginning to live according to the rules of reason?

The man of business has ever some one point to carry, and then he tells himself he will bid adieu to all the vanity of ambition. The man of pleasure resolves to take his leave at least, and part civilly with his mistress; but the ambitious man is entangled every moment in a fresh pursuit, and the lover sees new charms in the object he fancied he could abandon. It is therefore a fantastical way of thinking, when we promise ourselves an alteration in our conduct from change of place, and difference of circumstances; the same passions will attend us wherever we are, till they are conquered; and we can never live to our satisfaction in the deepest retirement, unless we are capable of living so, in some measure, amidst the noise and business of the world.

I have ever thought men were better known by what could be observed of them from a perusal of their private letters, than any other way. My friend the clergyman, the other day, upon serious discourse with him concerning the danger of procrastination, gave me the following letters from persons with whom he lives in great friendship and intimacy, according to the good breeding and good sense of his character. The first is from a man of business, who is his convert: the second from one of whom he conceives good hopes: the third from one who is in no state at all, but carried one way and another by starts.

'SIR,

'I know not with what words to express to you the sense I have of the high obligation you have laid upon me, in the penance you enjoined me, doing some good or other to a person of worth every day I live. The station I am in furnishes me with daily opportunities of this kind: and the noble principle with which you have inspired me of benevolence to all I have to deal with, quickens my application in every thing I undertake. When I relieve merit from discountenance, when I assuage a friendless person, when I produce concealment, when I am displeased with myself, for having designed to leave the world in order to be virtuous, I am sorry you decline the occasions which the condition I am in might afford me of enlarging your fortunes; but know I contribute more to your satisfaction, when I acknowledge I am the better man from the influence and authority you have over,

'SIR,

'Your most obliged and

'most humble servant,

'R. O.'

'SIR,

'I am entirely convinced of the truth of what you were pleased to say to me, when I was last with you alone. You told me then of the silly way I was in; but you told me so, as I saw you loved me, otherwise I could not obey your commands in letting you know my thoughts so sincerely as I do at present. I know "the creature, for whom I resign so much of my character," is all that you said of her; but then the trifler has something in her so undesigning and harmless, that her guilt in one kind disappears by the comparison of her innocence in another. Will you virtuous men allow no alteration of offences? Must dear Chloe be called by the hard name you please people give to common women? I keep the solemn promise I made you, in writing to you the state of my mind, after your kind admonition; and will endeavour to get the better of this fondness, which makes me so much her humble servant, that I am almost ashamed to subscribe myself yours,

'T. D.'

'SIR,

'There is no state of life so anxious as that of a man who does not live according to the dictates of his own reason. It will seem odd to you, when I assure you that my love of retirement first of all brought me to court; but this will be no riddle when I acquaint you that I placed myself here with a design of getting so much money as might enable me to purchase a handsome retreat in the country. At present my circumstances enable me, and my duty prompts me, to pass away the remaining part of my life in such a retirement as I at first proposed to myself: but to my great misfortune I have entirely lost the relish of it, and should now return to the country with great reluctance than I at first came to court. I am unhappy, as to know that what I am fond of is trifles, and that what I neglect is of the greatest importance: in short, I find a contest in my own mind between reason and fashion. I remember you once told me, that I might live in the world and out of it, at the same time. Let me beg of you to explain this paradox more at large to me, that I may conform my life, if possible, both to my duty and my inclination.

'I am yours, &c.

'R. B.'

STEELE.

R.

NDAY, APRIL 2, 1711.

*Comper arcum
collo.*

HOR. 2 Od. x. 19.

collo always bend his bow.

at my reader with a letter from rning a new office which he ich contribute to the embellish- nd to the driving barbarity out sider it as a satire upon pro- nd a lively picture of the whole cism.

you have thoughts of creating r you, for the inspection of ecies which you yourself cannot ing daily absurdities hung out * of this city, to the great scan- ; well as those of our own coun- is spectators of the same; I do t you would be pleased to make dent of all such figures and de- ll be made use of on this occa- ers to rectify or expunge what- egular or defective. For want ere is nothing like sound litera- e to be met with in those ob- y where thrusting themselves out ideavours to become visible. d with blue boars, black swans, to mention flying pigs, and hogs ny other creatures more extra- n the deserts of Afric. Strange! ll the birds and beasts in nature ould live at the sign of an *Ens*

erefore should be, like that of the city from monsters. In the old forbid, that creatures of jar- us natures should be joined to- sign: such as the bell and the dog and the gridiron. The fox supposed to have met, but what re seven stars to do together? lamb and dolphin ever meet, -post? As for the cat and fiddle, it; and therefore I do not intend ave here said should affect it. serve to you upon this subject, a young tradesman, at his first to his own sign that of the mas- ed; as the husband, after mar- ce to his mistress's arms in his take to have given rise to many which are committed over our am informed, first occasioned a hare, which we see so fre- ether. I would therefore esta- for the determining how far one ve the sign of another, and in / be allowed to quarter it with

ace, I would enjoin every shop sign which bears some affinity to it deals. What can be more to see a bawd at the sign of the

on the subject of sign-posts, &c. will rman's Magazine, vol. xi. 408.

angel, or a tailor at the lion? A cook should not live at the boot, nor a shoemaker at the roasted pig; and yet, for want of this regulation, I have seen a goat set up before the door of a perfumer, and the French king's head at a sword-cuttler's.

* An ingenious foreigner observes, that several of those gentlemen who value themselves upon their families, and overlook such as are bred to trade, bear the tools of their forefathers in their coats of arms. I will not examine how true this is in fact. But though it may not be necessary for posterity thus to set up the sign of their forefathers, I think it highly proper for those who actually profess the trade, to show some such marks of it before their doors.

* When the name gives an occasion for an ingenious sign-post, I would likewise advise the owner to take that opportunity of letting the world know who he is. It would have been ridiculous for the ingenious Mrs. Salmon to have lived at the sign of the trout; for which reason she has erected before her house the figure of the fish that is her namesake. Mr. Bell has likewise distinguished himself by a device of the same nature: and here, sir, I must beg leave to observe to you, that this particular figure of a bell has given occasion to several pieces of wit in this kind. A man of your reading must know, that Abel Drugger gained great applause by it in the time of Ben Jonson. Our apocryphal heathen god * is also represented by this figure; which, in conjunction with the dragon, makes a very handsome picture in several of our streets. As for the bell-savage, which is the sign of a savage man standing by a bell, I was formerly very much puzzled upon the conceit of it, till I accidentally fell into the reading of an old romance, translated out of the French; which gives an account of a very beautiful woman who was found in a wilderness, and is called in the French *La belle Sauvage* †, and is every where translated by our countrymen the bell-savage. This piece of philosophy will, I hope, convince you that I have made sign-posts my study, and consequently qualified myself for the employment which I solicit at your hands. But before I conclude my letter, I must communicate to you another remark, which I have made upon the subject with which I am now entertaining you, namely, that I can give a shrewd guess at the humour of the inhabitant by the sign that hangs before his door. A surly choleric fellow generally makes choice of a bear; as men of milder dispositions frequently live at the lamb. Seeing a punch-bowl painted upon a sign near Charing-cross, and very curiously garnished, with a couple of angels hovering over it, and squeezing a lemon into it, I had the curiosity to ask after the master of the house, and found upon inquiry, as I had guessed by the little *agremens* upon his sign, that he was a Frenchman. I know, sir, it is not requisite for me to enlarge upon these hints to a gentleman of your great abilities; so humbly recommending myself to your favour and patronage,

* I remain, &c.

I shall add to the foregoing letter another, which came to me by the same penny post.

From my own apartment near Charing-cross.

HONOURED SIR,
* HAVING heard that this nation is a great encourager of ingenuity, I have brought with me a rope-dancer that was caught in one of the woods be-

* St. George.

† See N^o 66.

longing to the Great Mogul. He is by birth a monkey; but swings upon a rope, takes a pipe of tobacco, and drinks a glass of ale, like any reasonable creature. He gives great satisfaction to the quality; and if they will make a subscription for him, I will send for a brother of his out of Holland, that is a very good tumbler; and also for another of the same family whom I design for my merry-andrew, as being an excellent mimic, and the greatest droll in the country where he now is. I hope to have this entertainment in a readiness for the next winter; and doubt not but it will please more than the opera, or puppet-show. I will not say that a monkey is a better man than some of the opera heroes; but certainly he is a better representative of a man, than the most artificial composition of wood and wire. If you will be pleased to give me a good word in your paper, you shall be every night a spectator at my show for nothing.

'I am, &c.'

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 99. TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1711.

— *Sermo lingua concinnus utraque
Savor: ut Chilo nota si commista Falerni est.*
HOR. 1 Sat. x. 23.

Both tongues united sweeter sounds produce,
Like Chian mix'd with the Falernian Juice.

THERE is nothing that has more startled our English audience, than the Italian *Recitative* at its first entrance upon the stage. People were wonderfully surprised to hear generals singing the word of command, and ladies delivering messages in music. Our countrymen could not forbear laughing when they heard a lover chanting out a billet-doux, and even the superscription of a letter set to a tune. The famous blunder in an old play of 'Enter a king and two fiddlers alone,' was now no longer an absurdity; when it was impossible for a hero in a desert, or a princess in her closet, to speak any thing unaccompanied with musical instruments.

But however this Italian method of acting in recitative might appear at first hearing, I cannot but think it much more just than that which prevailed in our English opera before this innovation: the transition from an air to recitative music being more natural, than the passing from a song to plain and ordinary speaking, which was the common method in Purcell's operas.

The only fault I find in our present practice, is the making use of the Italian recitative with English words.

To go to the bottom of this matter I must observe, that the tone, or (as the French call it) the accent of every nation in their ordinary speech, is altogether different from that of every other people; as we may see even in the Welsh and Scotch, who border so near upon us. By the tone or accent I do not mean the pronunciation of each particular word, but the sound of the whole sentence. Thus it is very common for an English gentleman when he hears a French tragedy, to complain that the actors all of them speak in a tone: and therefore he very wisely prefers his own countrymen, not considering that a foreigner complains of the same tone in an English actor.

For this reason, the recitative music, in every language, should be as different as the tone or accent of each language; for otherwise, what may

properly express a passion in one language will not do it in another. Every one who has been long in Italy knows very well, that the cadences in the recitative, bear a remote affinity to the tone of their voices in ordinary conversation, or, to speak more properly, are only the accents of their language made more musical and tuneful.

Thus the notes of interrogation, or admiration, in the Italian music (if one may so call them) which resemble their accents in discourse on such occasions, are not unlike the ordinary tones of an English voice when we are angry; inasmuch that I have often seen our audiences extremely mistaken as to what has been doing upon the stage, and expecting to see the hero knock down his messenger, when he has been asking him a question; or fancying that he quarrels with his friend, when he only bids him good-morrow.

For this reason the Italian artists cannot agree with our English musicians in admiring Purcell's compositions, and thinking his tunes so wonderfully adapted to his words; because both nations do not always express the same passions by the same sounds.

I am therefore humbly of opinion, that an English composer should not follow the Italian recitative too servilely, but make use of many gentle deviations from it, in compliance with his own native language. He may copy out of it all the lulling softness and 'dying falls' (as Shakspeare calls them), but should still remember that he ought to accommodate himself to an English audience; and by humouring the tone of our voices in ordinary conversation, have the same regard to the accent of his own language, as those persons had to theirs whom he professes to imitate. It is observed, that several of the singing birds of our own country learn to sweeten their voices, and mellow the harshness of their natural notes, by practising under those that come off from warmer climates. In the same manner I would allow the Italian opera to lend our English music as much as may grace and soften it, but never entirely to annihilate and destroy it. Let the infusion be as strong as you please, but still let the subject-matter of it be English.

A composer should fit his music to the genius of the people, and consider that the delicacy of hearing, and taste of harmony, has been formed upon those sounds which every country abounds with. In short, that music is of a relative nature, and what is harmony to one ear, may be dissonance to another.

The same observations which I have made upon the recitative part of music, may be applied to all our songs and airs in general.

Signior Baptist Lully acted like a man of sense in this particular. He found the French music extremely defective, and very often barbarous. However, knowing the genius of the people, the humour of their language, and the prejudiced ears he had to deal with, he did not pretend to extirpate the French music, and plant the Italian in its stead; but only to cultivate and civilize it with innumerable graces and modulations which he borrowed from the Italians. By this means the French music is now perfect in its kind; and when you say it is not so good as the Italian, you only mean that it does not please you so well; for there is scarce a Frenchman who would not wonder to hear you give the Italian such a preference. The music of the French is indeed very properly adapted to their pronunciation and accent, as their whole opera wonderfully favours the genius of such

le *. The chorus in which that gives the parterre † frequent opening in concert with the stage. f the audience to sing along with rails with them, that I have some performer on the stage do no rated song, than the clerk of a so serves only to raise the psalm, s drowned in the music of the very actor that comes on the stage acens and heroines are so painted, as ruddy and cherry-checked as shepherds are all embroidered, selves in a ball better than our masters. I have seen a couple of red stockings; and Alpheus, in his head covered with sedge and ng love in a full-bottomed peric of feathers; but with a voice and quavers, that I should have urs of a country brook the much music.

he last opera I saw in that merry Rape of Proserpine, where Pluto, e tempting figure, puts himself in ige, and brings Ascalaphus along alet de chambre. This is what we pertinence; but what the French and polite.

more to what I have here offered, architecture, and painting, as well ratory, are to deduce their laws the general sense and taste of t from the principles of those arts in other words, the taste is not to rt, but the art to the taste. Music please only chromatic ears, but able of distinguishing harsh from es. A man of an ordinary ear is a passion is expressed in proper ther the melody of those sounds pleasing.

C.

DNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1711.

*is uti cunct, sine amore jocisque
um; vivas in amore jocisque.*

HOR. 1 Ep. vi. 65.

Mineremus strives to prove,
sant without mirth and love,
irth and love, thy sports pursue.
CREECH.

lamity makes men extremely affect gh they differ in every other par- sion of love is the most general nen; and I am glad to hear by my n Oxford, that there are a set of niversity, who have erected them- iety in honour of that tender pas- tiemen are of that sort of inamo- not so very much lost to common they understand the folly they are for that reason separate themselves company, because they will enjoy alking incoherently, without being y but each other. When a man lub, he is not obliged to make any is discourse, but at once, as he is in his chair, speaks in the thread

of the French, is the pit of the English

of his own thoughts, 'She gave me a very obliging glance, she never looked so well in her life as this evening;' or the like reflection, without regard to any other member of the society; for in this assembly they do not meet to talk to each other, but every man claims the full liberty of talking to himself. Instead of stuff-boxes and canes, which are the usual helps to discourse with other young fellows, these have each some piece of ribbon, a broken fan, or an old girdle, which they play with while they talk of the fair person remembered by each respective token. According to the representation of the matter from my letters, the company appear like so many players rehearsing behind the scenes; one is sighing and lamenting his destiny in bracing terms, another declaring he will break his chain, and another, in dumb-show, striving to express his passion by his gesture. It is very ordinary in the assembly for one of a sudden to rise and make a discourse concerning his passion in general, and describe the temper of his mind in such a manner, as that the whole company shall join in the description, and feel the force of it. In this case, if any man has declared the violence of his flame in more pathetic terms, he is made president for that night, out of respect to his superior passion.

We had some years ago in this town a set of people who met and dressed like lovers, and were distinguished by the name of the Fringeglove club; but they were persons of such moderate intellects, even before they were impaired by their passion, that their irregularities could not furnish sufficient variety of folly to afford daily new imper- tinences; by which means that institution dropped. These fellows could express their passion in nothing but their dress; but the Oxonians are fantastical, now they are lovers, in proportion to their learning and understanding before they became such. The thoughts of the ancient poets on this agreeable phrensy, are translated in honour of some modern beauty; and Chloris is won to-day by the same compliment that was made to Leobia a thousand years ago. But as far as I can learn, the patron of the club is the renowned Don Quixote. The adventures of that gentle knight are frequently mentioned in the society, under the colour of laughing at the passion and themselves: but at the same time, though they are sensible of the extravagancies of that unhappy warrior, they do not observe, that to turn all the reading of the best and wisest writings into rhapsodies of love, is a phrensy no less diverting than that of the aforesaid accomplished Spaniard. A gentleman who, I hope, will continue his correspondence, is lately admitted into the fraternity, and sent me the following letter:

' SIR,

' SINCE I find you take notice of clubs, I beg leave to give you an account of one in Oxford, which you have no where mentioned, and perhaps never heard of. We distinguish ourselves by the title of the Amorous club, are all votaries of Cupid, and admirers of the fair sex. The reason that we are so little known in the world, is the secrecy which we are obliged to live under in the university. Our constitution runs counter to that of the place wherein we live: for in love there are no doctors, and we all profess so high a passion, that we admit of no graduates in it. Our presideanship is bestowed according to the dignity of passion; our number is unlimited; and our statutes are like those of the Druids, recorded in our own breasts

only, and explained by the majority of the company. A mistress, and a poem in her praise, will introduce any candidate. Without the latter no one can be admitted; for he that is not in love enough to rhyme, is unqualified for our society. To speak disrespectfully of any woman is expulsion from our gentle society. As we are at present all of us gowemen, instead of duelling when we are rivals, we drink together the health of our mistresses. The manner of doing this sometimes indeed creates debates; on such occasions we have recourse to the rules of love among the ancients.

"*Necis ex cythis, septem Justina bibatur.*"

MART. Epig. l. 72.

"Six cups to Nevie, to Justina seven."

This method of a glass to every letter of her name, occasioned the other night a dispute of some warmth. A young student, who is in love with Mrs. Elizabeth Dimple, was so unreasonable as to begin her health under the name of *Elizabetha*; which so exasperated the club, that by common consent we retrenched it to Betty. We look upon a man as no company that does not sigh five times in a quarter of an hour; and look upon a member as very absurd, that is so much himself as to make a direct answer to a question. In fine, the whole assembly is made up of absent men, that is, of such persons as have lost their locality, and whose minds and bodies never keep company with one another. As I am an unfortunate member of this distracted society, you cannot expect a very regular account of it; for which reason I hope you will pardon me that I so abruptly subscribe myself,

SIR,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

T. B.

'I forgot to tell you, that Albina, who has six votaries in this club, is one of your readers.'

STEEL.

R.

N^o 31. THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1711.

Sic mihi fas audita loqui

VIRG. *Æn.* vi. 266.

What I have heard, permit me to relate.

LAST night, upon my going into a coffee-house not far from the Haymarket theatre, I diverted myself for above half an hour with overhearing the discourse of one, who, by the shabbiness of his dress, the extravagance of his conceptions, and the hurry of his speech, I discovered to be of that species who are generally distinguished by the title of Projectors. This gentleman, for I found he was treated as such by his audience, was entertaining a whole table of listeners with the project of an opera, which he told us had not cost him above two or three mornings in the contrivance, and which he was ready to put in execution, provided he might find his account in it. He said, that he had observed the great trouble and inconvenience which ladies were at, in travelling up and down to the several shows that are exhibited in different quarters of the town. The dancing monkeys are in one place; the puppet-show in another; the opera in a third; not to mention the lions, that are almost a whole day's journey from the puliter part of the town. By this means people of figure are forced to lose half the winter after their coming to town, before they have seen all the strange sights about it. In order to remedy this great inconvenience, our projector drew out of his pocket the scheme of an opera,

entitled, *The Expedition of Alexander the Great* in which he had disposed all the remarkable show about town, among the scenes and decorations of his piece. The thought, he confessed, was not originally his own, but that he had taken the hint of it from several performances which he had seen upon our stage: in one of which there was a rare show; in another a ladder-dance; and in others a posture-man, a moving picture, with many curiosities of the like nature.

This Expedition of Alexander * opens with his consulting the oracle at Delphos, in which the dumb conjurer, who had been visited by so many persons of quality of late years, is to be introduced as telling his fortune. At the same time Clinch o' Barnet is represented in another corner of the temple, as ringing the bells of Delphos, for joy of his arrival. The tent of Darius is to be peopled by the ingenious Mrs. Salmon, where Alexander is to fall in love with a piece of wax-work, that represents the beautiful Statira. When Alexander comes into that country, in which Quintus Curtius tells us the dogs were so exceeding fierce, that they would not loose their hold, though they were cut to pieces limb by limb, and that they would hang upon their prey by their teeth when they had nothing but a mouth left, there is to be a scene of Hockley in the Hole, in which is to be represented all the diversions of that place, the bull-baiting only excepted, which cannot possibly be exhibited in the theatre, by reason of the lowness of the roof. The several woods in Asia, which Alexander must be supposed to pass through, will give the audience a sight of monkeys dancing upon ropes, with many other pleasantries of that ludicrous species. At the same time, if there chance to be any strange animals in town, whether birds or beasts, they may be either let loose among the woods, or driven across the stage by some of the country people of Asia. In the last great battle, Pinkethman is to personate king Porus upon an elephant, and is to be encountered by Powell, representing Alexander the Great upon a dromedary, which nevertheless Mr. Powell is desired to call by the name of Bucephalus. Upon the close of this great decisive battle, when the two kings are thoroughly reconciled, to show the mutual friendship and good correspondence that reigns between them, they both of them go together to a puppet-show, in which the ingenious Mr. Powell, junior, may have an opportunity of displaying his whole art of machinery, for the diversion of the two monarchs. Some at the table urged, that a puppet-show was not a suitable entertainment for Alexander the Great; and that it might be introduced more properly, if we suppose the conqueror touched upon that part of India which is said to be inhabited by the pigmies. But this objection was looked upon as frivolous, and the proposal immediately overruled. Our projector further added, that after the reconciliation of these two kings, they might invite one another to dinner, and either of them entertain his guest with the German artist †, Mr. Pinkethman's beathen

* See N^o 36.

† "Lately arrived a rare and curious artist, who in the presence of all spectators makes all sorts and fashions of Indian China, and other curious figures of various colours as small as they please. Also all sorts of birds, fowls, images of men, &c. He bloweth all colours of glass curiously, &c. He showeth a glass of water wherein four or five images rise or fall as he pleases; with several rarities. A wheel turned by human power, which spins 10,000 yards of glass in less than half an hour. He makes for sale, artificial eyes to admiration, curiously coloured, and not to be discerned from natural eyes, and teaches how they may fix them in their heads themselves, to the great satisfaction of all who see them.—*Scout Regina.*" *Harl. MSS.* 5961.

like diversions, which shall be in vogue.

received with very great approbation. Upon which the under- he had not yet communicated his design; for that Alexander was his intention that the whole ten in that language, which was e would wonderfully please the when it was a little raised and nic dialect; and could not but the whole audience, because f them who understand Greek only difficulty that remained, rformers, unless we could permen to the universities to learn to qualify themselves for the action soon vanished, when the us that the Greeks were at preians in the Turkish empire, and very easy for our factory at us every year with a colony of opportunity of the Turkey fleet; we want any single voice for the opera, Lawrence can learn, well as he does Italian, in a

ving thus settled matters, to the that heard him, he left his seat planted himself before the fire, illy taken my stand for the con- aring what he said. Whether e to be more attentive than or- ell, but he had not stood by me f a minute, but he turned short n, and, catching me by a button ked me very abruptly after the

Besides, sir, I have heard of ry genius for music that lives in as so strong a spring in his sin- make the board of an organ and if I could but procure a out ten thousand pound every nder take to fetch him over, and es to set every thing that should English stage.' After this he face, expecting I would make by good luck, a gentleman that office-house since the projector me, hearing him talk of his, cried out in a kind of laugh, n to receive further improve- rland!' This alarmed the pro- liately let go my button, and swer him. I took the opportu- n which seemed to be made in laying down my penny upon th some precipitation.

C.

IDAY, APRIL 6, 1711.

ut tragicis opus esse cothurnis.

HOR. 1 Sat. v. 64.

gic vizor to increase
rarity of face.

concerning the statutes of the been so well received at Oxford, the strict rules of the society, they l as to take my own testimonial,

See Guard. No 84.

and admit me into that select body; I could not restrain the vanity of publishing to the world the honour which is done me. It is no small satisfaction that I have given occasion for the president's showing both his invention and reading to such advantage as my correspondent reports he did: but it is not to be doubted there were many very proper hums and pauses in his harangue, which lose their ugliness in the narration, and which my correspondent (begging his pardon) has no very good talent at representing. I very much approve of the contempt the society has of beauty. Nothing ought to be laudable in a man, in which his will is not concerned; therefore our society can follow nature, and where she has thought fit, as it were, to mock herself, we can do so too, and be merry upon the occasion.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'YOUR making public the late trouble I gave you, you will find to have been the occasion of this. Who should I meet at the coffee-house door the other night, but my old friend Mr. President? I saw somewhat had pleased him; and as soon as he had cast his eye upon me, "Oho, Doctor, rare news from London (says he); the Spectator has made honourable mention of the club (man), and published to the world his sincere desire to be a member, with a recommendatory description of his phiz: and though our constitution has made no particular provision for short faces, yet his being an extraordinary case, I believe we shall find an hole for him to creep in at; for I assure you he is not against the canon; and if his sides are as compact as his jokes, he need not disguise himself to make one of us." I presently called for the paper, to see how you looked in print; and after we had regaled ourselves awhile upon the pleasant image of our proselyte, Mr. President told me I should be his stranger at the next night's club: where we were no sooner come, and pipes brought, but Mr. President began an harangue upon your introduction to my epistle, setting forth, with no less volubility of speech than strength of reason, "That a speculation of this nature was what had been long and much wanted; and that he doubted not but it would be of inestimable value to the public, in reconciling even of bodies and souls; in composing and quieting the minds of men under all corporeal redundancies, deficiencies, and irregularities whatsoever; and making every one sit down content in his own carcase, though it were not perhaps so mathematically put together as he could wish." And again: "How that for want of a due consideration of what you first advance, viz. that our faces are not of our own choosing, people had been transported beyond all good breeding, and hurried themselves into unaccountable and fatal extravagancies; as, how many impartial looking-glasses had been censured and calumniated, nay, and sometimes shivered into ten thousand splinters, only for a fair representation of the truth? How many head-strings and garters had been made accessory, and actually forfeited, only because folks must needs quarrel with their own shadows? And who (continues he) but is deeply sensible; that one great source of the uneasiness and misery of human life, especially among those of distinction, arises from nothing in the world else, but too severe a contemplation of an indefeasible contexture of our external parts, or certain natural and invincible dispositions to be fat or lean? when a little more of Mr. Spectator's philosophy would take off all this. In the mean time let them observe, that there

is not one of their grievances of this sort, but perhaps, in some ages of the world, has been highly in vogue, and may be so again; nay, in some country or other, ten to one is so at this day. My Lady Ample is the most miserable woman in the world, purely of her own making. She even grudges herself meat and drink, for fear she should thrive by them; and is constantly crying out, 'In a quarter of a year more I shall be quite out of all manner of shape!' Now the lady's misfortune seems to be only this, that she is planted in a wrong soil; for go but to the other side of the water, it is a jest at Harlem to talk of a shape under eighteen stone. These wise traders regulate their beauties as they do their butter, by the pound; and Miss Cross, when she first arrived in the Low Countries, was not computed to be so handsome as Madam Van Bricket, by near half a ton. On the other hand, there is Squire Lath, a proper gentleman of fifteen hundred pound per annum, as well as of an unblamable life and conversation; yet would not I be the esquire for half his estate; for if it was as much more, he would freely part with it all for a pair of legs to his mind. Whereas in the reign of our first Edward of glorious memory, nothing more modish than a brace of your fine taper supporters; and his majesty, without an inch of calf, managed affairs in peace or war as landably as the bravest and most politic of his ancestors; and was as terrible to his neighbours under the royal name of Longshanks, as Cœur de Lion to the Saracens before him. If we look further back into history, we shall find that Alexander the Great wore his head a little over the left shoulder, and then not a soul stirred out till he had adjusted his neck-bone; the whole nobility addressed the prince and each other obliquely, and all matters of importance were concerted and carried on in the Macedonian court with their polls on one side. For about the first century nothing made more noise in the world than Roman noses, and then not a word of them till they revived again in eighty-eight*. Nor is it so very long since Richard the Third set up half the backs of the nation; and high shoulders, as well as high noses, were the top of the fashion. But to come to ourselves, gentlemen, though I find by my quinquennial observations, that we shall never get ladies enough to make a party in our own country, yet might we meet with better success among some of our allies. And what think you if our board was for a Dutch piece? Truly I am of opinion, that as odd as we appear in flesh and blood, we should be no such strange things in metzo-tinto. But this project may rest till our number is complete; and this being our election night, give me leave to propose Mr. Spectator. You see his inclinations, and perhaps we may not have his fellow."

"I found most of them (as is usual in all such cases) were prepared; but one of the seniors (whom by the by Mr. President had taken all this pains to bring over) sat still, and cocking his chin, which seemed only to be levelled at his nose, very gravely declared, "That in case he had had sufficient knowledge of you, no man should have been more willing to have served you; but that he, for his part, had always had regard to his own conscience, as well as other people's merit; and he did not know but that you might be a handsome fellow; for as for your own certificate, it was

every body's business to speak for themselves. Mr. President immediately retorted, "A handsome fellow! why he is a wit, sir, and you know the proverb;" and to ease the old gentleman of his scruples, cried, "That for matter of merit was all one, you might wear a mask." This threw him into a pause, and he looked desirous of three days to consider on it; but Mr. President improved the thought, and followed him up with an old story. "That wits were privileged to wear what masks they pleased in all ages; and that a vizard had been the constant crown of their labours, which was generally presented them by the hand of some satyr, and sometimes of Apollo himself;" for the truth of which he appealed to the frontispiece of several books, and particularly to the English Virgil, to which he referred him; and only added "That such authors were the *Larvati*, or *Larvatores* of the ancients." This cleared up all, and in the conclusion you were chose probationers, and Mr. President put round your health as usual protesting, "That though indeed he talked of vizard, he did not believe all the while you had any more occasion for it than the cat-a-mountain, so that all you have to do now is to pay your fees which are here very reasonable, if you are not imposed upon; and you may style yourself *Informatus Societatis Socius*: which I am desirous to acquaint you with; and upon the same I beg you to accept of the congratulation of,

"Your obliged humble servant,
A. C.

"Oxford, March 21."

STEELE.

R.

Nº 33. SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1711.

*Terridus tecum puer, et solutus
Gratie sonis, properentque nymphae.
El parum comis sine te juvenelas,
Mercuriusque.*

HOR. 1 Od. xxi.

The graces with their zones unloos'd;
The nymphs their beauties all expos'd;
From every spring, and every plain;
Thy pow'rful, hot, and winged boy;
And youth, that's dull without thy joy;
And Mercury compose thy train.

CREECH.

A FRIEND of mine has two daughters, whom I will call Lætitia and Daphne; the former is one of the greatest beauties of the age in which she lives, the latter no way remarkable for any charms in her person. Upon this one circumstance of their outward form, the good and ill of their life seems to turn. Lætitia has not, from her very childhood, heard any thing else but commendations of her features and complexion, by which means she is no other than nature made her, a very beautiful outside. The consciousness of her charms has rendered her insupportably vain and insolent towards all who have to do with her. Daphne, who was almost twenty before one civil thing had ever been said to her, found herself obliged to acquire some accomplishments to make up for the want of the attractions which she saw in her sister. Poor Daphne was seldom submitted to in a debate wherein she was concerned; her discourse had nothing to recommend it but the good sense of it, and she was always under a necessity to have very well considered what she was to say before she uttered it; while Lætitia was listened to with partiality, and approbation sat in the countenances

* Dryden, we are told, in the plates to his translation of Virgil, had *Æneas* always represented with a Roman nose, in compliment to King William.

with, before she communicated

These causes have produced

Lætitia is as insipid a comedy as an agreeable one. Lætitia, has studied no arts to please; of any inclination towards her, and only on her merit. Lætitia, in her air that is sullen, grave, Daphne has a countenance that is even, and unconcerned. A young man introduced to speak his sister. The lover was admitted

ed into the family, where a surly, severe looks, and distant highest favours he could obtain Daphne owed him with the good, and innocence of a sister; in would often say to her, 'Dear Lætitia as handsome as Lætitia—' language with that ingenuous, which is natural to woman still sighed in vain for Lætitia, relief in the agreeable conversation.

At length, heartily tired with the nonsense of Lætitia, and charmed with instances of good-humour he had seen, he one day told the latter, saying to say to her he hoped she

with—'Faith, Daphne,' continue love with thee, and despise thee. The manner of his declaring this occasion for a very hearty says he, 'I knew you would will ask your father.' He did

divided his intelligence with no use, and was very glad he had but for his beauty, which he tried to market at his leisure. 'I think that has pleased me so, as this conquest of my friend's acquaintance congratulated me—medley, and laugh at that letter her sister. As it is an artifice, to think the worse of our

perfections of our person, it is to value ourselves upon the advantage. The female world seem to be gone astray in this particular; shall recommend the following friend's letter* to the professed a people almost as unsufferable as

Mr. Remond has concluded one of writing, that the last sighs of a man are not so much for the loss of a lady. Perhaps this railery is not it is turned upon a very obnoxious woman's strongest passion is for that she values it as her father.

From hence it is that all arts, improve it or preserve it, meet with reception among the sex. To say the same helps and contraband wares are daily vended in this great maiden gentlewoman of a good try of South Britain, who has the trues of May-dew, or is unfavourable or other in favour of her I have known a physician of

her letter of his on the same subject,

learning and sense, after eight years study in the university, and a course of travels into most countries of Europe, owe the first raising of his fortunes to a cosmetic wash.

'This has given me occasion to consider how so universal a disposition in womankind, which springs from a laudable motive, the desire of pleasing, and proceeds upon an opinion, not altogether groundless, that nature may be helped by art, may be turned to their advantage. And, methinks, it would be an acceptable service to take them out of the hands of quacks and pretenders, and to prevent their imposing upon themselves, by discovering to them the true secret and art of improving beauty.

'In order to this, before I touch upon it directly, it will be necessary to lay down a few preliminary maxims, viz.

'That no woman can be handsome by the force of features alone, any more than she can be witty only by the help of speech.

'That pride destroys all symmetry and grace, and affectation is a more terrible enemy to fine faces than the small-pox.

'That no woman is capable of being beautiful, who is not incapable of being false.

'And, That what would be odious in a friend, is deformity in a mistress.

'From these few principles, thus laid down, it will be easy to prove, that the true art of assisting beauty consists in embellishing the whole person by the proper ornaments of virtuous and commendable qualities. By this help alone it is, that those who are the favourite work of nature, or, as Mr. Dryden expresses it, the porcelain clay of humankind, become animated, and are in a capacity of exerting their charms; and those who seem to be neglected by her, like models wrought in haste, are capable in a great measure of finishing what she has left imperfect.

'It is, methinks, a low and degrading idea of that sex, which was created to refine the joys and soften the cares of humanity, by the most agreeable participation, to consider them merely as objects of sight. This is abridging them of their natural extent of power, to put them upon a level with their pictures at Kneller's. How much nobler is the contemplation of beauty, heightened by virtue, and commanding our esteem and love, while it draws our observation! How faint and spiritless are the charms of a coquette, when compared with the real loveliness of Sophronia's innocence, piety, good-humour, and truth; virtues which add a new softness to her sex, and even beautify her beauty! That agreeableness which must otherwise have appeared no longer in the modest virgin, is now preserved in the tender mother, the prudent friend, and the faithful wife. Colours artfully spread upon canvass may entertain the eye but not affect the heart; and she who takes no care to add to the natural graces of her person any excellent qualities, may be allowed still to amuse as a picture, but not to triumph as a beauty.

'When Adam is introduced by Milton, describing Eve in Paradise, and relating to the angel the impressions he felt upon seeing her at her first creation, he does not represent her like a Grecian Venus, by her shape or features, but by the lustre of her mind which shone in them, and gave them their power of charming:

"Grace was in all her steps, heav'n in her eye,
In all her gestures dignity and love!"

'Without this irradiating power, the proudest

fair one ought to know, whatever her glam may tell her to the contrary, that her most perfect features are uninformed and dead.

'I cannot better close this moral, than by a short epitaph written by Ben Jonson, with a spirit which nothing could inspire but such an object as I have been describing:

"Underneath this stone doth lie
As much virtue as could die;
Which when alive did vigour give
To as much beauty as could live."

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant,
'R. B.'
R.

STEEL.

N^o 34. MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1711.

Cognatis maculis similis ferra *parcit*
JUV. Sat. xv. 159.
From spotted skins the leopard does refrain.
TATE.

THE club of which I am a member, is very luckily composed of such persons as are engaged in different ways of life, and deputed as it were out of the most conspicuous classes of mankind. By this means I am furnished with the greatest variety of hints and materials, and know every thing that passes in the different quarters and divisions, not only of this great city, but of the whole kingdom. My readers too have the satisfaction to find, that there is no rank or degree among them who have not their representative in this club, and that there is always somebody present who will take care of their respective interests, that nothing may be written or published to the prejudice or infringement of their just rights and privileges.

I last night sat very late in company with this select body of friends, who entertained me with several remarks which they and others had made upon these my speculations, as also with the various success which they had met with among their several ranks and degrees of readers. Will Honeycomb told me, in the softest manner he could, that there were some ladies (but for your comfort, says Will, they are not those of the most wit) that were offended at the liberties I had taken with the opera and the puppet-show; that some of them were likewise very much surprised that I should think such serious points as the dress and equipage of persons of quality, proper subjects for raillery.

He was going on, when Sir Andrew Freeport took him up short, and told him, that the papers he hinted at, had done great good in the city, and that all their wives and daughters were the better for them; and further added, that the whole city thought themselves very much obliged to me for declaring my generous intentions to scourge vice and folly as they appear in a multitude, without condescending to be a publisher of particular intrigues and cuckoldoms. 'In short,' says Sir Andrew, 'if you avoid that foolish beaten road of falling upon aldermen and citizens, and employ your pen upon the vanity and luxury of courts, your paper must needs be of general use.'

Upon this my friend the Templar told Sir Andrew, that he wondered to hear a man of his sense talk after that manner; that the city had always been the province for satire; and that the wits of King Charles's time jested upon nothing else during

his whole reign. He then showed, by the examples of Horace, Juvenal, Boileau, and the best writers of every age, that the follies of the stage and court had never been accounted too sacred for ridicule, how great soever the persons might be that patronized them. 'But after all,' says he, 'I think your raillery has made too great an excursion, in attacking several persons of the inns of court; and I do not believe you can show me any precedent for your behaviour in that particular.'

My good friend Sir Roger de Coverley, who has said nothing all this while, began his speech with a *Pish!* and told us, that he wondered to see so many men of sense so very serious upon fooleries. 'Let our good friend,' says he, 'attack every one that deserves it: I would only advise you, Mr Spectator, applying himself to me, to take care how you meddle with country squires. They are the ornaments of the English nation; men of good heads and sound bodies! and let me tell you, some of them take it ill of you, that you mention fox hunters with so little respect.'

Captain Sentry spoke very sparingly on this occasion. What he said was only to commend my prudence in not touching upon the army, and advised me to continue to act discreetly in that point.

By this time I found every subject of my speculations was taken away from me, by one or other of the club; and began to think myself in the condition of the good man that had one wife who took a dislike to his grey hairs, and another to his black, till by their picking out what each of them had an aversion to, they left his head altogether bald and naked.

While I was thus musing with myself, my worthy friend the Clergyman, who, very luckily for me, was at the club that night, undertook my cause. He told us, that he wondered any order of persons should think themselves too considerable to be advised. That it was not quality, but innocence, which exempted men from reproof. That vice and folly ought to be attacked wherever they could be met with, and especially when they were placed in high and conspicuous stations of life. He further added, that my paper would only serve to aggravate the pains of poverty, if it chiefly exposed those who are already depressed, and in some measure turned into ridicule, by the meanness of their conditions and circumstances. He afterwards proceeded to take notice of the great use this paper might be of to the public, by reprehending those vices which are too trivial for the chastisement of the law, and too fantastical for the cognizance of the pulpit. He then advised me to prosecute my undertaking with cheerfulness, and assured me, that, whoever might be displeased with me, I should be approved by all those whose praises do honour to persons on whom they are bestowed.

The whole club pays a particular deference to the discourse of this gentleman, and are drawn into what he says, as much by the candid ingenious manner with which he delivers himself, as by the strength of argument and force of reason which he makes use of. Will Honeycomb immediately agreed, that what he had said was right; and that, for his part, he would not insist upon the quarter which he had demanded for the ladies. Sir Andrew gave up the city with the same frankness. The Templar would not stand out, and was followed by Sir Roger and the Captain: who all agreed that I should be at liberty to carry the war into what quarter I pleased; provided I continued

nials in a body, and to assist
ting the person.

ch was held, for the good of
mind of that which the Roman
merly engaged in for their de-
an at first stood hard for his
und that by this means they
cription: and at length, mak-
l their acquaintance and rela-
a very decent execution.

my resolutions to march on
of virtue and good sense, and
versaries in whatever degree
ey may be found; I shall be
to all the remonstrances that
e on this account. If Punch

I shall reprimand him very
re becomes a nursery of folly
shall not be afraid to animad-
vort, if I meet with any thing
untry, that shocks modesty or
all use my utmost endeavours
e of it. I must, however, in-
lar person, who does me the
er of this paper, never to think
of his friends or enemies, aim-
l: for I promise him, never to
acter which does not fit at least
or to publish a single paper,
in the spirit of benevolence,
mankind.

C.

SDAY, APRIL 10, 1711.

ca inceptor nulla est.

fish as the laugh of fools.

writing there is none in which
pt to miscarry than in works of
none in which they are more

It is not an imagination that
s, an head that is filled with
ptions, which is capable of fur-
with diversions of this nature;
into the productions of several
for men of humour, what wild
what unnatural distortions of
with? If they speak nonsense,
re talking humour; and when
gether a scheme of absurd, in-
vey are not able to read it over
out laughing. These poor gen-
to gain themselves the reputa-
humorists, by such monstrous
qualify them for Bedlam; not
umour should always lie under
, and that it requires the direc-
judgment, by so much the more
in the most boundless freedom,
nature that is to be observed in
sitions, as well as in all other;
larity of thought which must dis-
be a man of sense, at the same
are altogether given up to ca-
art, when I read the delirious
ful author, I cannot be so bar-
myself with it, but am rather
an, than laugh at any thing he

r. Shadwell, who had himself a
talent which I am treating of,

represents an empty rake, in one of his plays, as
very much surprised to hear one say that breaking
of windows was not humour; and question not
but several English readers will be as much startled
to hear me affirm, that many of those raving in-
coherent pieces, which are often spread among us,
under odd chimerical titles, are rather the off-
springs of a distempered brain than works of hu-
mour.

It is indeed much easier to describe what is not
humour, than what is; and very difficult to define
it otherwise than as Cowley has done wit, by ne-
gatives. Were I to give my own notions of it, I
would deliver them after Plato's manner, in a
kind of allegory, and by supposing Humour to be a
person, deduce to him all his qualifications, ac-
cording to the following genealogy. Truth was
the founder of the family, and the father of Good
Sense. Good Sense was the father of Wit, who
married a lady of collateral line called Mirth, by
whom he had issue Humour. Humour therefore
being the youngest of this illustrious family, and
descended from parents of such different disposi-
tions, is very various and unequal in his temper;
sometimes you see him putting on grave looks and
a solemn habit, sometimes airy in his behaviour
and fantastic in his dress; insomuch that at dif-
ferent times he appears as serious as a judge, and as
jocular as a merry andrew. But as he has a great
deal of the mother in his constitution, whatever
mood he is in, he never fails to make his company
laugh.

But since there is an impostor abroad, who takes
upon him the name of this young gentleman, and
would willingly pass for him in the world; to the
end that well-meaning persons may not be imposed
upon by cheats, I would desire my readers, when
they meet with this pretender, to look into his pa-
rentage, and to examine him strictly, whether or
no he be remotely allied to Truth, and lineally de-
scended from Good Sense; if not, they may con-
clude him a counterfeit. They may likewise dis-
tinguish him by a loud and excessive laughter, in
which he seldom gets his company to join with
him. For as True Humour generally looks seri-
ous, while every body laughs about him; False
Humour is always laughing, whilst every body
about him looks serious. I shall only add, if he
has not in him a mixture of both parents, that is,
if he would pass for the offspring of Wit without
Mirth, or Mirth without Wit, you may conclude
him to be altogether spurious and a cheat.

The impostor of whom I am speaking, descends
originally from Falsehood, who was the mother of
Nonsense, who was brought to bed of a son called
Frenzy, who married one of the daughters of
Folly, commonly known by the name of Laugh-
ter, on whom he begot that moustous infant of
which I have here been speaking. I shall set down
at length the genealogical table of False Humour,
and, at the same time, place under it the genealogy
of True Humour, that the reader may at one view
behold their different pedigrees and relations.

Falsehood.

Nonsense.

Frenzy.....Laughter.

False Humour.

Truth.

Good Sense.

Wit.....Mirth.

Humour.

I might extend the allegory, by mentioning several of the children of False Humour, who are more in number than the sands of the sea, and might in particular enumerate the many sons and daughters which he has begot in this island. But as this would be a very invidious task, I shall only observe in general, that False Humour differs from the True, as a monkey does from a man.

First of all, He is exceedingly given to little apish tricks and buffooneries.

Secondly, He so much delights in mimicry, that it is all one to him whether he exposes by it vice and folly, luxury and avarice; or, on the contrary, virtue and wisdom, pain and poverty.

Thirdly, He is wonderfully unlucky, inasmuch that he will bite the hand that feeds him, and endeavour to ridicule both friends and foes indifferently. For having but small talents he must be merry where he can, not where he should.

Fourthly, Being entirely void of reason, he pursues no point either of morality or instruction, but is ludicrous only for the sake of being so.

Fifthly, Being incapable of having any thing but mock representations, his ridicule is always personal, and aimed at the vicious man, or the writer; not at the vice, or the writing.

I have here only pointed at the whole species of false humorists; but as one of my principal designs in this paper is to beat down that malignant spirit which discovers itself in the writings of the present age, I shall not scruple, for the future, to single out any of the small wits, that infect the world with such compositions as are ill-natured, immoral, and absurd. This is the only exception which I shall make to the general rule I have prescribed myself, of attacking multitudes, since every honest man ought to look upon himself as in a natural state of war with the libeller and lampooner, and to annoy them wherever they fall in his way. This is but retaliating upon them, and treating them as they treat others.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 36. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1711.

Immanis monstra
Perfurinus :

VIRG. *Æn.* lib. 5. 63.

Things the most out of nature we endure.

I SHALL not put myself to any further pains for this day's entertainment, than barely to publish the letters and titles of petitions from the playhouse, with the minutes I have made upon the latter for my conduct in relation to them.

' Drury Lane, April the 9th.

' Upon reading the project which is set forth in one of your late papers *, of making an alliance between all the bulls, bears, elephants, and lions, which are separately exposed to public view in the cities of London and Westminster; together with the other wonders, shows, and monsters, whereof you made respective mention in the said speculation; we, the chief actors of this playhouse, met and sat upon the said design. It is with great delight that we expect the execution of this work; and in order to contribute to it, we have given warning to all our ghosts to get their livelihooods where they can, and not to appear among us after day-break of the 16th instant. We are resolved to take this oppor-

tunity to part with every thing which does contribute to the representation of human life; and shall make a free gift of all animated intensibles your projector. The hangings you formerly mentioned are run away; as are likewise a set of chairs, each of which was met upon two legs going through the Rose Tavern at two this morning. I hope, sir, you will give proper notice to the town that we are endeavouring at these regulations; and that we intend for the future to show no monsters but men who are converted into such by their industry and affectation. If you will please to be at the house to-night, you will see me do my endeavour to show some unnatural appearances which are in vogue among the polite and well-bred. I am to present, in the character of a fine dancer, all the distortions which are frequently taken for graces in mien and gesture. This, sir, is a specimen of the methods we shall take to expel the monsters which come within the notice of a vulgar theatre; and we desire nothing more than may be admitted by you Spectators for the future. We have cashiered three companies of theatrical guards, and design our kings shall for the future make love, and sit in council, without an army; and wait only your direction, whether you will bid them reinforce King Porus, or join the troops of Macedon. Mr. Penkethman resolves to consult a pantheon of heathen gods in opposition to the oracle of Delphos, and doubts not but he shall turn the fortune of Porus, when he personates him. I am desired by the company to inform you, that I submit to your censures; and shall have your greater veneration than Hercules was of old, you can drive monsters from the theatre; and thus your merit will be as much greater than his, as to convince is more than to conquer.

' I am, sir,

' Your most obedient servant,

' T. D.

' Sir,
' When I acquaint you with the great and unexpected vicissitudes of my fortune, I doubt not but I shall obtain your pity and favour. I have for many years past been Thunderer to the playhouse, and have not only made as much noise out of the clouds as any predecessor of mine in the theatre that ever bore that character, but also have descended and spoke on the stage as the bold Thunder in The Rehearsal. When they got me down thus low, they thought fit to degrade me further and make me a ghost. I was contented with this for these two last winters; but they carry the tyranny still further, and not satisfied that I am banished from above ground, they have given me to understand that I am wholly to depart the dominions, and taken from me even my subterraneous employment. Now, sir, what I desire of you is, that if your undertaker thinks fit to use fire-arms (as other authors have done) in the time of Alexander, I may be a cannon against Portor or else provide for me in the burning of Persepolis, or what other method you shall think fit.

' SALMONSUS OF COVENT-GARDEN.'

The petition of all the Devils of the playhouse in behalf of themselves and families, setting forth their expulsion from thence, with certificates of their good life and conversation, and praying for relief.

The merit of this petition referred to Mr. Christopher Rich *, who made them devils.

* See Nº 31.

* See Tat. Nos. 42 and 99.

Grave-digger in Hamlet, to
in the Expedition of Alex-

William Bullock *, to be He-
an the Great †,

ADVERTISEMENT.

an, well born both by father
ng the daughter of Thomas
nt practitioner in the law, and
mily well known in all parts of
been reduced by misfortunes to
ersons, and for some time to
rding-school of young ladies,
blic, That she hath lately taken
ry-square, commodiously situ-
a good air : where she teaches
loquacious kinds, as parrots,
nd others, to imitate human
ection than ever was yet prac-
only instructed to pronounce
in a proper tone and accent,
age with great purity and vo-
gether with all the fashionable
nts now in use either at tea-

Those that have good voices
the newest opera-airs, and if
her Italian or French, paying
ary above the common rates,
are not able to pay the full
is half boarders. She teaches
for the diversion of the public,
d woods on the theatres, by the
ten observed with much concern
ation is usually given these in-
h in some measure is owing to
ooms next the street, where, to
aste and tender ears, they learn
gs, and immodest expressions,
idle people, as also to cry fish
th other useless parts of learn-
rich friends, she has fitted up
rtments for them in the back
use : where she suffers none to
erself, and a servant maid who
d whom she provided on pur-
food, and cleanse their cages ;
experience how hard a thing it
ence who have the use of speech,
scholars are exposed to, by the
at are made by harsh sounds,
In short, if they are birds of
y, she will undertake to render
in the compass of a twelvemonth,
conversation for such ladies as
friends and companions out of

R.

SDAY, APRIL 12, 1711:

olo calathivoe Minervae
a membris ;

VIRG. Æn. vii. 805.

ng, in the loom unskill'd.
DRYDEN.

my friend Sir Roger, being in
ed a letter to me, directed to a

certain lady, whom I shall here call by the name
of Leonora *, and, as it contained matters of con-
sequence, desired me to deliver it to her with my
own hand. Accordingly I waited upon her lady-
ship pretty early in the morning, and was desired
by her woman to walk into her lady's library,
till such time as she was in readiness to receive
me. The very sound of a lady's library gave me a
great curiosity to see it ; and as it was some time
before the lady came to me, I had an opportunity
of turning over a great many of her books, which
were ranged together in a very beautiful order. At
the end of the folios (which were finely bound and
gilt) were great jars of china placed one above
another in a very noble piece of architecture †.
The quartos were separated from the octavos by a
pile of smaller vessels, which rose in a delightful
pyramid. The octavos were bounded by tea-
dishes of all shapes, colours, and sizes, which were
so disposed on a wooden frame, that they looked
like one continued pillar indented with the finest
strokes of sculpture, and stained with the greatest
variety of dyes. That part of the library which
was designed for the reception of plays and
pamphlets, and other loose papers, was enclosed
in a kind of square, consisting of one of the pret-
tiest grotesque works that I ever saw, and made
up of scaramouches, lions, monies, mandarines,
trees, shells, and a thousand other odd figures in
china ware. In the midst of the room was a little
japan table, with a quire of gilt paper upon it,
and on the paper a silver snuff-box made in the
shape of a little book. I found there were several
other counterfeit books upon the upper shelves,
which were carved in wood, and served only to
fill up the numbers like faggots in the muster of a
regiment. I was wonderfully pleased with such a
mixed kind of furniture, as seemed very suitable
both to the lady and the scholar, and did not
know at first whether I should fancy myself in a
grotto, or in a library.

Upon my looking into the books, I found there
were some few which the lady had bought for her
own use, but that most of them had been got to-
gether, either because she had heard them praised,
or because she had seen the authors of them. Among
several that I examined, I very well remember
these that follow :

Ogileby's Virgil.

Dryden's Juvenal.

Camandra.

Cleopatra.

Astræa.

Sir Isaac Newton's Works.

The Grand Cyrus ; with a pin stuck in one of
the middle leaves.

Pembroke's Arcadia.

Locke on Human Understanding ; with a paper
of patches in it.

A Spelling Book.

A Dictionary for the explanation of hard words.

Sherlock upon Death.

The Fifteen Comforts of Matrimony.

Sir William Temple's Essays.

Father Malebranche's Search after Truth, trans-
lated into English.

A book of Novels.

The Academy of Compliments.

Culpepper's Midwifery.

* This was a Miss Shephard, afterwards Mrs. Perry. See
Nos. 92, 140, and 163.

† See Tat. N^o 23.

The Ladies Calling.

Tales in Verse, by Mr. Dufsey; bound in red leather, gilt on the back, and doubled down in several places.

All the Classic Authors in wood.

A set of Elsevirs by the same hand.

Clelia: which opened of itself in the place that describes two lovers in a bower.

Baker's Chronicle.

Advice to a Daughter.

The New Atalantis, with a Key to it.

Mr. Steele's Christian Hero.

A Prayer Book: with a bottle of Hungary-water by the side of it.

Dr. Sacheverell's Speech.

Fielding's Trial.

Seneca's Morals.

Taylor's Holy Living and Dying.

La Ferte's Instructions for Country Dances.

I was taking a catalogue in my pocket-book of these, and several other authors, when Leonora entered, and upon my presenting her with a letter from the knight, told me, with an unspeakable grace, that she hoped Sir Roger was in good health: I answered Yes, for I hear long speeches, and after a bow or two retired.

Leonora was formerly a celebrated beauty, and is still a very lovely woman. She has been a widow for two or three years, and being unfortunate in her first marriage, has taken a resolution never to venture upon a second. She has no children to take care of, and leaves the management of her estate to my good friend Sir Roger. But as the mind naturally sinks into a kind of lethargy, and falls asleep, that is not agitated by some favourite pleasures and pursuits, Leonora has turned all the passion of her sex into a love of books and retirement. She converses chiefly with men (as she has often said herself), but it is only in their writings; and admits of very few male visitors, except my friend Sir Roger, whom she hears with great pleasure, and without scandal. As her reading has lain very much among romances, it has given her a very particular turn of thinking, and discovers itself even in her house, her gardens, and her furniture. Sir Roger has entertained me an hour together with a description of her country seat, which is situated in a kind of wilderness, about an hundred miles distant from London, and looks like a little enchanted palace. The rocks about her are shaped into artificial grottos covered with woodbines and jessamines. The woods are cut into shady walks, twisted into bowers, and filled with cages of turtles. The springs are made to run among pebbles, and by that means taught to murmur very agreeably. They are likewise collected into a beautiful lake that is inhabited by a couple of swans, and empties itself by a little rivulet which runs through a green meadow, and is known in the family by the name of The Purling Stream. The knight likewise tells me, that this lady preserves her game better than any of the gentlemen in the country, not (says Sir Roger) that she sets so great a value upon her partridges and pheasants, as upon her larks and nightingales. For she says that every bird which is killed in her ground will spoil a concert, and that she shall certainly miss him the next year.

When I think how oddly this lady is improved by learning, I look upon her with a mixture of admiration and pity. Amidst these innocent entertainments which she has formed to herself, how much more valuable does she appear than those of

her sex, who employ themselves in diversions that are less reasonable, though more in fashion? What improvements would a woman have made, who so susceptible of impressions from what she read had she been guided to such books as have a tendency to enlighten the understanding and rectify the passions, as well as to those which are of little more use than to divert the imagination?

But the manner of a lady's employing herself usefully in reading, shall be the subject of another paper, in which I design to recommend such particular books as may be proper for the improvement of the sex. And as this is a subject of very nice nature, I shall desire my correspondents to give me their thoughts upon it.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 38. FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1711.

Cupias non placuisse nimis.

MART.

One would not please too much.

A LATE conversation which I fell into, gave me an opportunity of observing a great deal of head in a very handsome woman, and as much wit in an ingenious man, turned into deformity in the one and absurdity in the other, by the mere force of affection. The fair one had something in her person upon which her thoughts were fixed, that she attempted to show to advantage in every look, word, and gesture. The gentleman was as diligent to do justice to his fine parts, as the lady to her beautiful form. You might see his imagination on the stretch to find out something uncommon, and what they call bright, to entertain her, while she writhed herself into as many different postures to engage him. When she laughed, her lips were to sever at a greater distance than ordinary; to show her teeth; her fan was to point to something at a distance, that in the reach she might discover the roundness of her arm; then she is utterly mistaken in what she saw, falls back, smiles at her own folly, and is so wholly discomposed, that her tucker is to be adjusted, her bosom exposed, as the whole woman put into new airs and graces. While she was doing all this, the gallant had time to think of something very pleasant to say next to her, or make some unkind observation on some other lady to feed her vanity. These unhappy effects of affection naturally led me to look into that strange state of mind which so generally discolours the behaviour of most people who meet with.

The learned Dr. Burnet, in his Theory of the Earth, takes occasion to observe, that every thought is attended with consciousness and representativeness; the mind has nothing presented to it but what is immediately followed by a reflection or conscience, which tells you whether that which was so presented is graceful or unbecoming. This action of the mind discovers itself in the gesture, by the proper behaviour in those whose consciousness goes no further than to direct them in the just progress of their present state or action; but betrays an interruption in every second thought, when the consciousness is employed in too fondly approving of man's own conceptions; which sort of consciousness is what we call affection.

As the love of praise is implanted in our bosoms as a strong incentive to worthy actions, it is a very difficult task to get above a desire of it for things that should be wholly indifferent. Women, who

I shall take notice, in this and in other following papers, of some particular parts in it that seem liable to exception.

Aristotle observes, that the Iambic verse in the Greek tongue was the most proper for tragedy: because at the same time that it lifted up the discourse from prose, it was that which approached nearer to it than any other kind of verse. 'For,' says he, 'we may observe that men in ordinary discourse very often speak iambics, without taking notice of it.' We may make the same observation of our English blank verse, which often enters into our common discourse, though we do not attend to it, and is such a due medium between rhyme and prose, that it seems wonderfully adapted to tragedy. I am therefore very much offended when I see a play in rhyme; which is as absurd in English, as a tragedy of hexameters would have been in Greek or Latin. The solecism is, I think, still greater in those plays that have some scenes in rhyme and some in blank verse, which are to be looked upon as two several languages; or where we see some particular similes dignified with rhyme, at the same time that every thing about them lies in blank verse. I would not, however, debar the poet from concluding his tragedy, or, if he pleases, every act of it, with two or three couplets, which may have the same effect as an air in the Italian opera after a long recitativo, and give the actor a graceful exit. Besides that we see a diversity of numbers in some parts of the old tragedy, in order to hinder the ear from being tired with the same continued modulation of voice. For the same reason I do not dislike the speeches in our English tragedy that close with an hemistich, or half verse, notwithstanding the person who speaks after it begins a new verse, without filling up the preceding one; nor with abrupt pauses and breakings off in the middle of a verse, when they humour any passion that is expressed by it.

Since I am upon this subject, I must observe that our English poets have succeeded much better in the style, than in the sentiments of their tragedies. Their language is very often noble and sonorous, but the sense either very trifling, or very common. On the contrary, in the ancient tragedies, and indeed in those of Corneille and Racine, though the expressions are very great, it is the thought that bears them up and swells them. For my own part, I prefer a noble sentiment that is depressed with homely language, infinitely before a vulgar one that is blown up with all the sound and energy of expression. Whether this defect in our tragedies may arise from want of genius, knowledge, or experience in the writers, or from their compliance with the vicious taste of their readers, who are better judges of the language than of the sentiments, and consequently relish the one more than the other, I cannot determine. But I believe it might rectify the conduct both of the one and of the other, if the writer laid down the whole contexture of his dialogue in plain English, before he turned it into blank verse; and if the reader, after the perusal of a scene, would consider the naked thought of every speech in it, when divested of all its tragic ornaments. By this means, without being imposed upon by words, we may judge impartially of the thought, and consider whether it be natural or great enough for the person that utters it, whether it deserves to shine in such a blaze of eloquence, or show itself in such a variety of lights as are generally made use of by the writers of our English tragedy.

I must in the next place observe, that when our

thoughts are great and just, they are often obscured by the sounding phrases, hard metaphor and forced expressions in which they are clothed. Shakespeare is often very faulty in this particular. There is a fine observation in Aristotle to this purpose, which I have never seen quoted. 'The expression,' says he, 'ought to be very much laboured in the unactive parts of the fable, as in descriptions, similitudes, narrations, and the like; in which the opinions, manners, and passions of men are not represented! for these (namely, the opinion, manners, and passions) are apt to be obscured by pompous phrases and elaborate expressions.' His race, who copied most of his criticisms after Aristotle, seems to have had his eye on the foregoing rule, in the following verses:

*'Et tragicus plerumque dolet sermone pedestri:
Telephus et Peleus, cum pauper et erul uleryx.
Brajici ampullas et sexupedalia verba,
Si curat cor spectantis letigine querela.'*

Ars Poet. ver. 95.

'Tragedians too lay by their state to grieve:
Peleus and Telephus, exil'd and poor,
Forget their swelling and gigantic words.'

ROBCOMMON.

Among our modern English poets, there is not who was better turned for tragedy than Lee, instead of favouring the impetuosity of his genius he had restrained it, and kept it within its proper bounds. His thoughts are wonderfully suited to tragedy, but frequently lost in such a cloud of words, that it is hard to see the beauty of them. There is an infinite fire in his works, but so involved in smoke, that it does not appear in all its lustre. He frequently succeeds in the passionate parts of the tragedy, but more particularly when he slackens his efforts, and eases the style of those epithets and metaphors, in which he so much abounds. What can be more natural, more soft, and more passionate, than that line in Statira's speech where she describes the charms of Alexander's conversation?

'Then he would talk—Good gods! how he would talk.'

That unexpected break in the line, and turning the description of his manner of talking into an admiration of it, is inexpressibly beautiful, and wonderfully suited to the fond character of the person that speaks it. There is a simplicity in the words, that outshines the utmost pride of expression.

Otway has followed nature in the language of his tragedy, and therefore shines in the passionate parts, more than any of our English poets. As there is something familiar and domestic in the fable of his tragedy, more than in those of any other poet, he has little pomp, but great force in his expressions. For which reason, though he has admirably succeeded in the tender and melting part of his tragedies, he sometimes falls into too great a familiarity of phrase in those parts, which by Aristotle's rule ought to have been raised and supported by the dignity of expression.

It has been observed by others, that this poet has founded his tragedy of Venice Preserved on so wrong a plot, that the greatest characters in it are those of rebels and traitors. Had the hero of his play discovered the same good qualities in the defence of his country, that he showed for its ruin and subversion, the audience could not enough pity and admire him: but as he is now represented, we can only say of him what the Roman historian says

wonderfully pleased to see a man insulting kings, or affronting the gods, in one scene, and throwing himself at the feet of his mistress in another. Let him behave himself insolently towards the men, and abjectly towards the fair one, and it is ten to one but he proves a favourite of the boxes. Dryden and Lee, in several of their tragedies, have practised this secret with good success.

But to show how a rant pleases beyond the most just and natural thought that is not pronounced with vehemence, I would desire the reader, when he sees the tragedy of Oedipus, to observe how quietly the hero is dismissed at the end of the third act, after having pronounced the following lines, in which the thought is very natural, and apt to move compassion :

'To you, good gods, I make my last appeal;
Or clear my virtues, or my crimes reveal.
If in the mass of fate I blindly run,
And backward tread those paths I sought to shun;
Impute my errors to your own decree:
My hands are guilty, but my heart is free.'

Let us then observe with what thunder-claps of applause he leaves the stage, after the impleties and execrations at the end of the fourth act; and you will wonder to see an audience so cured and so pleased at the same time.

'O that, as oft I have at Athens seen,
[*Where, by the way, there was no stage till many years after Oedipus.*]
The stage arise, and the big clouds descend;
So now, in very deed, I might behold
This pond'rous globe, and all you marble roof,
Meet like the hands of Jove, and crush mankind:
For all the elements,' &c.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Having spoken of Mr. Powell, as sometimes raising himself applause from the ill taste of an audience; I must do him the justice to own, that he is excellently formed for a tragedian, and when he pleases, deserves the admiration of the best judges; as I doubt not but he will in the Conquest of Mexico, which is acted for his own benefit to-morrow night.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 41. TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1711.

— *Tu non invenisti reperta ea.*
OVID. Met. l. 654.
So found, is worse than lost.
ADDISON.

COMPASSION for the gentleman who writes the following letter, should not prevail upon me to fall upon the fair sex, if it were not that I find they are frequently fairer than they ought to be. Such impostures are not to be tolerated in civil society, and I think his misfortune ought to be made public, as a warning for other men always to examine into what they admire.

'SIR,
'SUPPOSING you to be a person of general knowledge, I make my application to you on a very particular occasion. I have a great mind to be rid of my wife, and hope, when you consider my case, you will be of opinion I have very just pretensions to a divorce. I am a mere man of the town, and have very little improvement, but what I have got from plays. I remember in the Silent Woman, the learned Dr. Cuthbert, or Dr. Otter, (I forget which) makes one of the causes of separation to be *Error Porone*, when a man marries a woman, and finds

her not to be the same woman whom he intended to marry, but another. If that be law, it is, I presume, exactly my case. For you are to know, Mr. Spectator, that there are women who do not let their husbands see their faces till they are married.

'Not to keep you in suspense, I mean plainly that part of the sex who paint. They are some of them so exquisitely skillful this way, that give them but a tolerable pair of eyes to set up with, and they will make bosom, lips, cheeks, and eye-brows, by their own industry. As for my dear, never was man so enamoured as I was of her fair forehead, neck, and arms, as well as the bright jet of her hair; but to my great astonishment I find they were all the effect of art. Her skin is so tarnished with this practice, that when she first wakes in a morning, she scarce seems young enough to be the mother of her whom I carried to bed the night before. I shall take the liberty to part with her by the first opportunity, unless her father will make her portion suitable to her real, not her assumed countenance. This I thought fit to let him and her know by your means.

'I am, SIR,
'Your most obedient, humble servant.'

I cannot tell what the law, or the parents of the lady will do for this injured gentleman, but must allow he has very much justice on his side. I have indeed very long observed this evil, and distinguished those of our women who wear their own, from those in borrowed complexions, by the Picts and the British. There does not need any great discernment to judge which are which. The British have a lively animated aspect; the Picts, though never so beautiful, have dead uninformed countenances. The musics of a real face sometimes swell with soft passion, sudden surprise, and are finished with agreeable confusion, according as the objects before them, or the ideas presented to them, affect their imagination. But the Pict behold all things with the same air, whether they are joyful or sad; the same fixed insensibility appears upon all occasions. A Pict, though she takes all that pains to invite the approach of lovers, is obliged to keep them at a certain distance; a sigh in a languishing lover, if fetched too near her, would dissolve a feature; and a kiss snatched by a forward one, might transfer the complexion of the mistress to the admirer. It is hard to speak of these false fair ones, without saying something unpleasant, but I would only recommend to them to consider how they like coming into a room new painted; they may assure themselves, the near approach of a lady who uses this practice is much more offensive.

Will Honeycomb told us one day an adventure he once had with a Pict. This lady had wit, as well as beauty, at will; and made it her business to gain hearts, for no other reason but to rally the torments of her lovers. She would make great advances to innumerable men, but without any manner of scruple break off when there was no provocation. Her ill-nature and vanity made my friend very easily proof against the charms of her wit and conversation; but her beauteous form, instead of being blemished by her falsehood and inconstancy, every day increased upon him, and she had new attractions every time he saw her. When she observed Will irrevocably her slave, she began to use him as such, and after many steps towards such a cruelty, she at last utterly banished him. The unhappy lover strove in vain, by servile epistles, to revoke his doom; till at length he was forced

and distressed heroes, used to make the actors represent them in dresses and clothes that were threadbare and decayed. This artifice for moving pity, seems as ill contrived as that we have been speaking of to inspire us with a great idea of the persons introduced upon the stage. In short, I would have our conceptions raised by the dignity of thought and sublimity of expression, rather than by a train of robes or a plume of feathers.

Another mechanical method of making great men, and adding dignity to kings and queens, is to accompany them with halberds and battle-axes. Two or three shifters of scenes, with the two candle-stuffers, make up a complete body of guards upon the English stage; and by the addition of a few porters dressed in red coats, can represent above a dozen legions. I have sometimes seen a couple of armies drawn up together upon the stage, when the poet has been disposed to do honour to his generals. It is impossible for the reader's imagination to multiply twenty men into such prodigious multitudes, or to fancy that two or three hundred thousand soldiers are fighting in a room of forty or fifty yards in compass. Incidents of such a nature should be told, not represented.

— Non tamen intus
Digna geri promes in scenam: multaque tolles
Ex oculis, quæ mox narret facundia præens.

HOR. An. Poet. ver. 182.

'Yet there are things improper for a scene,
Which men of judgment only will relate.'

ROSCOMMON.

I should, therefore, in this particular, recommend to my countrymen the example of the French stage, where the kings and queens always appear unattended, and leave their guards behind the scenes. I should likewise be glad if we imitated the French in banishing from our stage the noise of drums, trumpets, and huzzas; which is sometimes so very great, that when there is a battle in the Haymarket theatre, one may hear it as far as Charing-cross.

I have here only touched upon those particulars which are made use of to raise and aggrandize the persons of a tragedy; and shall show in another paper the several expedients which are practised by authors of a vulgar genius to move terror, pity, or admiration, in their hearers.

The tailor and the painter often contribute to the success of a tragedy more than the poet. Scenes affect ordinary minds as much as speeches; and our actors are very sensible, that a well-dressed play has sometimes brought them as full audiences as a well-written one. The Italians have a very good phrase to express this art of imposing upon the spectators by appearances; they call it the '*Fourberie della scena*.' 'The knavery, or trickish part of the drama.' But however the show and outside of the tragedy may work upon the vulgar, the more understanding part of the audience immediately see through it, and despise it.

A good poet will give the reader a more lively idea of an army or a battle in a description, than if he actually saw them drawn up in squadrons and battalions, or engaged in the confusion of a fight. Our minds should be opened to great conceptions, and inflamed with glorious sentiments, by what the actor speaks, more than by what he appears. Can all the trappings of equipage of a king or hero, give Brutus half that pomp and majesty which he receives from a few lines in Shakspeare?

ADDISON.

Nº 43. THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1711.

*He tibi crunt artes; pacisque imponere morem,
Parcere subjectis, et debellare superbis.*
VIRG. Æn. vi. 892.

Be these thy arts; to bid contention cease,
Chain up stern wars and give the nations peace;
O'er subject lands extend thy gentle sway,
And teach with iron rod the haughty to obey.

THERE are crowds of men, whose great misfortune it is that they were not bound to mechanic arts or trades; it being absolutely necessary for them to be led by some continual task or employment. These are such as we commonly call dull fellows; persons, who, for want of something to do, out of certain vacancy of thought, rather than curiosity, are ever meddling with things for which they are unfit. I cannot give you a notion of them better than by presenting you with a letter from a gentleman, who belongs to a society of this order of men, residing at Oxford.

'Oxford, April 13, 1711.
Four o'clock in the morning

'SIR,
'In some of your late speculations, I found some sketches towards an history of clubs: but you were to me to show them in somewhat too ludicrous light. I have well weighed that matter, and think that the most important negotiations may be best carried on in such assemblies. I shall therefore for the good of mankind, (which, I trust, you and are equally concerned for) propose an institution of that nature for example sake.

'I must confess the design and transactions of too many clubs are trifling, and manifestly of no consequence to the nation or public weal. Those will give you up. But you must do me then the justice to own, that nothing can be more useful and laudable, than the scheme we go upon. To avoid nicknames and witticisms, we call ourselves The Hebdomadal Meeting. Our president continues for a year at least, and sometimes four or five; we are all grave, serious, designing men in our way, we think it our duty, as far as in us lies, to take care the constitution receives no harm—*Ne quid deteriment res capiat publica*—To censure doctrines, facts, persons or things, which we do not like: to settle the nation at home, and carry on the war abroad, where and in what manner we see fit. If other people are not of our opinion, we cannot help that. It were better they were. Moreover we now and then condescend to direct, in some measure, the little affairs of our own university.

'Verily, Mr. Spectator, we are much offended at the act for importing French wines. A bottle or two of good solid edifying port at home, George's, made a night cheerful, and threw off reserve. But this plaguy French claret will not only cost us more money, but do us less good. Had we been aware of it, before it had gone too far, I must tell you, we would have petitioned to be heard at that subject. But let that pass.

'I must let you know likewise, good sir, that we look upon a certain northern prince's march, in conjunction with infidels, to be palpably against our good-will and liking; and, for all Monsieur Palmquist, a most dangerous innovation; and we are by no means yet sure, that some people are not at the bottom of it. At least my own private letters leave room for a politician, well versed in matters of this nature, to suspect as much, as penetrating friend of mine tells me.

C.

King, Father, Royal Dane. Oh! answer me.
 Let me not burst in ignorance; but tell
 Why thy canoniz'd bones, heav'd in death,
 Have burst their cerements? Why the sepulchre,
 Wherein we saw thee quietly inurn'd,
 Hath op'd his ponderous and marble jaws
 To cast thee up again? What may this mean?
 That thou dead com'st again in complete steel
 Reviv'st thus the glimpses of the moon,
 Making night hideous?

I do not therefore find fault with the artifices above mentioned, when they are introduced with skill, and accompanied by proportionable sentiments and expressions in the writing.

For the moving of pity, our principal machine is the handkerchief; and indeed in our common tragedies, we should not know very often that the persons are in distress by anything they say, if they did not from time to time apply their handkerchiefs to their eyes. Far be it from me to think of banishing this instrument of sorrow from the stage; I know a tragedy could not subsist without it: all that I would contend for, is to keep it from being misapplied. In a word, I would have the actor's tongue sympathize with his eyes.

A disconsolate mother, with a child in her hand, has frequently drawn compassion from the audience, and has therefore gained a place in several tragedies. A modern writer, that observed how this had took in other plays, being resolved to double the distress, and melt his audience twice as much as those before him had done, brought a prince upon the stage with a little boy in one hand, and a girl in the other. This too had a very good effect. A third poet being resolved to out-write all his predecessors, a few years ago introduced three children with great success: and, as I am informed, a young gentleman, who is fully determined to break the most obdurate hearts, has a tragedy by him, where the first person that appears upon the stage is an afflicted widow in her mourning weeds, with half a dozen fatherless children attending her, like those that usually hang about the figure of Charity. Thus several incidents that are beautiful in a good writer, become ridiculous by falling into the hands of a bad one.

But among all our methods of moving pity or terror, there is none so absurd and barbarous, and what more exposes us to the contempt and ridicule of our neighbours, than that dreadful butchering of one another, which is very frequent upon the English stage. To delight in seeing men stabbed, poisoned, racked, or impaled, is certainly the sign of a cruel temper: and as this is often practiced before the British audience, several French critics, who think these are grateful spectacles to us, take occasion from them to represent us as a people that delight in blood. It is indeed very odd, to see our stage strowed with carcasses in the last scenes of a tragedy; and to observe in the wardrobe of the playhouse several daggers, poniards, wheels, bows for poison, and many other instruments of death. Murders and executions are always transacted behind the scenes in the French theatre; which in general is very agreeable to the manners of a polite and civilized people: but as there are no exceptions to this rule on the French stage, it leads them into absurdities almost as ridiculous as that which falls under our present censure. I remember in the famous play of Corneille, written upon the subject of the Horatii and Curiatii; the fierce young hero, who had overcome the Curiatii one after another (instead of being congratulated by his sister for his victory, being upbraided by her for having slain her lover), in the

height of his passion and resentments kills her. I any thing could extenuate so brutal an action, it would be the doing of it on a sudden, before the sentiments of nature, reason, or manhood, could take place in him. However, to avoid public bloodshed, as soon as his passion is wrought to its height, he follows his sister the whole length of the stage, and forbears killing her till they are both withdrawn behind the scenes. I must confess, had he murdered her before the audience, the decency might have been greater; but as it is, it appears very unnatural, and looks like killing with cold blood. To give my opinion upon this case the fact ought not to have been represented, but to have been told, if there was any occasion for it.

It may not be unacceptable to the reader to see how Sophocles has conducted a tragedy under the like delicate circumstances. Orestes was in the same condition with Hamlet in Shakspeare, his mother having murdered his father, and taken possession of his kingdom in conspiracy with her adulterer. That young prince therefore, being determined to revenge his father's death upon those who filled his throne, conveys himself by a beautiful stratagem into his mother's apartment, with a resolution to kill her. But because such a spectacle would have been too shocking to the audience, this dreadful resolution is executed behind the scenes: the mother is heard calling out to her son for mercy; and the son answering her that she shews no mercy to his father; after which she shrieks out that she is wounded, and by what follows we find that she is slain. I do not remember that in any of our plays there are speeches made behind the scenes, though there are other instances of this nature to be met with in those of the ancients, and I believe my reader will agree with me, that there is something infinitely more affecting in the dreadful dialogue between the mother and her son behind the scenes, than could have been in anything transacted before the audience. Orestes immediately after meets the usurper at the entrance of his palace; and by a very happy thought of the poet avoids killing him before the audience, by telling him that he should live some time in his present bitterness of soul before he would dispatch him, and by ordering him to retire into that part of the palace where he had slain his father, whose murder he would revenge in the very same place where it was committed. By this means the poet observes that decency, which Horace afterward established as a rule, of forbearing to commit parricides or unnatural murders before the audience.

' Nec coram populo notas Medea trucidat.'

Ars Poet. ver. 185.

*' Let not Medea draw her murdering knife,
 And spill her children's blood upon the stage.'*

ROSCOMMON.

The French have therefore refined too much upon Horace's rule, who never designed to banish all kinds of death from the stage; but only such as had too much horror in them, and which would have a better effect upon the audience when transacted behind the scenes. I would therefore recommend to my countrymen the practice of the ancient poets, who were very sparing of their public executions, and rather chose to perform them behind the scenes, if it could be done with as great an effect upon the audience. At the same time, I must observe, that though the devoted persons of the tragedy were seldom slain before the audience, which has generally something ridiculous in it, their bodies were often produced after their death

she broke out into a loud soliloquy, 'When will the dear witches enter?' and immediately upon their first appearance, asked a lady that sat three boxes from her on her right hand, if those witches were not charming creatures. A little after, as Betterton was in one of the finest speeches of the play, she shook her fan at another lady who sat as far on the left hand, and told her with a whisper that might be heard all over the pit, 'We must not expect to see Balloon to-night.' Not long after, calling out to a young baronet by his name, who sat three seats before me, she asked him whether Macbeth's wife was still alive; and before he could give an answer, fell a talking of the ghost of Banquo. She had by this time formed a little audience to herself, and fixed the attention of all about her. But as I had a mind to hear the play, I got out of the sphere of her impertinence, and planted myself in one of the remotest corners of the pit.

This pretty childishness of behaviour is one of the most refined parts of coquetry, and is not to be attained in perfection by ladies that do not travel for their improvement. A natural and unconstrained behaviour has something in it so agreeable, that it is no wonder to see people endeavouring after it. But at the same time it is so very hard to hit, when it is not born with us, that people often make themselves ridiculous in attempting it.

A very ingenious French author tells us, that the ladies of the court of France, in his time, thought it ill-breeding, and a kind of female pedantry, to pronounce an hard word right; for which reason they took frequent occasion to use hard words, that they might show a politeness in murdering them. He further adds, that a lady of some quality at court, having accidentally made use of a hard word in a proper place, and pronounced it right, the whole assembly was out of countenance for her.

I must however be so just to own, that there are many ladies who have travelled several thousands of miles without being the worse for it, and have brought home with them all the modesty, discretion, and good sense, that they went abroad with. As, on the contrary, there are great numbers of travelled ladies, who have lived all their days within the smoke of London. I have known a woman that never was out of the parish of St. James's, betray as many foreign fopperies in her carriage, as she could have gleaned up in half the countries of Europe.

ADDISON.

C:

Nº 46. MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1711.

Non bene junctarum discordia semina rerum.

OID. Met. l. i. ver. 9.

The jarring seeds of ill-consorted things.

WHEN I want materials for this paper, it is my custom to go abroad in quest of game; and when I meet any proper subject, I take the first opportunity of settling down an hint of it upon paper. At the same time I look into the letters of my correspondents, and if I find any thing suggested in them that may afford matter of speculation, I likewise enter a minute of it in my collection of materials. By this means I frequently carry about me a whole sheaf of hints, that would look like a rhapsody of nonsense to any body but myself. There is nothing in them but obscurity and confusion, raving and inconsistency. In short, they are my speculations in the first principles, that

(like the world in its chaos) are void of all light distinction, and order.

About a week since there happened to me a very odd accident, by reason of one of these papers of minutes which I had accidentally dropped at Lloyd's coffee-house, where the auctions are usually kept. Before I missed it, there were a cluster of people who had found it, and were converting themselves with it at one end of the coffee-house. It had raised so much laughter among the before I had observed what they were about, that I had not the courage to own it. The boy of the coffee-house, when they had done with it, carried it about in his hand, asking every body if they had dropped a written paper; but nobody challenging it, he was ordered by those merry gentlemen who had before perused it, to get up into the auction pulpit, and read it to the whole room, that if any one would own it, they might. The boy accordingly mounted the pulpit, and with a very audible voice read as follows:

MINUTES.

Sir Roger de Coverley's country seat.... Yes, for I hate long speeches.... Query, if a good Christian may be a conqueror.... Childermas-day, salted house-dog, screech-owl, cricket.... Mr. Thomas I cle of London, in the good ship called the Achille Yarico.... *Ægrecitque medendo*.... Ghosts.... The Lady's library.... Lion by trade a tailor.... Dromedary called Bucephalus.... Equipage of the lady's *sumum bonum*.... Charles Lillie to be taken notice of.... Short face a relief to envy.... Redundancies in the three professions.... Kit Latine a recruit.... Jew devouring a ham of bacon.... Westminster-abbey.... Grand Cairo.... Procrastination.... April fools.... Blue boars, red lions, hogs in armour.... Enter a King and ten Fiddlers *sofas*.... Admission into the Ugly club.... Beauty how improvable.... Families of true and false humour.... The parrot's school-mistress.... Face half Piet half British.... No man to be a hero of a tragedy under six foot.... Club of sighers.... Letters from flower-pots, elbow-chair tapestry-figures, lion, thunder.... The bell rings to the puppet-show.... Old woman with a beard married to a smock-faced boy.... My next coat to be turned up with blue.... Fable of tongues and gri iron.... Flower dyers.... The soldier's prayer.... Thank ye for nothing, says the gallypot.... Patolus in stockings with golden clocks to them.... Bamboos, cudgels, drum-sticks.... Slip of my lady's eldest daughter.... The black mare with star in her forehead.... The barber's pole.... Wh Honeycomb's coat-pocket.... Caesar's behavior and my own in parallel circumstances.... Poem of patch-work.... *Nulli gravis est percussus Achillis*.... The female conventicler.... The eagle-master

The reading of this paper made the whole coffee-house very merry; some of them concluded it was written by a madman, and others by somebody that had been taking notes out of the Spectator. One who had the appearance of a very substantial citizen told us, with several political winks and nods, that he wished there was no more in the paper than what was expressed in it; that for his part, he looked upon the dromedary, the griding and the barber's pole, to signify something more than what was usually meant by those words; and that he thought the coffee-man could not do better than to carry the paper to one of the secretaries of state. He further added, that he did not till the name of the outlandish man with the golden

In the first place I must observe, that there is a set of merry drolls, whom the common people of all countries admire, and seem to love so well, 'that they could eat them,' according to the old proverb: I mean those circumforaneous wits whom every nation calls by the name of that dish of meat which it loves best: in Holland they are termed Pickled Herrings; in France, Jean Potages; in Italy, Maccaronies; and in Great Britain, Jack Puddings. These merry wags, from whatsoever food they receive their titles, that they may make their audiences laugh, always appear in a fool's coat, and commit such blunders and mistakes in every step they take, and every word they utter, as those who listen to them would be ashamed of.

But this little triumph of the understanding, under the disguise of laughter, is no where more visible than in that custom, which prevails every where among us on the first day of the present month, when every body takes it in his head to make as many fools as he can. In proportion as there are more follies discovered, so there is more laughter raised on this day than on any other in the whole year. A neighbour of mine, who is a haberdasher by trade, and a very shallow conceited fellow, makes his boast that for these ten years successively he has not made less than an hundred April fools. My landlady had a falling-out with him about a fortnight ago, for sending every one of her children upon some sleeveless errand, as she terms it. Her eldest son went to buy an halfpennyworth of inkle at a shoemaker's; the eldest daughter was dispatched half a mile to see a monster; and, in short, the whole family of innocent children made April fools. Nay, my landlady herself did not escape him. This empty fellow has laughed upon these conceits ever since.

This art of wit is well enough, when confined to one day in a twelvemonth; but there is an ingenious tribe of men sprung up of late years, who are for making April fools every day in the year. These gentlemen are commonly distinguished by the name of Biter^s: a race of men that are perpetually employed in laughing at those mistakes which are of their own production.

Thus we see, in proportion as one man is more refined than another, he chooses his fool out of a lower or higher class of mankind, or, to speak in a more philosophical language, that secret elation or pride of heart, which is generally called laughter, arises in him, from his comparing himself with an object below him, whether it so happens that it be a natural or an artificial fool. It is, indeed, very possible, that the persons we laugh at may in the main of their characters be much wiser men than ourselves; but if they would have us laugh at them, they must fall short of us in those respects which stir up this passion.

I am afraid I shall appear too abstracted in my speculations, if I show that when a man of wit makes us laugh, it is by betraying some oddness or infirmity in his own character, or in the representation which he makes of others; and that when we laugh at a brute, or even at an inanimate thing, it is at some action or incident that bears a remote analogy to any blunder or absurdity in reasonable creatures.

But to come into common life: I shall pass by the consideration of those stage coxcombs that are able to shake a whole audience, and take notice of a particular sort of men who are such provokers

of mirth in conversation, that it is impossible for a club or merry meeting to subsist without them. I mean those honest gentlemen that are always exposed to the wit and railery of their well wishers and companions; that are pelted by men, women, and children, friends and foes, and, in word, stand as butts in conversation, for every one to shoot at that pleases. I know several of these butts who are men of wit and sense, though by some odd turn of humour, some unlucky cast in their person or behaviour, they have always the misfortune to make the company merry. The truth of it is, a man is not qualified for a butt, who has not a good deal of wit and vivacity, even in the ridiculous side of his character. A stupid butt is only fit for the conversation of ordinary people: men of wit require one that will give them play and bestir himself in the absurd part of his behaviour. A butt with these accomplishments frequently gets the laugh of his side, and turns the ridicule upon him that attacks him. Sir John Falstaff was an hero of this species, and gives a good description of himself in his capacity of butt, after the following manner: 'Men of a surly,' says that merry knight, 'take a pride in gird at me. The brain of any man is not able to invent any thing that tends to laughter more than I invent, or is invented on me. I am not only witty in myself, but the cause that wit is in other men.'

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 48. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1711.

— *Per multas aditum sibi sepe figuras
Repperit* —

OVID. Met. xiv. 652.

Through various shapes he often finds access.

My correspondents take it ill if I do not, from time to time, let them know I have received their letters. The most effectual way will be to publish some of them that are upon important subjects which I shall introduce with a letter of my own that I writ a fortnight ago to a fraternity who thought fit to make me an honorary member.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF THE
UGLY CLUB.

'MAY IT PLEASE YOUR DEFORMITIES,
'I HAVE received the notification of the honour you have done me, in admitting me into your society. I acknowledge my want of merit, and for that reason shall endeavour at all times to make up my own failures, by introducing and recommending to the club persons of more undoubted qualifications than I can pretend to. I shall next week come down in the stage-coach, in order to take my seat at the board; and shall bring with me a candidate of each sex. The persons I shall present to you, are an old bean and a moderate Pict. If they are not so eminently gifted by nature as our assembly expects, give me leave to say their acquired ugliness is greater than any that has ever appeared before you. The bean has varied his dress every day of his life for these thirty years past, and still added to the deformity he was born with. The Pict has still greater merit towards us, and has, ever since she came to years of discretion, deserted the handsome party, and taken all possible pains to acquire the face of

* See N^o 504, and Tat. N^o 12. Rowe produced a comedy on the subject, with the title of 'The Biter'; which, however, added nothing to his reputation as an author.

have nothing else to do but make observations) see in every parish, street, lane, and alley of this populous city, a little potentate that has his court and his flatterers who lay snares for his affection and favour, by the same arts that are practised upon men in higher stations.

In the place I most usually frequent, men differ rather in the time of day in which they make a figure, than in any real greatness above one another. I, who am at the coffee-house at six in the morning, know that my friend Beaver the haberdasher has a levee of more undismembered friends and admirers, than most of the courtiers or generals of Great Britain. Every man about him has, perhaps, a newspaper in his hand; but none can pretend to guess what step will be taken in any one court of Europe, till Mr. Beaver has thrown down his pipe, and declares what measures the allies must enter into upon this new posture of affairs. Our coffee-house is near one of the inns of court, and Beaver has the audience and admiration of his neighbours from six till within a quarter of eight, at which time he is interrupted by the students of the house; some of whom are ready dressed for Westminster at eight in a morning, with faces as busy as if they were retained in every cause there; and others come in their night-gowns to saunter away their time, as if they never designed to go thither. I do not know that I meet, in any of my walks, objects which move both my spleen and laughter so effectually, as those young fellows at the Grecian, Squire's, Searle's, and all other coffee-houses adjacent to the law, who rise early for no other purpose but to publish their laziness. One would think these young virtuosos take a gay cap and slippers, with a scarf and party-coloured gown, to be ensigns of dignity; for the vain things approach each other with an air, which shows they regard one another for their vestments. I have observed, that the superiority among these proceeds from an opinion of gallantry and fashion. The gentleman in the strawberry ash, who presides so much over the rest, has, it seems, subscribed to every opera this last winter, and is supposed to receive favours from one of the actresses.

When the day grows too busy for these gentlemen to enjoy any longer the pleasures of their dishabille, with any manner of confidence, they give place to men who have business or good sense in their faces, and come to the coffee-house either to transact affairs, or enjoy conversation. The persons to whose behaviour and discourse I have most regard, are such as are between these two sorts of men; such as have not spirits too active to be happy and well pleased in a private condition, nor complexions too warm to make them neglect the duties and relations of life. Of these sort of men consist the worthier part of mankind; of these are all good fathers, generous brothers, sincere friends, and faithful subjects. Their entertainments are derived rather from reason than imagination; which is the cause that there is no impatience or instability in their speech or action. You see in their countenances they are at home, and in quiet possession of the present instant as it passes, without desiring to quicken it by gratifying any passion, or prosecuting any new design. These are the men formed for society, and those little communities which we express by the word neighbourhood.

The coffee-house is the place of rendezvous to all that live near it, who are thus turned to relish calm and ordinary life. Eubulus presides over the middle hours of the day, when this assembly of men meet together. He enjoys a great fortune hand-

somely, without launching into expense; and exercises many noble and useful qualities, without appearing in any public employment. His wisdom and knowledge are servicable to all that think fit to make use of them; and he does the office of counsel, a judge, an executor, and a friend to all his acquaintance, not only without the profits which attend such offices, but also without the deference and homage which are usually paid to them. The giving of thanks is displeasing to him. The greatest gratitude you can show him, is to let him see you are the better man for his services; and that you are as ready to oblige others, as he is to oblige you.

In the private exigencies of his friends, he lends at legal value considerable sums, which he might highly increase by rolling in the public stocks. He does not consider in whose hands his money will improve most, but where it will do most good.

Eubulus has so great an authority in his little diurnal audience, that when he shakes his head at any piece of public news, they all of them appear dejected; and, on the contrary, go home to the dinners with a good stomach and cheerful aspect when Eubulus seems to intimate that things go well. Nay, their veneration towards him is so great, that when they are in other company they speak and act after him; are wise in his sentences, and are sooner sat down at their own tables, but they hope or fear, rejoice or despond, as they saw him do at the coffee-house. In a word, every man is Eubulus as soon as his back is turned.

Having here given an account of the several reigns that succeed each other from day-break till dinner time, I shall mention the mosarachs of the afternoon on another occasion, and shut up this whole series of them with the history of Torm the Tyrant*; who, as first minister of the coffee-house, takes the government upon him between the hours of eleven and twelve at night, and gives his orders in the most arbitrary manner to the servants below him, as to the disposition of liquors, coal, and cinders.

STEEL.

R.

Nº 50. FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1711.

Nunquam aliud natura, aliud sapientia dixit.
JUV. Sat. xiv. 321.

Good taste and nature always speak the same.

WHEN the four Indians kings† were in this country about a twelvemonth ago, I often mixed with the rabble, and followed them a whole day together, being wonderfully struck with the sight of every thing that is new or uncommon. I have since their departure, employed a friend to make many inquiries of their landlord the upholsterer relating to their manners and conversation, as also concerning the remarks which they made in the country: for, next to the forming a right notion of

* The waiter of that coffee-house, nick-named Sir Thomas. See Tat. Nos. 16, 17, 26, and 36.

† Swift writes thus to Stella, in his Journal, under date 2nd April, 1711. "The Spectator is written by Steele, with Addison's help; 'tis often very pretty. Yesterday it was made of a noble hint I gave him long ago for his Tatlers, about an Indian, supposed to write his travels into England. I repent I never had it. I intended to have written a book on that subject. I believe he has spent it all in one paper, and all the underplots there are mine too; but I never see him or Addison. See Swift's Works, vol. xv. p. 32, 33, edit. 1801. See also Tat. No 171.

this abstract of the Indian journal, when we fancy the customs, dresses, and manners of other countries are ridiculous and extravagant, if they do not resemble those of our own.

ADDISON *.

C.

Nº 51. SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1711.

Torquet ab obscenis jam nunc sermonibus aurem.

HOR. 1 Ep. li. 127.

He from the taste obscene reclaims our youth.

POPE.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'My fortune, quality, and person, are such as render me as conspicuous as any young woman in town. It is in my power to enjoy it in all its vanities; but I have, from a very careful education, contracted a great aversion to the forward air and fashion which is practised in all public places and assemblies. I attribute this very much to the style and manner of our plays. I was last night at *The Funeral*, where a confident lover in the play, speaking of his mistress, cries out, "Oh + that Harriot! to fold these arms about the waist of that beauteous, struggling, and at last yielding fair!" Such an image as this ought by no means to be presented to a chaste and regular audience. I expect your opinion of this sentence, and recommend to your consideration, as a Spectator, the conduct of the stage at present with relation to chastity and modesty.

'I am, sir,

'Your constant reader and well-wisher.'

The complaint of this young lady is so just, that the offence is gross enough to have displeased persons who cannot pretend to that delicacy and modesty, of which she is mistress. But there is a great deal to be said in behalf of an author. If the audience would but consider the difficulty of keeping up a sprightly dialogue for five acts together, they would allow a writer, when he wants wit, and cannot please any otherwise, to help it out with a little smuttiness. I will answer for the poets, that no one ever writ bawdry for any other reason but dearth of invention. When the author cannot strike out of himself any more of that which he has superior to those who make up the bulk of his audience, his natural recourse is to that which he has in common with them; and a description which gratifies a sensual appetite will please, when the author has nothing about him to delight a refined imagination. It is to such a poverty we must impute this and all other sentences in plays, which are of this kind, and which are commonly termed lascivious expressions †.

This expedient to supply the deficiencies of wit, has been used more or less by most of the authors who have succeeded on the stage; though I know but one who has professedly writ a play upon the basis of the desire of multiplying our species, and that is the polite Sir George Etherege; if I understand what the lady would be at, in the play

called *She Would If she Could*. Other poets have here and there given an intimation that there is this design, under all the disguises and affectation which a lady may put on; but no author, except this, has made sure work of it, and put the imaginations of the audience upon this one purpose from the beginning to the end of the comedy. It has always fared accordingly; for whether it be that all who go to this piece would if they could or that the innocents go to it, to guess only what she would if she could, the play has always been well received.

It lifts a heavy empty sentence, when there added to it a lascivious gesture of body; and what is too low to be raised even by that, a false meaning is enlivened by making it a double one. Writers who want genius, never fail of keeping this secret in reserve, to create a laugh or raise a clap. I, who know nothing of women but from seeing plays, can give great games at the whole structure of the fair sex, by being innocently placed in the pit, and insulted by the petticoats of the dancers; the advantages of whose pretty persons are a great help to a dull play. When a poet flags in writing lasciviously, a pretty girl can move lasciviously, and have the same good consequence for the author. Dull poets in this case use the audiences, as dull parasites do their patrons; when they cannot longer divert them with their wit and humour, they bait their ears with something which is agreeable to their temper, though below the understanding. Apicius cannot resist being pleased if you give him an account of a delicious meal; Clodius, if you describe a wanton beauty: though at the same time, if you do not awake those inclinations in them, no men are better judges of what is just and delicate in conversation. But as we have before observed, it is easier to talk to a man, than to the man of sense.

It is remarkable, that the writers of least learning are best skilled in the lascivious way. The poets of the age have done wonders in this kind; and we are obliged to the lady who writes *Abraham**, for introducing a preparatory scene to the very action, when the emperor throws his handkerchief as a signal for his mistress to follow him into the most retired part of the seraglio. It may be confessed his Turkish majesty went off with good air, but methought we made but a sad figure who waited without. This ingenious gentlewoman in this piece of bawdry, refined upon an author of the same sex †, who, in *The Rover*, makes country squire strip to his Holland drawers. For Blunt is disappointed, and the emperor is understood to go on to the utmost. The pleasantries of stripping almost naked has been since practised (where indeed it should have been begun) very successfully at Bartholomew fair ‡.

It is not here to be omitted, that in one of the above-mentioned female compositions, the Rover is very frequently sent on the same errand; as take it, above once every act. This is not wholly unnatural; for, they say, the men authors draw themselves in their chief characters, and the women writers may be allowed the same liberty. Thus as the male wit gives his hero a great fortune, the female gives her heroine a good gallant, at the end of the play. But, indeed, there is hardly a play one can go to, but the hero or fine gentleman of it struts off upon the same account, and leaves us

* From the quotation at the beginning of this paper, Swift seems to have believed Steele the writer of it; for it seems he gave the hint of it to him. It has, however, Addison's signature in the original publication in folio, and is reprinted by Tickell in his addition of Addison's Works in 4to.

+ Sir R. Steele's comedy, Act ii. scene 1.

‡ Steele softened the passage quoted, in the next edition that was published.

* Mrs. Mary Pix.

† Mrs. Behn.

‡ By a rope-dancer called Lady Mary.

dient to mend the breed, and rectify the physiognomy of the family on both sides. And again, as she is a lady of a very fluent elocution, you need not fear that your child will be born dumb, which otherwise you might have some reason to be apprehensive of. To be plain with you, I can see nothing shocking in it; for though she has not a face like a job-apple, yet as a late friend of mine, who at sixty-five ventured on a law of fifteen, very frequently, in the remaining five years of his life, gave me to understand, that as old as he then seemed, when they were first married he and his spouse could make but fourscore; so may madam Hecatom very justly allege hereafter, that as long-lived as she may then be thought, upon their wedding-day Mr. Spectator and she had but half an ell of face betwixt them; and this my worthy predecessor, Mr. Serjeant Chin, always maintained to be no more than the true oval proportion between man and wife. But as this may be a new thing to you, who have hitherto had no expectations from women, I shall allow you what time you think fit to consider on it; not without some hope of seeing at last your thoughts herupon subjoined to mine, and which is an honour much desired by,

SIR,
 'Your assured friend,
 'and most humble servant,
 'HUGH GOSWY, Printer.'

The following letter has not much in it: but, as it is written in my own praise, I cannot for my heart suppress it.

SIR,
 'You proposed in your Spectator of last Tuesday*, Mr. Hobbes's hypothesis for solving that very old phenomenon of laughter. You have made the hypothesis valuable by espousing it yourself; for had it continued Mr. Hobbes's nobody would have minded it. Now here this perplexed case arises. A certain company laughed very heartily upon the reading of that very paper of yours; and the truth on it is, he must be a man of more than ordinary constancy that could stand out against so much comedy, and not do as we did. Now there are few men in the world so far lost to all good sense, as to look upon you to be a man in a state of folly "inferior to himself." Pray then how do you justify your hypothesis of laughter?

'Your most humble,
 'Q. R.'

'Thursday, the 26th of the month of fools.'

SIR,
 'In answer to your letter, I must desire you to recollect yourself; and you will find, that when you did me the honour to be so merry over my paper, you laughed at the idiot, the German courtier, the gaper, the merry-andrew, the haberdasher, the biter, the butt, and not at

'Your humble servant,
 'THE SPECTATOR.'
 E.

STEEL.

Nº 53. TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1711.

— *Aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus.*
 HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 399.
 Homer himself hath been observed to nod.
 ROSCOMMON.

My correspondents grow so numerous, that I cannot avoid frequently inserting their applications to me.

* See Nº 47.

'MR. SPECTATOR.

'I AM glad I can inform you, that your endeavours to adorn that sex, which is the fairest part of the visible creation, are well received, and like to prove not unsuccessful. The triumph of Daphne over her sister Lærtitia* has been the subject of conversation at several tea-tables where I have been present; and I have observed the fair circle not a little pleased to find you considering them as reasonable creatures, and endeavouring to banish that Mahometan custom, which had too much prevailed even in this island, of treating women as if they had no souls. I must do them the justice to say, that there seems to be nothing wanting to the finishing of these lovely pieces of human nature, besides the turning and applying their ambition properly, and the keeping them up to a sense of what is their true merit. Epictetus, that plain honest philosopher, as little as he had of gallantry, appears to have understood them, as well as the polite St. Evremont, and has hit this point very luckily. "When young women," says he, "arrive at a certain age, they hear themselves called Mistresses, and are made to believe, that their only business is to please the men; they immediately begin to dress, and place all their hopes in the adorning of their persons; it is therefore," continues he, "worth the while to endeavour by a I means to make them sensible, that the honour paid to them is only upon account of their conducting themselves with virtue, modesty, and discretion."

'Now to pursue the matter yet further, and to render your care for the improvement of the fair ones more effectual, I would propose a new method, like those applications which are said to convey their virtue by sympathy; and that is, that in order to embellish the mistress, you should give a new education to the lover, and teach the men not to be any longer dazzled by false charms and unreal beauty. I cannot but think that if our sex knew always how to place their esteem justly, the other would not be so often wanting to themselves in deserving it. For as the being enamoured with a woman of sense and virtue is an improvement to a man's understanding and morals, and the passion is ennobled by the object which inspires it; so, on the other side, the appearing amiable to a man of a wise and elegant mind, carries in itself no small degree of merit and accomplishment. I conclude, therefore, that one way to make the women yet more agreeable is, to make the men more virtuous.

'I am, sir,
 'Your most humble servant,
 'R. B.†'

SIR,
 'Yours of Saturday last‡ I read, not without some resentment; but I will suppose when you say you expect an inundation of ribbons and brocades, and to see many new vanities which the women will fall into upon a peace with France, that you intend only the unthinking part of our sex; and what methods can reduce them to reason is hard to imagine.

'But, sir, there are others yet, that your instructions might be of great use to, who, after their best endeavours, are sometimes at a loss to acquit themselves to a censorious world. I am far from thinking you can altogether disapprove of con-

* See Nº 33.

† Hughes. See a preceding letter of his on the same subject, Nº 33.

‡ See Nº 51.

'Cambridge, April 26.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'BELIEVING you to be an universal encourager of liberal arts and sciences, and glad of any information from the learned world, I thought an account of a sect of philosophers, very frequent among us, but not taken notice of, as far as I can remember, by any writers, either ancient or modern, would not be unacceptable to you. The philosophers of this sect are in the language of our university called *Loungers*. I am of opinion, that, as in many other things, so likewise in this, the ancients have been defective; viz. in mentioning no philosophers of this sort. Some indeed will affirm that they are a kind of *Peripatetics*, because we see them continually walking about. But I would have these gentlemen consider, that though the ancient *Peripatetics* walked much, yet they wrote much also; witness, to the sorrow of this sect, Aristotle and others; whereas it is notorious that most of our professors never lay out a farthing either in pen, ink, or paper. Others are for deriving them from *Diogenes*, because several of the leading men of the sect have a great deal of cynical humour in them, and delight much in sunshine. But then, again, *Diogenes* was content to have his constant habitation in a narrow tub, whilst our philosophers are so far from being of his opinion, that it is death to them to be confined within the limits of a good handsome convenient chamber but for half an hour. Others there are, who from the clearness of their heads deduce the pedigree of *Loungers* from that great man (I think it was either Plato or Socrates) who, after all his study and learning, professed, that all he then knew was, that he knew nothing. You easily see this is but a shallow argument, and may be soon confuted.

'I have with great pains and industry made my observations, from time to time, upon these sages; and, having now all materials ready, am compiling a treatise, wherein I shall set forth the rise and progress of this famous sect, together with their maxims, austerities, manner of living, &c. Having prevailed with a friend who designs shortly to publish a new edition of *Diogenes Laertius*, to add this treatise of mine by way of supplement; I shall now, to let the world see what may be expected from me (first begging Mr. Spectator's leave that the world may see it) briefly touch upon some of my chief observations, and then subscribe myself your humble servant. In the first place I shall give you two or three of their maxims; the fundamental one, upon which their whole system is built, is this, viz. "That time being an implacable enemy to, and destroyer of all things, ought to be paid in his own coin, and be destroyed and murdered without mercy, by all the ways that can be invented." Another favourite saying of theirs is, "That business was only designed for knaves, and study for blockheads." A third seems to be a ludicrous one, but has a great effect upon their lives; and is this, "That the devil is at home." Now for their manner of living: and here I have a large field to expatiate in; but I shall reserve particulars for my intended discourse, and now only mention one or two of their principal exercises. The elder proficients employ themselves in inspecting *mores hominum multorum*, in getting acquainted with all the signs and windows in the town. Some are arrived to so great knowledge, that they can tell every time any butcher kills a calf, every time an old woman's cat is in the straw; and a thousand other matters

as important. One ancient philosopher contem- plates two or three hours every day over a sun- dial; and is true to the dial,

—"As the dial to the sun,
Although it be not shone upon."

Our young students are content to carry their speculations as yet no further than bowling-greens, billiard-tables, and such like places. This may serve for a sketch of my design; in which I hope I shall have your encouragement.

'I am, sir, yours.'

I must be so just as to observe, I have formerly seen of this sect at our other university; though not distinguished by the appellation which the learned historian, my correspondent, reports they bear at Cambridge. They were ever looked upon as a people that impaired themselves more by their strict application to the rules of their order, than any other students whatever. Others seldom hurt themselves any further than to gain weak eyes, and sometimes headaches; but these philosophers are seized all over with a general inability, indolence, and weariness, and a certain impatience of the place they are in, with an heaviness in removing to another.

The *Loungers* are satisfied with being merely part of the number of mankind, without distinguishing themselves from amongst them. They may be said rather to suffer their time to pass, than to spend it, without regard to the past, or prospect of the future. All they know of life is only the present instant, and do not taste even that. When one of this order happens to be a man of fortune, the expense of his time is transferred to his coach and horses, and his life is to be measured by their motion, not his own enjoyments or sufferings. The chief entertainment one of these philosophers can possibly propose to himself, is to get a relish of dress. This methinks might diversify the person he is weary of (his own dear self) to himself. I have known these two amusements make one of these philosophers make a tolerable figure in the world with variety of dresses in public assemblies in town, and quick motion of his horses out of it, now to Bath, now to Tunbridge, then to Newmarket and then to London, he has in process of time brought it to pass, that his coach and his horse have been mentioned in all those places. When the *Loungers* leave an academic life, and, instead of this more elegant way of appearing in the polite world, retire to the seats of their ancestors, they usually join a pack of dogs, and employ their day in defending their poultry from foxes: I do not know any other method that any of this order have ever taken to make a noise in the world; but I shall inquire into each about this town as have arrived at the dignity of being *Loungers* by the force of natural parts, without having ever seen an university; and send my correspondent, for the embellishment of his book, the names and history of those who pass their lives without any incidents at all; and how they shift coffee-houses and chocolate houses from hour to hour, to get over the insupportable labour of doing nothing.

STEELE*.

R.

* The letter supposed to be by Euden, afterwards poet laureat.

with groundless apprehensions and prejudices. To this Avarice replied, that he looked upon Plenty (the first minister of his antagonist) to be a much more destructive counsellor than Poverty, for that he was perpetually suggesting pleasures, banishing all the necessary cautions against want, and consequently undermining those principles on which the government of Avarice was founded. At last, in order to an accommodation, they agreed upon this preliminary; that each of them should immediately dismiss his privy-counsellor. When things were thus far adjusted towards a peace, all other differences were soon accommodated, inasmuch that for the future they resolved to live as good friends and confederates, and to share between them whatever conquests were made on either side. For this reason, we now find Luxury and Avarice taking possession of the same heart, and dividing the same person between them. To which I shall only add, that since the discarding of the counsellors above-mentioned, Avarice supplies Luxury in the room of Plenty, as Luxury prompts Avarice in the place of Poverty.

ADDISON.

C

Nº 56. FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1711.

Præca erroris non

LUCAN L. 454.

Happ'y in their mistake.

THE Americans believe that all creatures have souls, not only men and women, but brutes, vegetables, nay even the most inanimate things, as stocks and stones. They believe the same of all the works of art, as of knives, boats, looking-glasses; and that as any of these things perish, their souls go into another world, which is inhabited by the ghosts of men and women. For this reason they always place by the corpse of their dead friend a bow and arrows, that he may make use of the souls of them in the other world, as he did of their wooden bodies in this. How absurd soever such an opinion as this may appear, our European philosophers have maintained several notions altogether as improbable. Some of Plato's followers in particular, when they talk of the world of ideas, entertain us with substances and beings no less extravagant and chimerical. Many Aristotelians have likewise spoken as unintelligibly of their substantial forms. I shall only instance Albertus Magnus, who in his dissertation upon the loadstone observing, that fire will destroy its magnetic virtues, tells us, that he took particular notice of one as it lay glowing amidst a heap of burning coals, and that he perceived a certain blue vapour to arise from it, which he believed might be the substantial form, that is, in our West Indian phrase, the soul of the loadstone.

There is a tradition among the Americans, that one of their countrymen descended in a vision to the great repository of souls, or, as we call it here, to the other world; and that upon his return he gave his friends a distinct account of every thing he saw among those regions of the dead. A friend of mine, whom I have formerly mentioned, prevailed upon one of the interpreters of the Indian kings*, to inquire of them, if possible, what tradition they have among them of this matter; which, as well as he could learn by those many questions which he asked them at several times, was in substance as follows:

The visionary, whose name was Marraton, after having travelled for a long space under an hollow mountain, arrived at length on the confines of this world of spirits, but could not enter it by reason of a thick forest made up of bushes, brambles, an pointed thorns, so perplexed and interwoven with one another, that it was impossible to find a passage through it. Whilst he was looking about for some track or path-way that might be worn in any part of it, he saw a huge lion couched under the side of it, who kept his eye upon him in the same posture as when he watches for his prey. The Indian immediately started back, whilst the lion rose with a spring, and leaped towards him. Being wholly destitute of all other weapons, he stooped down to take up a huge stone in his hand; but to his infinite surprise grasped nothing, and found the supposed stone to be only the apparition of one. If he was disappointed on this side, he was as much pleased on the other, when he found the lion, which had seized on his left shoulder, had no power to hurt him, and was only the ghost of that ravenous creature which it appeared to be. He no sooner got rid of his impotent enemy, but he marched up to the wood, and after having surveyed it for some time, endeavoured to press into one part of it that was a little thinner than the rest; when again, to his great surprise, he found the bushes made no resistance, but that he walked through briars and brambles with the same ease as through the open air; and, in short, that the whole wood was nothing else but a wood of shades. He immediately concluded, that this huge thicket of thorns and brakes was designed as a kind of fence or quick-hedge to the ghosts it enclosed; and that probably their soft substances might be torn by these subtil points and prickles, which were too weak to make any impressions in flesh and blood. With this thought he resolved to travel through this intricate wood; when by degrees he felt a gale of perfume breathing upon him, that grew stronger and sweeter in proportion as he advanced. He had not proceeded much further, when he observed the thorn and briars to end, and give place to a thousand beautiful green trees covered with blossoms of the finest scents and colours, that formed a wilderness of sweets, and were a kind of lining to those rugged scenes which he had before passed through. As he was coming out of this delightful part of the wood, and entering upon the plains it enclosed, he saw several horsemen rushing by him, and a little while after heard the cry of a pack of dogs. He had not listened long before he saw the apparition of a milk-white steed, with a young man on the back of it, advancing upon full stretch after the souls of about an hundred beagles, that were hunting down the ghost of an hare, which ran away before them with an unspeakable swiftness. The man on the milk-white steed came by him, he looked upon him very attentively, and found him to be the young prince Nicharagun, who died about half a year before, and by reason of his great virtues was at that time lamented over all the western parts of America.

He had no sooner got out of the wood, but he was entertained with such a landscape of flower plains, green meadows, running streams, sunny hills, and shady vales, as were not to be represented by his own expressions, nor, as he said, by the conceptions of others. This happy region was people with innumerable swarms of spirits, who applied themselves to exercises and diversions, according as their fancies led them. Some of them were tossing the figure of a colt; others were pitching

* See Nº 50, and Tat. Nº 171.

the shadow of a bar; others were breaking the apparition of a horse; and multitudes employing themselves upon ingenious handicrafts with the tools of departed utensils, for that is the name which in the Indian language they give their tools when they are burnt or broken. As he travelled through this delightful scene, he was very often tempted to pluck the flowers that rose every where about him in the greatest variety and profusion, having never seen several of them in his own country: but he quickly found, that though they were objects of his sight, they were not liable to his touch. He at length came to the side of a great river, and being a good fisherman himself, stood upon the banks of it some time to look upon an angler that had taken a great many shapes of fish, which lay flouncing up and down by him.

I should have told my reader, that this Indian had been formerly married to one of the greatest beauties of his country, by whom he had several children. This couple were so famous for their love and constancy to one another, that the Indians to this day, when they give a married man joy of his wife, wish they may live together like Marraton and Yaratilda. Marraton had not stood long by the fisherman, when he saw the shadow of his beloved Yaratilda, who had for some time fixed her eye upon him, before he discovered her. Her arms were stretched out towards him, floods of tears ran down her eyes: her looks, her hands, her voice called him over to her; and at the same time seemed to tell him that the river was unpassable. Who can describe the passion made up of joy, sorrow, love, desire, astonishment, that rose in the Indian upon the sight of his dear Yaratilda? He could express it by nothing but his tears, which ran like a river down his cheeks as he looked upon her. He had not stood in this posture long, before he plunged into the stream that lay before him; and finding it to be nothing but the phantom of a river, walked on the bottom of it till he arose on the other side. At his approach Yaratilda flew into his arms, whilst Marraton wished himself disencumbered of that body which kept her from his embraces. After many questions and endearments on both sides, she conducted him to a bower which he had dressed with all the ornaments that could be met with in those blooming regions. She had made it gay beyond imagination, and was every day adding something new to it. As Marraton stood astonished at the unspeakable beauty of her habitation, and ravished with the fragrant that came from every part of it, Yaratilda told him that she was preparing this bower for his reception, as well knowing that his piety to his God, and his faithful dealing towards men, would certainly bring him to that happy place, whenever his life should be at an end. She then brought two of her children to him, who died some years before, and resided with her in the same delightful bower; advising him to breed up those others which were still with him in such a manner, that they might hereafter all of them meet together in this happy place.

The tradition tells us further, that he had afterwards a sight of those dismal habitations which are the portion of ill men after death; and mentions several molten seas of gold, in which were plunged the souls of barbarous Europeans, who put to the sword so many thousands of poor Indians for the sake of that precious metal. But having already touched upon the chief points of this tradition, and exceeded the measure of my paper, I shall not give any further account of it.

ADDITION.

C.

N^o 57. SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1711.*Quem prestare potest mulier galeata pudorem,
Qua fugit a seculi?*

JUV. Sat. vi. 251.

What sense of shame in woman's breast can lie,
Inur'd to arms, and her own sex to fly?
DRYDEN.

WHEN the wife of Hector, in Homer's Iliad, dis courses with her husband about the battle in which he was going to engage, the hero, desiring her to leave the matter to his care, bids her go to her maids, and mind her spinning: by which the poet intimates, that men and women ought to busy themselves in their proper spheres, and on such matters only as are suitable to their respective sex.

I am at this time acquainted with a young gentleman, who has passed a great part of his life in the nursery, and upon occasion can make a caudle or a sack posset better than any man in England. He is likewise a wonderful critic in cambrics and muslins, and he will talk an hour together upon a sweetmeat. He entertains his mother every night with observations that he makes both in town and court: as what lady shows the nicest fancy in her dress; what man of quality wears the fairest wig; who has the finest linen, who the prettiest snuff-box, with many other the like curious remarks, that may be made in good company.

On the other hand, I have very frequently the opportunity of seeing a rural Andromache, who came up to town last winter, and is one of the greatest fox-hunters in the country. She talks of bounds and horses, and makes nothing of leaping over a six-bar gate. If a man tells her a waggish story, she gives him a push with her hand in jest, and calls him an impudent dog; and if her servant neglects his business, threatens to kick him out of the house. I have heard her in her wrath call a substantial tradesman a lousy cur; and remember one day, when she could not think of the name of a person, she described him, in a large company of men and ladies, by the fellow with the broad shoulders.

If those speeches and actions, which in their own nature are indifferent, appear ridiculous when they proceed from a wrong sex, the faults and imperfections of one sex transplanted into another, appear black and monstrous. As for the men, I shall not in this paper any further concern myself about them; but as I would fain contribute to make womankind, which is the most beautiful part of the creation, entirely amiable, and wear out all those little spots and blemishes, that are apt to rise among the charms which nature has poured out upon them, I shall dedicate this paper to their service. The spot which I would here endeavour to clear them of, is that party rage which of late years is very much crept into their conversation. This is, in its nature, a male vice, and made up of many angry and cruel passions that are altogether repugnant to the softness, the modesty, and those other endearing qualities which are natural to the fair sex. Women were formed to temper mankind, and soothe them into tenderness and compassion; not to set an edge upon their minds, and blow up in them those passions which are too apt to rise of their own accord. When I have seen a pretty mouth uttering calumnies and invectives, what would I not have given to have stopt it? How I have been troubled to see some of the finest features in

the world grow pale, and tremble with party rage. Camilla is one of the greatest beauties in the British nation, and yet values herself more upon being the virago of one party, than upon being the toast of both. The dear creature, about a week ago, encountered the fierce and beautiful Penthesilea across a tea-table; but, in the height of her anger, as her hand chanced to shake with the earnestness of the dispute, she scalded her fingers, and spilt a dish of tea upon her petticoat. Had not this accident broke off the debate, no body knows where it would have ended.

There is one consideration which I would earnestly recommend to all my female readers, and which I hope will have some weight with them. In short, it is this, that there is nothing so bad for the face as party zeal. It gives an ill-natured cast to the eye, and a disagreeable sourness to the look; besides that it makes the lines too strong, and flushes them worse than brandy. I have seen a woman's face break out in heats, as she has been talking against a great lord, whom she had never seen in her life; and indeed I never knew a party-woman that kept her beauty for a twelvemonth. I would therefore advise all my female readers, as they value their complexions, to let alone all disputes of this nature; though, at the same time, I would give free liberty to all superannuated motherly partizans to be as violent as they please, since there will be no danger either of their spoiling their faces, or of their gaining converts.

For my own part, I think a man makes an odious and despicable figure, that is violent in a party; but a woman is too sincere to mitigate the fury of her principles with temper and discretion, and to act with that temper and reservedness which are requisite in our sex. When this unnatural zeal gets into them, it throws them into ten thousand heats and extravagancies; their generous souls set no bounds to their love, or to their hatred, and whether a whig or tory, a lap-dog or a gallant, an opera or a puppet-show, be the object of it, the passion, while it reigns, engrosses the whole woman.

I remember when Dr. Titus Oates* was in all his glory, I accompanied my friend Will Honeycomb in a visit to a lady of his acquaintance. We were no sooner sat down, but upon casting my eyes about the room, I found in almost every corner of it a print that represented the doctor in all magnitudes and dimensions. A little after, as the lady was discoursing my friend, and held her snuff-box in her hand, who should I see in the lid of it but the doctor. It was not long after this when she had occasion for her handkerchief, which, upon first opening, discovered among the plaits of it the figure of the doctor. Upon this my friend Will, who loves raillery, told her, that if he was in Mr. Truelove's place (for that was the name of her husband) he should be made as uneasy by a handkerchief as ever Othello was. 'I am afraid,' said she, 'Mr. Honeycomb, you are a tory; tell me truly, are you a friend to the doctor or not?' Will, instead of making her a reply, smiled in her face (for indeed she was very pretty), and told her that one of her patches was dropping off. She immediately adjusted it, and looking a little seriously, 'Well,' says she, 'I will be hanged if you and your silent friend are not against the doctor in your hearts: I suspected as much by his saying nothing.' Upon this she took her fan into her hand, and, upon the opening of it, again displayed to us the

figure of the doctor, who was placed with great gravity among the sticks of it. In a word, I found that the doctor had taken possession of her thoughts, her discourse, and most of her furniture; but finding myself pressed too close by her question, I winked upon my friend to take his leave, which he did accordingly.

ADDITION.

C.

Nº 58. MONDAY, MAY 7, 1711.

Ut pictura, poesis erit.
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 361.

Poems like pictures are.

Nothing is so much admired, and so little understood, as wit. No author that I know of has written professedly upon it; and as for those who make any mention of it, they only treat on the subject as it has accidentally fallen in their way, and that too in little short reflections, or in general exclamatory flourishes, without entering into the bottom of the matter. I hope therefore I shall perform an acceptable work to my countrymen, if I treat at large upon this subject; which I shall endeavour to do in a manner suitable to it, that I may not incur the censure which a famous critic bestows upon one who had written a treatise on 'the sublime,' in a low grovelling style. I intend to lay aside a whole week for this undertaking, that the scheme of my thoughts may not be broken and interrupted; and I dare promise myself, if my readers will give me a week's attention, that this great city will be very much changed for the better by next Saturday night. I shall endeavour to make what I say intelligible to ordinary capacities; but if my readers meet with any paper that in some parts of it may be a little out of their reach, I would not have them discouraged, for they may assure themselves the next shall be much clearer.

As the great and only end of these my speculations is to banish vice and ignorance out of the territories of Great Britain, I shall endeavour as much as possible to establish among us a taste of polite writing. It is with this view that I have endeavoured to set my readers right in several points relating to operas and tragedies; and shall from time to time impart my notions of comedy, as I think they may tend to its refinement and perfection. I find by my bookseller, that these papers of criticism, with that upon humour, have met with a more kind reception than indeed I could have hoped for from such subjects; for this reason I shall enter upon my present undertaking with greater cheerfulness.

In this, and one or two following papers, I shall trace out the history of false wit, and distinguish the several kinds of it as they have prevailed in different ages of the world. This I think the more necessary at present, because I observed there were attempts on foot last winter to revive some of those antiquated modes of wit, that have been long exploded out of the commonwealth of letters. There were several satires and panegyrics handed about in acrostic, by which means some of the most arrant undisputed blockheads about the town began to entertain ambitious thoughts, and to set up for polite authors. I shall therefore describe at length those many arts of false wit, in which a writer does not show himself a man of a beautiful genius, but of great industry.

The first species of false wit which I have met with is very venerable for its antiquity, and has

* Dr. Sacheverell is understood to be the person really alluded to.

produced several pieces which have lived very near as long as the *Iliad* itself: I mean those short poems printed among the minor Greek poets, which resemble the figure of an egg, a pair of wings, an *ax*, a shepherd's pipe, and an altar.

As for the first, it is a little oval poem, and may not improperly be called a scholar's egg. I would endeavour to hatch it, or, in more intelligible language, to translate it into English, did not I find the interpretation of it very difficult; for the author seems to have been more intent upon the figure of his poem than upon the sense of it.

The pair of wings consist of twelve verses, or rather feathers, every verse decreasing gradually in its measure according to its situation in the wing. The subject of it (as in the rest of the poems which follow) bears some remote affinity with the figure, for it describes a god of love, who is always painted with wings.

The *ax* methinks would have been a good figure for a lampoon, had the edge of it consisted of the most satirical parts of the work; but as it is in the original, I take it to have been nothing else but the posy of an *ax* which was consecrated to *Misery*, and was thought to have been the same that *Ereus* made use of in the building of the Trojan horse; which is a hint I shall leave to the consideration of the critics. I am apt to think that the posy was written originally upon the *ax*, and these which our modern cutlers inscribe upon their knives; and that therefore the posy still remains in its ancient shape, though the *ax* itself is lost.

The shepherd's pipe may be said to be full of music, for it is composed of nine different kinds of verse, which by their several lengths resemble the nine stops of the old musical instrument, that is likewise the subject of the poem.

The altar is inscribed with the epitaph of *Troilus* the son of *Hecuba*; which, by the way, makes me believe, that these false pieces of wit are much more ancient than the authors to whom they are generally ascribed; at least I will never be persuaded, that so fine a writer as *Theocritus* could have been the author of any such simple works.

It was impossible for a man to succeed in these performances who was not a kind of painter, or at least a designer. He was first of all to draw the outline of the subject which he intended to write upon, and afterwards conform the description to the figure of his subject. The poetry was to contract or dilate itself according to the mould in which it was cast. In a word, the verses were to be cramped or extended to the dimensions of the frame that was prepared for them; and to undergo the fate of those persons whom the tyrant *Procrustes* used to lodge in his iron bed; if they were too short, he stretched them on a rack; and if they were too long, chopped off a part of their legs, till they fitted the couch which he had prepared for them.

Mr. Dryden hints at this obsolete kind of wit in one of the following verses in his *Mac Fleckno*; which an English reader cannot understand, who does not know that there are those little poems above mentioned in the shape of wings and altars:

Choose for thy command
Some peaceful province in *Acrostic Land*;
There may'st thou wings display, and altars raise,
And torture one poor word a thousand ways.

This fashion of false wit was revived by several poets of the last age, and in particular may be met with among Mr. Herbert's poems; and if I am not

mistaken, in the translation of *Du Bartas*. I do not remember any other kind of work among the moderns which more resembles the performances I have mentioned, than that famous picture of King Charles the First, which has the whole book of psalms written in the lines of the face, and the hair of the head. When I was last at Oxford I perused one of the whiskers, and was reading the other, but could not go so far in it as I would have done, by reason of the impatience of my friends and fellow-travellers, who all of them pressed to see such a piece of curiosity. I have since heard, that there is now an eminent writing-master in town, who has transcribed all the Old Testament in a full-bottomed periwig; and if the fashion should introduce the thick kind of wig, which were in vogue some few years ago, he promises to add two or three supernumerary locks that should contain all the Apocrypha. He designed this wig originally for King William, having disposed of the two books of Kings in the two forks of the fore-top; but that glorious monarch dying before the wig was finished, there is a space left in it for the face of any one that has a mind to purchase it.

But to return to our ancient poems in picture. I would humbly propose, for the benefit of our modern smatterers in poetry, that they would imitate their brethren among the ancients in those ingenious devices. I have communicated this thought to a young poetical lover of my acquaintance, who intends to present his mistress with a copy of verses made in the shape of her fan; and, if he tells me true, has already finished the three first sticks of it. He has likewise promised me to get the measure of his mistress's marriage-finger, with a design to make a posy in the fashion of a ring, which shall exactly fit it. It is so very easy to enlarge upon a good hint, that I do not question but my ingenious readers will apply what I have said to many other particulars: and that we shall see the town filled in a very little time with poetical tip-pets, handkerchiefs, snuff-boxes, and the like female ornaments. I shall therefore conclude with a word of advice to those admirable English authors who call themselves *Pindaric* writers, that they would apply themselves to this kind of wit without loss of time, as being provided better than any other poets with verses of all sizes and dimensions.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 59. TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1711.

Operose nihil agunt.

SENeca.

Busy about nothing.

THERE is nothing more certain than that every man would be a wit if he could; and notwithstanding pedants of a pretended depth and solidity are apt to decry the writings of a polite author, as flash and froth, they all of them show, upon occasion, that they would spare no pains to arrive at the character of those whom they seem to despise. For this reason we often find them endeavouring at works of fancy, which cost them infinite pangs in the production. The truth of it is, a man had better be a galley-slave than a wit, were one to gain that title by those elaborate trifles which have been the inventions of such authors as were often masters of great learning, but no genius.

In my last paper I mentioned some of these false wits among the ancients, and in this shall give

the reader two or three other species of them, that flourished in the same early ages of the world. The first I shall produce are the lipogrammatists or letter-droppers of antiquity, that would take an exception, without any reason, against some particular letter in the alphabet, so as not to admit it once into a whole poem. One Tryphiodorus was a great master in this kind of writing. He composed an *Odyssey* or epic poem on the adventures of Ulysses, consisting of four and twenty books, having entirely banished the letter *A* from his first book, which was called *Alpha* (as *lucus à non lucendo*) because there was not an *alpha* in it. His second book was inscribed *Beta* for the same reason. In short, the poet excluded the whole four and twenty letters in their turns, and showed them, one after another, that he could do his business without them.

It must have been very pleasant to have seen this poet avoiding the reprobate letter, as much as another would a false quantity, and making his escape from it through the several Greek dialects, when he was pressed with it in any particular syllable. For the most apt and elegant word in the whole language was rejected, like a diamond with a flaw in it, if it appeared blemished with a wrong letter. I shall only observe upon this head, that if the work I have here mentioned had been now extant, the *Odyssey* of Tryphiodorus, in all probability, would have been oftener quoted by our learned pedants, than the *Odyssey* of Homer. What a perpetual fund would it have been of obsolete words and phrases, unusual barbarisms and rusticities, absurd spellings, and complicated dialects? I make no question but it would have been looked upon as one of the most valuable treasures of the Greek tongue.

I find likewise among the ancients that ingenious kind of conceit, which the moderns distinguish by the name of a rebus, that does not sink a letter, but a whole word, by substituting a picture in its place. When *Cæsar* was one of the masters of the Roman mint, he placed the figure of an elephant upon the reverse of the public money; the word *Cæsar* signifying an elephant in the Punic language. This was artificially contrived by *Cæsar*, because it was not lawful for a private man to stamp his own figure upon the coin of the commonwealth. *Cicero*, who was so called from the founder of his family, that was marked on the nose with a little wen like a vetch (which is *clover* in Latin), instead of *Marcus Tullius Cicero*, ordered the words *Marcus Tullius*, with a figure of a vetch at the end of them, to be inscribed on a public monument. This was done probably to show that he was neither ashamed of his name or family, notwithstanding the envy of his competitors had often reproached him with both. In the same manner we read of a famous building that was marked in several parts of it with the figures of a frog and a lizard; those words in Greek having been the names of the architects, who by the laws of their country were never permitted to inscribe their own names upon their works. For the same reason it is thought, that the forelock of the horse in the antique equestrian statue of *Marcus Aurelius*, represents at a distance the shape of an owl, to intimate the country of the statuary, who, in all probability, was an Athenian. This kind of wit was very much in vogue among our own countrymen about an age or two ago, who did not practise it for any oblique reason, as the ancients above-mentioned, but purely for the sake of being witty. Among innumerable instances that may be given

of this nature, I shall produce the device of *Mr. Newberry*, as I find it mentioned by our learned *Camden* in his *Remains*. *Mr. Newberry* to represent his name by a picture, hung up at the door the sign of a yew-tree, that had several berries upon it, and in the midst of them a golden *N* hung upon a bough of the tree, which by the help of a little false spelling made up the word *New-berry*.

I shall conclude this topic with a rebus, which has been lately hewn out in freestone, and erected over two of the portals of *Blenheim House*, being the figure of a monstrous lion tearing to pieces a little cock. For the better understanding of this device, I must acquaint my English reader, that cock has the misfortune to be called in Latin the same word that signifies a Frenchman, as lion is the emblem of the English nation. Such a device in so noble a pile of building, looks like a pun in an heroic poem; and I am very sorry that truly ingenious architect would suffer the statue to blemish his excellent plan with so poor a conceit. But I hope what I have said will gain quarter for the cock, and deliver him out of the lion's paw.

I find likewise in ancient times the conceit of making an echo talk sensibly, and give rational answers. If this could be excusable in any writer it would be in *Ovid*, where he introduces the echo as a nymph, before she was worn away into nothing but a voice. The learned *Erasmus*, though a man of wit and genius, has composed a dialogue upon this silly kind of device, and made use of an echo who seems to have been a very extraordinary linguist, for she answers the person she talks with in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, according as she found the syllables which she was to repeat in any of those learned languages. *Hudibras*, in ridicule of this false kind of wit, has described *Brain* bewailing the loss of his bear to a solitary echo, who is of great use to the poet in several distiches, as she does not only repeat after him, but helps out his verse, and furnishes him with rhymes:

'He rag'd, and kept as heavy a coil as
Stout Hercules for loss of Hylas;
Forcing the vallies to repeat
The accents of his sad regret.
He beat his breast, and tore his hair,
For loss of his dear crosby bear,
That Echo from the hollow ground
His doleful wallings did resound
More wistfully, by many times,
Than in small poets, splay-foot rhymes,
That make her, in their foolish stories,
To answer to interrogatories,
And most unconscionably depose
To things of which she nothing knows;
And when she has said all she can say,
'Tis wrested to the lover's fancy.
Quoth he, O whither, wicked Brain,
Art thou fled to my—Echo, run!
I thought th' hadst scorn'd to budge a step
For fear. (Quoth Echo) Merry guss.
Am I not here to take thy part?
Then what has quail'd thy stubborn heart?
Have these bones rattled, and this head
So often in thy quarrel bled?
Nor did I ever winch or grudge it,
For thy dear sake. (Quoth she) Adam budget.
Think'st thou 'twill not be laid i' th' dish,
Thou turn'st thy back? (Quoth Echo) plish.
To run from those th' hadst overcome
Thou cowardly! (Quoth Echo) mums.
But what a vengeance makes thee fly
From me too as thine enemy?
Or if thou hast no thought of me,
Nor what I have endur'd for thee;
Yet shame and honour might prevail
To keep thee thus from turning tail:
For who would grudge to spend his blood in
His honour's cause? (Quoth she) a piddling.

ADDITION.

N^o 60. WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1711.

Ille et quod polles? Cur quis non prondent, hoc est?
PERS. Sat. iii. 85.

Is it for this you gain those meagre looks,
And sacrifice your dinner to your books?

SEVERAL kinds of false wit that vanished in the
rised ages of the world, discovered themselves
again in the times of monkish ignorance.

At the monks were the masters of all that little
learning which was then extant, and had their
lives entirely disengaged from business, it is
no wonder that several of them, who wanted ge-
nerally for higher performances, employed many hours
in the composition of such tricks in writing, as
required much time and little capacity. I have
seen half the *Æneid* turned into Latin rhymes by
one of the beaux esprits of that dark age; who
in his preface to it, that the *Æneid* wanted
nothing but the sweets of rhyme to make it the
most perfect work in its kind. I have likewise
seen an hymn in hexameters to the Virgin Mary,
which filled a whole book, though it consisted but
of the eight following words:

Tu, tibi, ment, Virgo, dotes, quot, sidera, calo.

Thou hast as many virtues, O Virgin, as there are stars
in heaven.

The poet rung the changes upon these eight several
words, and by that means made his verses almost
as numerous as the virtues and the stars which they
celebrated. It is no wonder that men who had so
much time upon their hands did not only restore
all the antiquated pieces of false wit, but enriched
the world with inventions of their own. It was to
this age that we owe the production of anagrams,
which is nothing else but a transmutation of one
word into another, or the turning of the same set
of letters into different words: which may change
right into day, or black into white, if Chance, who
is the goddess that presides over these sorts of
composition, shall so direct. I remember a witty
author, in allusion to this kind of writing, calls his
style, who (it seems) was distorted, and had his
words set in places that did not properly belong to
them, 'the anagram of a man.'

When the anagrammatist takes a name to work
upon, he considers it at first as a mine not broken
open, which will not show the treasure it contains,
and he shall have spent many hours in the search of
it; for it is his business to find out one word that
conceals itself in another, and to examine the
letters in all the variety of stations in which they
can possibly be ranged. I have heard of a gentle-
man who, when this kind of wit was in fashion,
endeavoured to gain his mistress's heart by it. She
was one of the finest women of her age, and known
by the name of the Lady Mary Boon. The lover
was being able to make any thing of Mary, by
certain liberties indulged to this kind of writing,
converted it into Moll; and after having spent him-
self up for half a year, with indefatigable industry
produced an anagram. Upon the presenting it to
his mistress, who was a little vexed in her heart to
see herself degraded into Moll Boon, she told him,
to his infinite surprise, that he had mistaken her
name, for that it was not Boon, but Bohn.

*Ibi omnia
Effusus labor*

The lover was thunder-struck with his misfortune,
and such that in a little time after he lost his

senses, which indeed had been very much impaired
by that continual application he had given to his
anagram.

The acrostic was probably invented about the
same time with the anagram, though it is impos-
sible to decide whether the inventor of the one or
the other were the greater blockhead. The simple
acrostic is nothing but the name or title of a per-
son, or thing, made out of the initial letters of
several verses, and by that means written, after
the manner of the Chinese, in a perpendicular line.
But besides these there are compound acrostics,
when the principal letters stand two or three deep.
I have seen some of them where the verses have
not only been edged by a name at each extre-
mity, but have had the same name running down
like a seam through the middle of the poem.

There is another near relation of the anagrams
and acrostics, which is commonly called a chrono-
gram. This kind of wit appears very often on
many modern medals, especially those of Germany,
when they represent in the inscription the year
in which they were coined. Thus we see on a
medal of Gustavus Adolphus the following words,
CHRISTVS DUX REGO TRIVMPHVS. If you take
the pains to pick the figures out of the several
words, and range them in their proper order, you
will find they amount to MDCXXVII, or 1627, the
year in which the medal was stamped: for as
some of the letters distinguish themselves from the
rest, and overtop their fellows, they are to be con-
sidered in a double capacity, both as letters and
as figures. Your laborious German wits will turn
over a whole dictionary for one of these ingenious
devices. A man would think they were searching
after an apt classical term, but instead of that they
are looking out a word that has an L, an M, or a
D in it. When therefore we meet with any of
these inscriptions, we are not so much to look in
them for the thought, as for the year of the Lord.

The bouts-rimez were the favourites of the French
nation for a whole age together, and that at a time
when it abounded in wit and learning. They were
a list of words that rhyme to one another, drawn
up by another hand, and given to a poet, who was
to make a poem to the rhymes in the same order
that they were placed upon the list: the more un-
common the rhymes were, the more extraordinary
was the genius of the poet that could accommo-
date his verses to them. I do not know any
greater instance of the decay of wit and learning
among the French (which generally follows the
declension of empire) than the endeavouring to
restore this foolish kind of wit. If the reader will
be at the trouble to see examples of it, let him
look into the new *Mercurie Gallant*; where the
author every month gives a list of rhymes to be
filled up by the ingenious, in order to be commu-
nicated to the public in the *Mercurie* for the suc-
ceeding month. That for the month of November
last, which now lies before me, is as follows:

.....	Lauriers
.....	Guerriers
.....	Musette
.....	Lisette
.....	Césars
.....	Etendars
.....	Houlette
.....	Folette

One would be amazed to see so learned a man as
Menage talking seriously on this kind of trifle in
the following passage:

'Monsieur de la Chambre has told me, that he never knew what he was going to write when he took his pen into his hand; but that one sentence always produced another. For my own part, I never knew what I should write next when I was making verses. In the first place I got all my rhymes together, and was afterwards perhaps three or four months in filling them up. I one day showed Monsieur Gombaud a composition of this nature, in which, among others, I had made use of the four following rhymes, Amaryllis, Phyllis, Marne, Arne; desiring him to give me his opinion of it. He told me immediately, that my verses were good for nothing. And upon my asking his reason, he said, because the rhymes are too common; and for that reason easy to be put into verse. "Marry," says I, "if it be so, I am very well rewarded for all the pains I have been at." But by Monsieur Gombaud's leave, notwithstanding the severity of the criticism, the verses were good.' Vid. Menagiana. Thus far the learned Menage, whom I have translated word for word.

The first occasion of these bouts-rimez made them in some manner excusable, as they were tasks which the French ladies used to impose on their lovers. But when a grave author, like him above mentioned, tasked himself, could there be any thing more ridiculous? Or would not one be apt to believe that the author played booty, and did not make his list of rhymes till he had finished his poem?

I shall only add, that this piece of false wit has been finely ridiculed by Monsieur Sarasin, in a poem entitled, *La D faite des Bouts-Rimez*, *The Rout of the Bouts-Rimez*.

I must subjoin to this last kind of wit the double rhymes, which are used in doggerel poetry, and generally applauded by ignorant readers. If the thought of the couplet in such compositions is good, the rhyme adds little to it; and if bad, it will not be in the power of the rhyme to recommend it. I am afraid that great numbers of those who admire the incomparable Hudibras, do it more on account of these doggerel rhymes than of the parts that really deserve admiration. I am sure I have heard the

'Pulpit, drum ecclesiastic,
Was beat with fist, instead of a stick;'

and

'There was an ancient sage philosopher
Who had read Alexander Ross over,'

more frequently quoted, than the finest pieces of wit in the whole poem.

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 61. THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1711.

*Non equidem hoc studeo, bullatq; ut mihi mugis,
Pagina turgescat, dare pondus idoneo fumo.*
PERS. Sat. v. 19.

'Tis not indeed my talent to engage
In lofty trifles, or to swell my page
With wind and noise.

DRYDEN.

THERE is no kind of false wit which has been so recommended by the practice of all ages, as that which consists in a jingle of words, and is comprehended under the general name of punning. It is indeed impossible to kill a weed, which the soil has a natural disposition to produce. The seeds of punning are in the minds of all men; and though they may be subdued by reason, reflection, and good

sense, they will be very apt to shoot up in the greatest genius that is not broken and cultivated by the rules of art. Imitation is natural to us, and when it does not raise the mind to poetry, painting, music, or other more noble arts, it often breaks out in puns and quibbles.

Aristotle, in the eleventh chapter of his book of rhetoric, describes two or three kinds of puns, which he calls paragrams, among the beauties of good writing, and produces instances of them out of some of the greatest authors in the Greek tongue. Cicero has sprinkled several of his works with puns, and in his book where he lays down the rules of oratory, quotes abundance of sayings as pieces of wit, which also upon examination prove arrant puns. But the age in which the pun chiefly flourished, was in the reign of king James the First. That learned monarch was himself a tolerable punster, and made very few bishops or privy-counsellors that had not sometime or other signalized themselves by a clinch, or a conundrum. It was therefore in this age that the pun appeared with pomp and dignity. It had before been admitted into merry speeches and ludicrous compositions, but was now delivered with great gravity from the pulpit, or pronounced in the most solemn manner at the council-table. The greatest authors, in the most serious works, made frequent use of puns. The sermons of Bishop Andrews, and the tragedies of Shakspeare, are full of them. The sinner was punned into repentance by the former, as in the latter nothing is more usual than to see a heavy weeping and quibbling for a dozen lines together.

I must add to these great authorities, which seem to have given a kind of sanction to this piece of false wit, that all the writers of rhetoric have treated of punning with very great respect, and divided the several kinds of it into hard names that are reckoned among the figures of speech, and recommended as ornaments in discourse. I remember a country schoolmaster of my acquaintance told me once, that he had been in company with a gentleman whom he looked upon to be the greatest paragrammatist among the moderns. Upon inquiry, I found my learned friend had dined the day with Mr. Swan, the famous punster; and desiring him to give me some account of Mr. Swan's conversation, he told me that he generally talked in the *Paranomasia*, that he sometimes gave into the *Ploce*, but that in his humble opinion he shined most in the *Antanaclastis*.

I must not here omit, that a famous university in this land was formerly very much infested with puns; but whether or no this might not arise from the fens and marshes in which it was situated, and which are now drained, I must leave to the determination of more skilful naturalists.

After this short history of punning, one would wonder how it should be so entirely banished out of the learned world as it is at present, especially since it had found a place in the writings of the most ancient polite authors. To account for this we must consider, that the first race of authors who were the great heroes in writing, were destitute of all rules and arts of criticism; and for this reason, though they excel later writers in greatness of genius, they fall short of them in accuracy and correctness. The moderns cannot reach the beauties, but can avoid their imperfections. When the world was furnished with these authors of the first eminence, there grew up another set of writers, who gained themselves a reputation by the remarks which they made on the works of those who preceded them. It was one of the employ-

ments of these secondary authors, to distinguish the several kinds of wit by terms of art, and to consider them as more or less perfect, according as they were founded in truth. It is no wonder, therefore, that even such authors as Isocrates, Plato, and Cicero, should have such little blemishes as are not to be met with in authors of a much inferior character who have written since those several blemishes were discovered. I do not find that there was a proper separation made between puns and true wit by any of the ancient authors, except Quintilian and Longinus. But when this distinction was once settled, it was very natural for all men of sense to agree in it. As for the revival of the false wit, it happened about the time of the revival of letters; but as soon as it was once detected, it immediately vanished and disappeared. At the same time there is no question, but as it is sunk in one age and rose in another, it will again recover itself in some distant period of time, and poverty and ignorance shall prevail upon wit and sense. And, to speak the truth, I do very much apprehend, by some of the last winter's productions, which had their sets of admirers, that our country will, in a few years, degenerate into a race of punsters: at least, a man may be very excusable for any apprehensions of this kind, that he sees acrostics handed about the town with great secrecy and applause; to which I must also add a little epigram called the *Witches' Prayer*, that fell into verse when it was read either backward or forward, excepting only that it cursed the way and blessed the other. When one sees there are actually such pains-takers among our British wits, who can tell what it may end in? If we must lash one another, let it be with the manly strokes of wit and satire; for I am of the old philosopher's opinion, that if I must suffer from one or the other, I would rather it should be from the paw of a lion, than the hoof of an ass. I do not speak this out of any spirit of party. There is a most crying dulceness on both sides. I have seen very acrostics and whig anagrams, and do not quarrel with either of them, because they are witty, or torious, but because they are anagrams and acrostics.

But to return to punning. Having pursued the history of a pun, from its original to its downfall, I shall here decline it to be a conceit arising from the use of two words that agree in the sound, but differ in the sense. The only way, therefore, to give a piece of wit, is to translate it into a different language. If it bears the test, you may pronounce it true; but if it vanishes in the experiment, you may conclude it to have been a pun. In short, one may say of a pun, as the countryman described his nightingale, that it is '*vox et præterea nihil*,' 'a sound and nothing but a sound.' On the contrary, one may represent true wit by the description which Aristænetus makes of a fine woman; when she is dressed she is beautiful, when she is undressed she is beautiful; or, as Mercerus has translated it more emphatically, '*Induitur, loquens est: eruditur, ipse forma est*.'*

ADAMSON.

C.

* How beautiful she looks when dress'd!
But view her freed from this disguise,
Strip'd of th' unnecessary vest....

To Beauty's self before your eyes.

Nº 62. FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1711.

Scribendi recte, sapere est et principium et fons.
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 309.

Sound judgment is the ground of writing well
BOSCOMMON.

Mr. LOCKE has an admirable reflection upon the difference of wit and judgment, whereby he endeavours to show the reason why they are not always the talents of the same person. His words are as follow: 'And hence, perhaps, may be given some reason of that common observation, "That men who have a great deal of wit, and prompt memories, have not always the clearest judgment; or deepest reason." For wit lying most in the assemblage of ideas, and putting those together with quickness and variety wherein can be found any resemblance or congruity, thereby to make up pleasant pictures, and agreeable visions in the fancy; judgment, on the contrary, lies quite on the other side, in separating carefully one from another, ideas wherein can be found the least difference, thereby to avoid being misled by similitude, and by affinity to take one thing for another. This is a way of proceeding quite contrary to metaphor and allusion; wherein, for the most part, lies that entertainment and pleasantry of wit, which strikes so lively on the fancy, and is therefore so acceptable to all people.'

This is, I think, the best and most philosophical account that I have ever met with of wit, which generally, though not always, consists in such a resemblance and congruity of ideas as this author mentions. I shall only add to it, by way of explanation, that every resemblance of ideas is not that which we call wit, unless it be such an one that gives delight and surprise to the reader. These two properties seem essential to wit, more particularly the last of them. In order, therefore, that the resemblance in the ideas be wit, it is necessary that the ideas should not lie too near one another in the nature of things; for where the likeness is obvious, it gives no surprise. To compare one man's singing to that of another, or to represent the whiteness of any object by that of milk and snow, or the variety of its colours by those of the rainbow, cannot be called wit, unless, besides this obvious resemblance, there be some further congruity discovered in the two ideas, that is capable of giving the reader some surprise. Thus when a poet tells us the bosom of his mistress is as white as snow, there is no wit in the comparison; but when he adds, with a sigh, it is as cold too, it then grows into wit. Every reader's memory may supply him with innumerable instances of the same nature. For this reason, the similitudes in heroic poets, who endeavour rather to fill the mind with great conceptions, than to divert it with such as are new and surprising, have seldom any thing in them that can be called wit. Mr. Locke's account of wit, with this short explanation, comprehends most of the species of wit, as metaphors, similitudes, allegories, enigmas, mottoes, parables, fables, dreams, visions, dramatic writings, burlesque, and all the methods of allusion. There are many other pieces of wit (how remote soever they may appear at first sight from the foregoing description) which upon examination will be found to agree with it.

As true wit generally consists in this resemblance

and congruity of ideas, false wit chiefly consists in the resemblance and congruity sometimes of single letters, as in anagrams, chronograms, lipograms, and acrostics: sometimes of syllables, as in echoes and doggerel rhymes: sometimes of words, as in puns and quibbles; and sometimes of whole sentences or poems, cast into the figures of eggs, axes, or altars: nay, some carry the notion of wit so far, as to ascribe it even to external mimicry; and to look upon a man as an ingenious person, that can resemble the tone, posture, or face of another.

As true wit consists in the resemblance of ideas, and false wit in the resemblance of words, according to the foregoing instances; there is another kind of wit, which consists partly in the resemblance of ideas, and partly in the resemblance of words, which, for distinction-sake, I shall call mixt wit. This kind of wit is that which abounds in Cowley more than in any author that ever wrote. Mr. Waller has likewise a great deal of it. Mr. Dryden is very sparing in it. Milton had a genius much above it. Spenser is in the same class with Milton. The Italians, even in their epic poetry, are full of it. Monsieur Boileau, who formed himself upon the ancient poets, has every where rejected it with scorn. If we look after mixt wit among the Greek writers, we shall find it no where but in the epigrammatists. There are, indeed, some strokes of it in the little poem ascribed to Mæmus, which by that, as well as many other marks, betrays itself to be a modern composition. If we look into the Latin writers, we find none of this mixt wit in Virgil, Læcretius, or Catullus; very little in Horace, but a great deal of it in Ovid, and scarce any thing else in Martial.

Out of the innumerable branches of mixt wit, I shall choose one instance which may be met with in all the writers of this class. The passion of love in its nature has been thought to resemble fire: for which reason the words fire and flame are made use of to signify love. The witty poets, therefore, have taken an advantage from the double meaning of the word fire, to make an infinite number of witticisms. Cowley observing the cold regard of his mistress's eyes, and, at the same time, their power of producing love in him, considers them as burning-glasses made of ice; and finding himself able to live in the greatest extremities of love, concludes the torrid zone to be habitable. When his mistress has read his letter written in juice of lemon, by holding it to the fire, he desires her to read it over a second time by Love's flames. When she weeps, he wishes it were inward heat, that distilled those drops from the limbeck. When she is absent he is beyond eighty, that is, thirty degrees nearer the pole than when she is with him. His ambitious love is a fire that naturally mounts upwards; his happy love is the beams of heaven, and his unhappy love flames of hell. When it does not let him sleep, it is a flame that sends up no smoke; when it is opposed by counsel and advice, it is a fire that rages the more by the winds blowing upon it. Upon the dying of a tree, in which he had cut his loves, he observed that his written flames had burnt up and withered the tree. When he resolves to give over his passion, he tells us that one burnt like him for ever dreads the fire. His heart is an *Ætna* that, instead of Vulcan's shop, encloses Cupid's forge in it. His endeavouring to drown his love in wine, is throwing oil upon the fire. He would insinuate to his mistress, that the fire of love, like that of the sun (which produces so many living creatures), should not only

warm, but beget. Love in another place cooks pleasure at his fire. Sometimes the poet's heart is frozen in every breast, and sometimes scorches in every eye. Sometimes he is drowned in tears and burnt in love, like a ship set on fire in the middle of the sea.

The reader may observe in every one of these instances, that the poet mixes the qualities of fire with those of love; and in the same sentence speaking of it both as a passion and as real fire surprises the reader with those seeming resemblances or contradictions, that make up all the wit in this kind of writing. Mixt wit, therefore, is a composition of pun and true wit, and is more or less perfect, as the resemblance lies in the ideas or in the words. Its foundations are laid partly in falsehood and partly in truth; reason puts in her claim for one half of it, and extravagance for the other. The only province, therefore, for this kind of wit is epigram, or those little occasional poems, that in their own nature are nothing else but a tissue of epigrams. I cannot conclude this head of mixt wit, without owning that the admirable poet, one of whom I have taken the examples of it, had a much true wit as any author that ever writ; and indeed, all other talents of an extraordinary genius.

It may be expected, since I am upon this subject that I should take notice of Mr. Dryden's definition of wit; which, with all the deference that due to the judgment of so great a man, is not properly a definition of wit as of good writing in general. Wit, as he defines it, is 'a propriety of words and thoughts adapted to the subject.' If this be a true definition of wit, I am apt to think that Euclid was the greatest wit that ever set pen to paper. It is certain there never was a greater propriety of words and thoughts adapted to the subject, than what that author has made use of in his Elements. I shall only appeal to my reader if this definition agrees with any notion he has of wit. If it be a true one, I am sure Mr. Dryden was not only a better poet, but a greater wit than Mr. Cowley; and Virgil a much more facetious man than either Ovid or Martial.

Bouhours, whom I look upon to be the most penetrating of all the French critics, has taken pains to show, that it is impossible for any thought to be beautiful which is not just, and has not its foundation in the nature of things; that the basis of a wit is truth; and that no thought can be valuable of which good sense is not the ground-work. Boileau has endeavoured to inculcate the same notion in several parts of his writings, both in prose and verse. This is that natural way of writing, that beautiful simplicity, which we so much admire in the compositions of the ancients; and which nobody deviates from, but those who want strength of genius to make a thought shine in its own natural beauties. Poets who want this strength of genius to give that majestic simplicity to nature which we so much admire in the works of the ancients, are forced to hunt after foreign ornaments and not to let any piece of wit of what kind soever escape them. I look upon these writers as God in poetry, who, like those in architecture, not being able to come up to the beautiful simplicity of the old Greeks and Romans, have endeavoured to supply its place with all the extravagancies of an irregular fancy. Mr. Dryden makes a very happy observation on Ovid's writing a letter from Dido to *Æneas*, in the following words: 'Ovid' (says he, speaking of Virgil's fiction of Dido as

Æneas takes it up after him, even in the same age, and makes an ancient heroine of Virgil's new-created *Dido*; dictates a letter for her just before her death, to the ungrateful fugitive, and very unluckily for himself, is for measuring a sword with a man so much superior in force to him on the same object. I think I may be judge of this, because I have translated both. The famous author of the *Art of Love* has nothing of his own; he borrows all from a greater master in his own profession, and, which is worse, improves nothing which he finds. Nature fails him, and, being forced to his last shift, he has recourse to witticism. This passes, indeed, with his soft admirers, and gives him the preference to Virgil in their esteem.

Were not I supported by so great an authority as that of Mr. Dryden, I should not venture to observe, that the taste of most of our English poets, as well as readers, is extremely Gothic. He quotes Monsieur Segrais for a threefold distinction of the readers of poetry: in the first of which he comprehends the rabble of readers, whom he does not treat as such with regard to their quality, but to their numbers and the coarseness of their taste. His words are as follow: 'Segrais has distinguished the readers of poetry, according to their capacity of judging, into three classes.' [He might have said the same of writers too, if he had pleased.] In the lowest form he places those whom he calls *Les Petits Esprits*, such things as are our upper-gallery audience in a playhouse; who like nothing but the husk and rind of wit, and prefer a quibble, a conceit, an epigram, before solid sense and elegant expression. These are mob readers. If Virgil and Martial stood for parliament-men, we know already who would carry it. But though they made the greatest appearance in the field, and cried the loudest, the best on it is, they are but a set of French Huguenots, or Dutch Boors, brought over in herds, but not naturalized; who have not less of two pounds per annum in Parnassus, and therefore are not privileged to poll. Their audience are of the same level, fit to represent them on a mountebank's stage, or to be master of the ceremonies in a bear-garden: yet these are they who have the most admirers. But it often happens, to their mortification, that as their readers improve their stock of sense (as they may by reading better books, and by conversation with men of judgment) they soon forsake them.

I must not dismiss this subject without observing, that as Mr. Locke in the passage above mentioned has discovered the most fruitful source of wit, so there is another of a quite contrary nature to it, which does likewise branch itself out into several kinds. For not only the resemblance, but the opposition of ideas, does very often produce wit; as I could show in several little points, turns, and antitheses, that I may possibly enlarge upon, in some future speculation.

ADISON.

C.

Nº 63. SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1711.

*Humano capiti cervicem pictor equinam
Jungere si velit, et varias inducere plumas,
Undique collatis membris, ut turpiter atrum
Desinat in piscem mulier formosa superne;
Spectatum admisi risum lenecatis amici?
Credite, Pisones, isti tabulæ fore librum
Persimilem, cujus, velut ægri somnia, vana
Finguntur species:—*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 1.

If in a picture, Piso, you should see
A handsome woman with a fish's tail,
Or a man's head upon a horse's neck,
Or limbs of beasts, of the most different kinds,
Cover'd with feathers of all sorts of birds;
Wou'd you not laugh, and think the painter mad?
Trust me, that book is as ridiculous,
Whose incoherent style, like sick men's dreams,
Varies all shapes, and mixes all extremes.

ROSCOMMON.

It is very hard for the mind to disengage itself from a subject on which it has been long employed. The thoughts will be rising of themselves from time to time, though we give them no encouragement; as the tossings and fluctuations of the sea continue several hours after the winds are laid.

It is to this that I impute my last night's dream or vision, which formed into one continued allegory the several schemes of wit, whether false, mixed, or true, that have been the subject of my late papers.

Methought I was transported into a country that was filled with prodigies and enchantments, governed by the goddess of Falsehood, and entitled the Region of False Wit. There was nothing in the fields, the woods, and the rivers, that appeared natural. Several of the trees blossomed in leaf-gold, some of them produced bone-lace, and some of them precious stones. The fountains bubbled in an opera tune, and were filled with stags, wild boars, and mermaids, that lived among the waters; at the same time that dolphins and several kinds of fish played upon the banks, or took their pastime in the meadows. The birds had many of them golden beaks, and human voices. The flowers perfumed the air with smells of incense, ambergrease, and pulvillios; and were so interwoven with one another, that they grew up in pieces of embroidery. The winds were filled with sighs and messages of distant lovers. As I was walking to and fro in this enchanted wilderness, I could not forbear breaking out into soliloquies upon the several wonders which lay before me, when, to my great surprise, I found there were artificial echoes in every walk, that, by repetitions of certain words which I spoke, agreed with me, or contradicted me, in every thing I said. In the midst of my conversation with these invisible companions, I discovered in the centre of a very dark grove a monstrous fabric, built after the Gothic manner, and covered with innumerable devices in that barbarous kind of sculpture. I immediately went up to it, and found it to be a kind of heathen temple consecrated to the god of Dulness. Upon my entrance I saw the deity of the place dressed in the habit of a monk, with a book in one hand, and a rattle in the other. Upon his right hand was Industry, with a lamp burning before her; and on his left Caprice, with a monkey sitting on her shoulder. Before his feet there stood an altar of a very odd make, which, as I afterwards found, was shaped in that manner to comply with the inscription that surrounded it. Upon the altar there

lay several offerings of axes, wings, and eggs, cut in paper, and inscribed with verses. The temple was filled with votaries, who applied themselves to different diversions, as their fancies directed them. In one part of it I saw a regiment of anagrams, who were continually in motion, turning to the right or to the left, facing about, doubling their ranks, shifting their stations, and throwing themselves into all the figures and countermarches of the most changeable and perplexed exercise.

Not far from these was the body of Acrostics, made up of very disproportioned persons. It was disposed into three columns, the officers planting themselves in a line on the left hand of each column. The officers were all of them at least six feet high, and made three rows of very proper men; but the common soldiers, who filled up the spaces between the officers, were such dwarfs, cripples, and scarecrows, that one could hardly look upon them without laughing. There were behind the Acrostics two or three files of Chronograms, which differed only from the former, as their officers were equipped (like the figure of Time) with an hour-glass in one hand, and a scythe in the other, and took their posts promiscuously among the private men whom they commanded.

In the body of the temple, and before the very face of the deity, methought I saw the phantom of Tryphiodorus, the Lipogrammatist, engaged in a ball with four-and-twenty persons, who pursued him by turns through all the intricacies and labyrinth of a country-dance, without being able to overtake him.

Observing several to be very busy at the western end of the temple, I inquired into what they were doing, and found there was in that quarter the great magazine of Rebuses. These were several things of the most different natures tied up in bundles, and thrown upon one another in heaps like faggots. You might behold an anchor, a night-rail, and a hobby-horse bound up together. One of the workmen seeing me very much surprised, told me, there was an infinite deal of wit in several of those bundles, and that he would explain them to me if I pleased; I thanked him for his civility, but told him I was in very great haste at that time. As I was going out of the temple, I observed in one corner of it a cluster of men and women laughing very heartily, and diverting themselves at a game of Crambo. I heard several Double Rhymes as I passed by them, which raised a great deal of mirth.

Not far from these was another set of merry people engaged at a diversion, in which the whole jest was to mistake one person for another. To give occasion for these ludicrous mistakes, they were divided into pairs, every pair being covered from head to foot with the same kind of dress, though perhaps there was not the least resemblance in their faces. By this means an old man was sometimes mistaken for a boy, a woman for a man, and a black-a-moor for an European, which very often produced great peals of laughter. These I guessed to be a party of Puns. But being very desirous to get out of this world of magic, which had almost turned my brain, I left the temple, and crossed over the fields that lay about it with all the speed I could make. I was not gone far, before I heard the sound of trumpets and alarms, which seemed to proclaim the march of an enemy; and, as I afterwards found, was in reality what I apprehended it. There appeared at a great distance a very shining light, and in the midst of it, a person of a most beautiful aspect; her name was Truth.

On her right hand there marched a male deity, who bore several quivers on his shoulder, and grasped several arrows in his hand. His name was Wit. The approach of these two enemies filled all the territories of False Wit with an unspeakable consternation, inasmuch that the goddess of those regions appeared in person upon her frontiers, with the several inferior deities, and the different body of forces which I had before seen in the temple who were now drawn up in array, and prepared to give their foes a warm reception. As the march of the enemy was very slow, it gave time to all several inhabitants who bordered upon the Region of Falsehood to draw their forces into a body with a design to stand upon their guard as neutrals and attend the issue of the combat.

I must here inform my reader, that the frontier of the enchanted region, which I have before described, were inhabited by the species of *Mit* Wit, who made a very odd appearance when they were mustered together in an army. There were men whose bodies were stuck full of darts, and women whose eyes were burning-glasses; men that had hearts of fire, and women that had breasts of snow. It would be endless to describe several monsters of the like nature, that composed this great army; which immediately fell asunder, and divided itself into two parts, the one half throwing themselves behind the banners of Truth, and the other behind those of Falsehood.

The goddess of Falsehood was of a gigantic stature, and advanced some paces before the front of her army; but as the dazzling light which flowed from Truth began to shine upon her, she faded insensibly; inasmuch that in a little space, she looked rather like a huge phantom, than a real substance. At length, as the goddess of Truth approached still nearer to her, she fell away entirely, and vanished amidst the brightness of her presence; so that there did not remain the least trace or impression of her figure in the place where she had been seen.

As at the rising of the sun the constellation grow thin, and the stars go out one after another till the whole hemisphere is extinguished; such was the vanishing of the goddess: and not only of the goddess herself, but of the whole army that attended her, which sympathized with their leader and shrunk into nothing, in proportion as the goddess disappeared. At the same time the whole temple sunk, the fish betook themselves to the streams, and the wild beasts to the woods, the fountains recovered their murmurs, the birds their voices, the trees their leaves, the flowers their scents, and the whole face of nature its true and genuine appearance. Though I still continue asleep, I fancied myself as it were awakened out of a dream, when I saw this region of prodigy restored to woods and rivers, fields and meadows.

Upon the removal of that wild scene of wonder which had very much disturbed my imagination, took a full survey of the persons of Wit and Truth for, indeed, it was impossible to look upon the first without seeing the other at the same time. There was behind them a strong compact body of figure. The genius of Heroic Poetry appeared with a sword in her hand, and a laurel on her head. Tragedy was crowned with cypress, and covered with robes dipped in blood. Satire had smiles in her look, and a dagger under her garment. Rhetoric was known by her thunderbolt; and Comedy by her mask. After several other figures, Epigram marched up in the rear, who had been posted there at the beginning of the expedition, that he

in a particular manner to the court which pays that veneration to their friendship, and seems to express on such an occasion the sense of the uncertainty of human life in general, by assuming the habit of sorrow, though in the full possession of triumph and royalty.

STEEL.

R.

N^o 65. TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1711.

—*Demetri, teque Tigelli,*
Discipulorum inter jubeo plorare cathedras.
HOR. l Sat. l. 90.

Demetrius and Tigellius, know your place;
Go hence, and whine among the school-boy race.

ARRAS having at large explained what wit is, and described the false appearances of it, all that labour seems but an useless inquiry, without some time be spent in considering the application of it. The seat of wit, when one speaks as a man of the town and the world, is the playhouse: I shall therefore fill this paper with reflections upon the use of it in that place. The application of wit in the theatre has as strong an effect upon the manners of our gentlemen, as the taste of it has upon the writings of our authors. It may, perhaps, look like a very presumptuous work, though not foreign from the duty of a Spectator, to tax the writings of such as have long had the general applause of a nation; but I shall always make reason, truth, and nature the measures of praise and dispraise; if those are for me, the generality of opinion is of no consequence against me; if they are against me, the general opinion cannot long support me.

Without further preface, I am going to look into some of our most applauded plays, and see whether they deserve the figure they at present bear in the imaginations of men, or not.

In reflecting upon those works, I shall chiefly dwell upon that for which each respective play is most celebrated. The present paper shall be employed upon Sir Fopling Flutter*. The received character of this play is, that it is the pattern of genteel comedy. Dorimant and Harriot are the characters of greatest consequence; and if these are low and mean, the reputation of the play is very unjust.

I will take for granted, that a fine gentleman should be honest in his actions, and refined in his language. Instead of this, our hero in this piece is a direct knave in his designs, and a clown in his language. Bellair is his admirer and friend; in return for which, because he is forsooth a greater wit than his said friend, he thinks it reasonable to persuade him to marry a young lady, whose virtue, he thinks, will last no longer than till she is a wife, and then she cannot but fall to his share, as he is an irresistible fine gentleman. The falsehood to Mrs. Loveit, and the barbarity of triumphing over her anguish for losing him, is another instance of his honesty, as well as his good-nature. As to his fine language; he calls the orange-woman, who, it seems, is inclined to grow fat, 'An overgrown jade, with a flasket of guts before her;' and sa-

lutes her with a pretty phrase of, 'How now Double Tripe?' Upon the mention of a country gentlewoman, whom he knows nothing of, (no one can imagine why) he 'will lay his life she is some awkward ill-fashioned country toad, who, not having above four dozen of hairs on her head, has adorned her baldness with a large white fruz, that she may look sparkishly in the fore-front of the king's box at an old play.' Unnatural mixture of senseless common-place!

As to the generosity of his temper, he tells his poor footman, 'If he did not wait better,' he would turn him away, in the insolent phrase of 'I'll uncuse you.'

Now for Mrs. Harriot. She laughs at obedience to an absent mother, whose tenderness Bayes describes to be very exquisite, for 'that she is pleased with finding Harriot again, that she cannot chide her for being out of the way.' This witty daughter, and fine lady, has so little respect for this good woman, that she ridicules her air in talking leave, and cries, 'In what struggle is my poor mother yonder! See, see, her head tottering, her eyes staring, and her under-lip trembling.' But all this is atoned for, because 'she has more wit than is usual in her sex, and as much malice, though she is as wild as you could wish her, and has a demureness in her looks that makes it so surprising. Then to recommend her as a fit spouse for the hero, the poet makes her speak her sense of marriage very ingenuously: 'I think,' says she, 'I might be brought to endure him, and that is all a reasonable woman should expect in an husband. It is methinks unnatural, that we are not made to understand how, she that was bred under a silly pious old mother, that would never trust her out of her sight, came to be so polite.'

It cannot be denied, but that the negligence of every thing which engages the attention of the sober and valuable part of mankind, appears very well drawn in this piece. But it is denied, that it is necessary to the character of a fine gentleman that he should in that manner trample upon all order and decency. As for the character of Dorimant, it is more of a coxcomb than that of Fopling. He says of one of his companions, that the good correspondence between them is their mutual interest. Speaking of that friend, he declares their being much together 'makes the women think the better of his understanding, and judge more favourably of my reputation. It makes him pass upon some for a man of a very good sense, and upon others for a very civil person.'

This whole celebrated piece is a perfect contradiction to good manners, good sense, and common honesty; and as there is nothing in it but what built upon the ruin of virtue and innocence, according to the notion of merit in this comedy, I tell the Shoemaker to be, in reality, the fine gentleman of the play: for it seems he is an atheist, we may depend upon his character, as given in the orange-woman, who is herself far from being the lowest in the play. She says of a fine man who is Dorimant's companion, there 'is not such another heathen in the town, except the Shoemaker.' His pretension to be the hero of the Drama appears still more in his own description of his way of living with his lady. 'There is,' says he, 'never a man in town lives more like a gentleman with his wife than I do; I never mind her motions; she never inquires into mine. We speak to one another civilly, hate one another heartily and because it is vulgar to lie and soak together we have each of us our several settle-bed.' This

* In the Man of Mode. Sir Fopling was Beau Hewit, son of Sir Thomas Hewit, of Pishobury in Hertfordshire, bart. the author's own character was represented in that of Bellair; or, as some think, in Medley. Dorimant (as Davies tells us, Dram. Misc. Vol. III. 178.) was formed from two originals; the witty Earl of Dorset, and the licentious Wilmot Earl of Rochester.

Cleomira dances with all the elegance of motion imaginable; but her eyes are so chastised with the simplicity and innocence of her thoughts, that she raises in her beholders admiration and good-will, but no loose hope or wild imagination. The true art in this case is, To make the mind and body improve together; and if possible, to make gesture follow thought, and not let thought be employed upon gesture.

STEEL.

R.

N° 67. THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1711.

Ballare elegantius quam necesse est probe.

SALLUST.

Too fine a dancer for a virtuous woman.

LUCIAN, in one of his dialogues, introduces a philosopher chiding his friend for his being a lover of dancing, and a frequenter of balls. The other undertakes the defence of his favourite diversion, which, he says, was at first invented by the goddess Rhea, and preserved the life of Jupiter himself, from the cruelty of his father Saturn. He proceeds to show, that it had been approved by the greatest men in all ages; that Homer calls Merion a fine dancer; and says, that the graceful mien and great agility which he had acquired by that exercise distinguished him above the rest in the armies both of Greeks and Trojans.

He adds, that Pyrrhus gained more reputation by inventing the dance which is called after his name, than by all his other actions: that the Lacedæmonians, who were the bravest people in Greece, gave great encouragement to this diversion, and made their Hormus (a dance much resembling the French Brawl) famous over all Asia: that there were still extant some Thesalian statues erected to the honour of their best dancers: and that he wondered how his brother philosopher could declare himself against the opinions of those two persons, whom he professed so much to admire, Homer and Hesiod; the latter of which compares valour and dancing together, and says, that 'the gods have bestowed fortitude on some men, and on others a disposition for dancing.'

Lastly, he puts him in mind that Socrates (who) in the judgment of Apollo, was the wisest of men, was not only a professed admirer of this exercise in others, but learned it himself when he was an old man.

The morose philosopher is so much affected by these and some other authorities, that he becomes a convert to his friend, and desires he would take him with him when he went to his next ball.

I love to shelter myself under the examples of great men; and, I think, I have sufficiently showed that it is not below the dignity of these my speculations to take notice of the following letter, which, I suppose, is sent me by some substantial tradesman about 'Change.

'SIR,

'I AM a man in years, and by an honest industry in the world have acquired enough to give my children a liberal education, though I was an utter stranger to it myself. My eldest daughter, a girl of sixteen, has for some time been under the tuition of Monsieur Rigadoon, a dancing-master in the city; and I was prevailed upon by her and her mother to go last night to one of his balls. I must own to you, sir, that having never been to any such place before, I was very much pleased and

surprised with that part of his entertainment which he called French dancing. There were several young men and women, whose limbs seemed to have no other motion but purely what the music gave them. After this part was over, they began a diversion which they call country dancing, and wherein there were also some things not disagreeable, and divers emblematical figures, composed as I guess, by wise men, for the instruction of youth.

'Among the rest, I observed one, which I think they call "Hunt the Squirrel," in which while the woman flies the man pursues her; but as soon as she turns, he runs away, and she is obliged to follow.

'The moral of this dance does, I think, very aptly recommend modesty and discretion to the female sex.

'But as the best institutions are liable to corruptions, so, sir, I must acquaint you, that very great abuses are crept into this entertainment. I was amazed to see my girl handed by and handing young fellows with so much familiarity; and I could not have thought it had been in the child. They very often made use of a most impudent and lascivious step called "setting," which I know not how to describe to you, but by telling you that it is the very reverse of "back to back." At last a impudent young dog bid the fiddlers play a dance called "Moll Pately," and after having made two or three capers, ran to his partner, locked his arms in hers, and whisked her round cleverly above ground in such a manner, that I who sat upon one of the lowest benches, saw further above her than I could think fit to acquaint you with. She could no longer endure these enormities; wherefore just as my girl was going to be made a whirligig, I ran in, seized on the child, and carried her home.

'Sir, I am not yet old enough to be a fool. I suppose this diversion might be at first invented to keep up a good understanding between young men and women, and so far I am not against it; but I shall never allow of these things. I know not what you will say to this case at present, but I am sure had you been with me, you would have seen matter of great speculation. I am

'Yours, &c.'

I must confess I am afraid that my correspondent had too much reason to be a little out of humour at the treatment of his daughter; but I conclude that he would have been much more so had he seen one of those kissing dances, in which Will Honeycomb assures me they are obliged to dwell almost a minute on the fair one's lips, and they will be too quick for the music; and dance quite out of time.

I am not able, however, to give my final sentence against this diversion; and am of Mr. Cowley's opinion, that so much of dancing, at least, as belongs to the behaviour and an handsome carriage of the body, is extremely useful, if not absolutely necessary.

We generally form such ideas of people at first sight, as we are hardly ever persuaded to lay aside afterwards: for this reason, a man would wish to have nothing disagreeable or uncomely in his approach, and to be able to enter a room with good grace.

I might add, that a moderate knowledge in the little rules of good-breeding, gives a man some assurance, and makes him easy in all companies. For want of this, I have seen a professor of

be more strong and pointed than the following verse? 'Separate thyself from thine enemies, and take heed of thy friends.' In the next words he particularises one of those fruits of friendship which is described at length by the two famous authors above mentioned, and falls into a general eulogium of friendship, which is very just as well as very sublime. 'A faithful friend is a strong defence; and he that hath found such an one, hath found a treasure. Nothing doth countervail a faithful friend, and his excellency is unvaluable. A faithful friend is the medicine of life; and they that fear the Lord shall find him. Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his friendship aright; for as he is, so shall his neighbour (that is his friend) be also.' I do not remember to have met with any saying that has pleased me more than that of a friend's being the medicine of life, to express the efficacy of friendship in healing the pains and anguish which naturally cleave to our existence in this world; and am wonderfully pleased with the turn in the last sentence, that a virtuous man shall as a blessing meet with a friend who is as virtuous as himself. There is another saying in the same author, which would have been very much admired in an Heathen writer: 'Formake not an old friend, for the new is not comparable to him: a new friend is as new wine; when it is old thou shalt drink it with pleasure *.' With what strength of allusion, and force of thought, has he described the breaches and violations of friendship! 'Whoso casteth a stone at the birds frayeth them away; and he that upbraideth his friend, breaketh friendship. Though thou drawest a sword at a friend, yet despair not, for there may be a returning to favour. If thou hast opened thy mouth against thy friend fear not, for there may be a reconciliation; except for upbraiding, or pride, or disclosing of secrets, or a treacherous wound; for, for these things every friend will depart †.' We may observe in this and several other precepts in this author, those little familiar instances and illustrations which are so much admired in the moral writings of Horace and Epictetus. There are very beautiful instances of this nature in the following passages, which are likewise written upon the same subject: 'Whoso discovereth secrets, loseth his credit, and shall never find a friend to his mind. Love thy friend, and be faithful unto him; but if thou bewrayest his secrets, follow no more after him: for as a man hath destroyed his enemy, so hast thou lost the love of thy friend; as one that letteth a bird go out of his hand, so hast thou let thy friend go, and shalt not get him again: follow after him no more, for he is too far off; he is as a roe escaped out of the snare. As for a wound it may be bound up, and after reviling there may be a reconciliation; but he that bewrayeth secrets, is without hope ‡.'

Among the several qualifications of a good friend, this wise man has very justly singled out constancy and faithfulness as the principal: to these, others have added virtue, knowledge, discretion, equality in age and fortune, and as Cicero calls it, '*Morum opifias*,' a pleasantness of temper. If I were to give my opinion upon such an exhausted subject, I should join to these other qualifications a certain equality or evenness of behaviour. A man often contracts a friendship with one whom perhaps he does not find out till after a year's conversation; when on a sudden some latent ill-humour breaks out upon him, which he never discovered or sus-

pected at his first entering into an intimacy with him. There are several persons who in some certain periods of their lives are inexpressibly agreeable, and in others as odious and detestable. Martial has given us a very pretty picture of one of this species, in the following epigram:

*'Difficilis, facilis, jucundus, acerbus et idem,
Nec tecum possum vivere, nec sine te.'*

EPIG. xlviii. 12.

*'In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,
Thou'rt such a touchy, testy, pleasant fellow;
Hast so much wit, and mirth, and spleen about thee,
There is no living with thee, nor without thee.'*

It is very unlucky for a man to be entangled in a friendship with one, who, by these changes and vicissitudes of humour, is sometimes amiable, and sometimes odious: and as most men are at some times in an admirable frame and disposition of mind, it should be one of the greatest tasks of wisdom to keep ourselves well when we are so, and never to go out of that which is the agreeable part of our character.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 69. SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1711.

*Hic ager, illic veniunt felicius una;
Arboris fatus alibi, atque infusa vitæcum
Gramina. Nonne vides, croceos ut Tmolus odores,
India mittit ebur, molles res thura Sabei?
At Chalybes nudi ferrum, vitæque Pontus
Castoreo, Eliadum palmas Epirus equarum?
Continuo has leges, æternæque fœdera certis
Imposuit natura locis*

VIRG. Georg. i. 54.

This ground with Bacchus, that with Ceres suits;
That other loads the trees with happy fruits;
A fourth with grain, unbidden, decks the ground:
That Tmolus is with yellow saffron crown'd;
India black ebon and white ivory bears;
And soft Idume weeps her od'rous tears:
Thus Pontus sends her beaver stores from far;
And naked Spaniards temper steel for war:
Epirus for th' Elean chariot breares
(In hopes of palms) a race of running steeds.
This is th' original contract; these the laws
Impos'd by nature, and by nature's name.

DRYDEN.

THERE is no place in the town which I so much love to frequent as the Royal Exchange. It gives me a secret satisfaction, and in some measure gratifies my vanity, as I am an Englishman, to see so rich an assembly of countrymen and foreigners consulting together upon the private business of mankind, and making this metropolis a kind of *emporium* for the whole earth. I must confess I look upon high-change to be a great council, in which all considerable nations have their representatives. Factors in the trading world are what ambassadors are in the politic world; they negotiate affairs, conclude treaties, and maintain a good correspondence between those wealthy societies of men that are divided from one another by seas and oceans, or live on the different extremities of a continent. I have often been pleased to hear disputes adjusted between an inhabitant of Japan and an alderman of London, or to see the subject of the Great Mogul entering into a league with one of the Czar of Muscovy. I am infinitely delighted in mixing with these several ministers of commerce, as they are distinguished by their different walks and different languages. Sometimes I am jostled among a body of Armenians; sometimes I am lost in a crowd of Jews; and sometimes I make one in a group of Dutchmen. I am a Dan-

* Ecclus. ix. 10.

† Ibid. ix. 20, 21, 22.

‡ Ibid. xxvii. 16-21.

the chimney-corner; and could foretell the success of his play in the theatre, from the reception it met at his fire-side; for he tells us the audience always followed the old woman, and never failed to laugh in the same place.

I know nothing which more shows the essential and inherent perfection of simplicity of thought, above that which I call the Gothic manner in writing, than this, that the first pleases all kinds of palates, and the latter only such as have formed to themselves a wrong artificial taste upon little fanciful authors and writers of epigram. Homer, Virgil, or Milton, so far as the language of their poems is understood, will please a reader of plain common sense, who would neither relish nor comprehend an epigram of Martial, or a poem of Cowley: so, on the contrary, an ordinary song or ballad that is the delight of the common people, cannot fail to please all such readers as are not unqualified for the entertainment by their affectation or ignorance; and the reason is plain, because the same paintings of nature, which recommend it to the most ordinary reader, will appear beautiful to the most refined.

The old song of Chevy-Chase is the favourite ballad of the common people of England, and Ben Jonson used to say he had rather have been the author of it than of all his works. Sir Philip Sidney, in his discourse of poetry, speaks of it in the following words: 'I never heard the old song of Percy and Douglas, that I found not my heart more moved than with a trumpet; and yet it is sung by some blind Crowder with no rougher voice than rude style; which being so evil apparelled in the dust and cobweb of that uncivil age, what would it work trimmed in the gorgeous eloquence of Pindar? For my own part, I am so professed an admirer of this antiquated song, that I shall give my reader a critique upon it, without any further apology for so doing.

The greatest modern critics have laid it down as a rule, that an heroic poem should be founded upon some important precept of morality, adapted to the constitution of the country in which the poet writes. Homer and Virgil have formed their plans in this view. As Greece was a collection of many governments, who suffered very much among themselves, and gave the Persian emperor, who was their common enemy, many advantages over them by their mutual jealousies and animosities, Homer, in order to establish among them an union, which was so necessary for their safety, grounds his poem upon the discords of the several Grecian princes who were engaged in a confederacy against an Asiatic prince, and the several advantages which the enemy gained by such their discords. At the time the poem we are now treating of was written*, the dissensions of the barons, who were then so many petty princes, ran very high, whether they quarrelled among themselves, or with their neighbours, and produced unspeakable calamities to the country. The poet, to deter men from such unnatural contentions, describes a bloody battle and dreadful scene of death, occasioned by the mutual feuds which reigned in the families of an English and Scotch nobleman. That he designed this for the instruction of his poem, we may learn from his four last lines, in which, after the example of the modern tragedians, he draws from it a precept for the benefit of his readers:

* This serious display of the beauties of Chevy Chase exposed Addison to the ridicule of Wagsstaffe, and the contempt of Dennis. . . . See Johnson's *Lives of the English Poets*, vol. ii. p. 138, &c. 1801.

'God save the king, and bless the land
In plenty, joy, and peace;
And grant henceforth that foul debate
'Twixt noblemen may cease.'

The next point observed by the greatest heroic poets, hath been to celebrate persons and actions which do honour to their country: thus Virgil's hero was the founder of Rome, Homer's a prince of Greece; and for this reason Valerius Flaccus and Statius, who were both Romans, might be justly derided for having chosen the expedition of the Golden Fleece, and the Wars of Thebes, for the subjects of their epic writings.

The poet before us has not only found out an hero in his own country, but raises the reputation of it by several beautiful incidents. The English are the first who take the field, and the last who quit it. The English bring only fifteen hundred to the battle, the Scotch two thousand. The English keep the field with fifty-three; the Scotch retire with fifty-five: all the rest on each side being slain in battle. But the most remarkable circumstance of this kind, is the different manner in which the Scotch and English kings receive the news of this fight and of the great men's deaths who commanded in it:

'This news was brought to Edinburgh,
Where Scotland's king did reign,
That brave Earl Douglas suddenly
Was with an arrow slain.

'O heavy news, King James did say,
Scotland can witness be,
I have not any captain more
Of such account as he.

'Like tidings to King Henry* came
Within as short a space†,
That Percy of Northumberland
Was slain in Chevy-Chase.

'Now God be with him, said our king,
Nith 'twill no better be,
I trust I have within my realm
Five hundred good as he.

'Yet shall not Scot, nor Scotland say,
But I will vengeance take,
And be revenged on them all
For brave Lord Percy's sake.

'This vow full well the king perform'd
After on Humble-down,‡
In one day fifty knights were slain,
With lords of great renown.

'And of the rest of small account
Did many thousands die, &c.'

At the same time that our poet shows a laudable partiality to his countrymen, he represents the Scots after a manner not unbecoming so bold and brave a people:

'Earl Douglas on a milk-white steed,
Most like a baron bold,
Rode foremost of the company,
Whose armour shone like gold.'

His sentiments and actions are every way suitable to an hero. One of us two, says he, must die: I am an earl as well as yourself, so that you can have no pretence for refusing the combat: however, says he, it is pity, and indeed would be a sin, that so many innocent men should perish for our sakes; rather let you and I end our quarrel in single fight:

* The battle of Otterburn (or Chevy Chase) was fought July 31st, 1388; when the King of Scotland was Robert II. and the King of England Richard II. See Blair's *Chronology* Plate XLVII. But here we have James and Henry!

† It is not easy to discover how this could be. The field of battle was above 300 miles from London, and not 100 from Edinburgh.

'The fool of nature stood with stupid eyes,
And gaping mouth, that testify'd surprise;
Fix'd on her face, nor could remove his sight,
New as he was to love, and novice in delight:
Long mute he stood, and leaning on his staff,
His wonder witness'd with an idiot laugh;
Then would have spoke, but by his glimmering sense
First found his want of words, and fear'd offence;
Doubted for what he was he should be known,
By his clown-accent, and his country-tone.'

But lest this fine description should be excepted against, as the creation of that great master Mr. Dryden, and not an account of what has really ever happened in the world, I shall give you verbatim, the epistle of an enamoured footman in the country to his mistress. Their surnames shall not be inserted, because their passions demand a greater respect than is due to their quality. James is servant in a great family, and Elizabeth waits upon the daughter of one as numerous, some miles off her lover. James, before he beheld Betty, was vain of his strength, a rough wrestler, and quarrelsome cudgel-player; Betty a public-dancer at may-poles, a romp at stool-ball; he always following idle women, she playing among the peasants: he a country bully, she a country coquette. But love has made her constantly in her mistress's chamber, where the young lady gratifies a secret passion of her own, by making Betty talk of James; and James is become a constant waiter near his master's apartment, in reading, as well as he can, romances. I cannot learn who Molly is, who it seems walked ten miles to carry the angry message, which gave occasion to what follows.

'TO ELIZABETH

'MY DEAR BETTY, May 14, 1711.
'REMEMBER your bleeding lover, who lies bleeding at the wounds Cupid made with the arrow he borrowed at the eyes of Venus, which is your sweet person.

'Nay more, with the tokens you sent me for my love and service offered to your sweet person; which was your base respects to my ill conditions; when alas! there is no ill conditions in me, but quite contrary; all love and purity, especially to your sweet person; but all this I take as a jest.

'But the sad and dismal news which Molly brought me struck me to the heart, which was it seems, and is, your ill conditions for my love and respects to you.

'For she told me, if I came forty times to you, you would not speak with me, which words I am sure is a great grief to me.

'Now my dear, if I may not be permitted to your sweet company, and to have the happiness of speaking with your sweet person, I beg the favour of you to accept of this my secret mind and thoughts, which hath so long lodged in my breast, the which if you do not accept, I believe will go nigh to break my heart.

'For indeed, my dear, I love you above all the beauties I ever saw in all my life.

'The young gentleman, and my master's daughter, the Londoner that is come down to marry her, met in the arbour most part of last night. Oh, dear Betty, must the nightingales sing to those who marry for money, and not to us true lovers! Oh, my dear Betty, that we could meet this night where we used to do in the wood!

'Now, my dear, if I may not have the blessing of kissing your sweet lips, I beg I may have the happiness of kissing your fair hand, with a few lines from you dear self, presented by whom you please or think fit. I believe if time would permit

me, I could write all day; but the time being short, and paper little, no more from your never falling lover till death,

'JAMES'

Poor James! since his time and paper were so short, I that have more than I can use well at both, will put the sentiments of this kind letter (the style of which seems to be confused with scrap he had got in hearing and reading what he did not understand) into what he meant to express.

'DEAR CREATURE,
'CAN you then neglect him who has forgot all his recreations and enjoyments, to pine away his life in thinking of you? When I do so, you appear more amiable to me than Venus does in the most beautiful description that ever was made of her. All this kindness you return with an accusation that I do not love you; but the contrary is so manifest, that I cannot think you in earnest. But the certainty given me in your message by Molly, that you do not love me, is what robs me of all comfort. She says you will not see me: if you can have so much cruelty, at least write to me, that I may kiss the impression made by your fair hand. I love you above all things; and in my condition what you look upon with indifference is to me the most exquisite pleasure or pain. Our young lady and a fine gentleman from London, who are to marry for mercenary ends, walk about our gardens, and hear the voice of evening nightingales as if for fashion-sake they courted those solitude because they have heard lovers do so. Oh Betty, could I hear these rivalets murmur, and birds sing while you stood near me, how little sensible should I be that we are both servants, that there is anything on earth above us! Oh! I could write to you as long as I love you, till death itself.

'JAMES.'

N. B. By the words ill-conditions, James meant in a woman coquetry, in a man inconstancy.

STEEL.

R.

Nº 72. WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1711.

— *Genus immortale manet, multasque per annos
Sist fortuna domus, et ævi numerantur ætatem.*

VING. Georg. iv. 204.

Th' immortal line in sure succession reigns,
The fortune of the family remains,
And grandsires' grandsons the long list contains.

DRYDEN.

HAVING already given my reader an account of several extraordinary clubs both ancient and modern, I did not design to have troubled him with

'This man's name (Mr. Nichols informs us) was James Hirst, who was a servant to the Hon. Edward Wortley, Esq. and, in delivering a parcel of letters to his master, gave him a mistake this letter, which he had just prepared for his sweet heart, and kept in its stead one of his master's. He quickly returned to rectify the blunder, but it was too late. Unfortunately the letter to Betty was the first that presented itself to Mr. Wortley, who had indulged his curiosity in reading the love-tale of his enamoured footman. James requested to have it returned, in vain. "No James," said his master, "you shall be a great man, and this letter must appear in the Spectator."

'James succeeded in putting an end to Betty's ill conditions, and obtained her consent to marry him; but the marriage was prevented by her sudden death. James Hirst soon after, from his regard and love for Betty, married her sister, and died (about 1776) by Pennistone, in the neighbourhood of Wortley, near Leeds. Betty's sister and her owner was probably the Molly who walked ten miles to carry the angry message which occasioned the preceding letter.'

fool what he abounds in. The wise man is happy when he gains his own approbation, and the fool when he recommends himself to the applause of those about him.

But however unreasonable and absurd this passion for admiration may appear in such a creature as man, it is not wholly to be discouraged; since it often produces very good effects, not only as it restrains him from doing any thing which is mean and contemptible, but as it pushes him to actions which are great and glorious. The principle may be defective or faulty, but the consequences it produces are so good, that for the benefit of mankind it ought not to be extinguished.

It is observed by Cicero, that men of the greatest and the most shining parts are the most actuated by ambition; and if we look into the two sexes, I believe we shall find this principle of action stronger in women than in men.

The passion for praise, which is so very vehement in the fair sex, produces excellent effects in women of sense, who desire to be admired for that only which deserves admiration: and I think we may observe, without a compliment to them, that many of them do not only live in a more uniform course of virtue, but with an infinitely greater regard to their honour, than what we find in the generality of our own sex. How many instances have we of chastity, fidelity, devotion! How many ladies distinguish themselves by the education of their children, care of their families, and love of their husbands, which are the great qualities and achievements of womankind! as the making of war, the carrying on of traffic, the administration of justice, are those by which men grow famous, and get themselves a name.

But as this passion for admiration, when it works according to reason, improves the beautiful part of our species in every thing that is laudable; so nothing is more destructive to them when it is governed by vanity and folly. What I have therefore here to say, only regards the vain part of the sex, whom, for certain reasons, which the reader will hereafter see at large, I shall distinguish by the name of Idols. An Idol is wholly taken up in the adorning of her person. You see in every posture of her body, air of her face, and motion of her head, that it is her business and employment to gain adorers. For this reason your Idols appear in all public places and assemblies, in order to seduce men to their worship. The playhouse is very frequently filled with Idols; several of them are carried in procession every evening about the ring, and several of them set up their worship even in churches. They are to be accosted in the language proper to the Deity. Life and death are in their power: joys of heaven, and pains of hell, are at their disposal: paradise is in their arms, and eternity in every moment that you are present with them. Raptures, transports, and ecstasies, are the rewards which they confer: sighs and tears, prayers and broken hearts, are the offerings which are paid to them. Their smiles make men happy; their frowns drive them to despair. I shall only add under this head, that Ovid's book of the Art of Love is a kind of heathen ritual, which contains all the forms of worship which are made use of to an Idol.

It would be as difficult a task to reckon up these different kinds of Idols, as Milton's was to number those that were known in Canaan, and the lands adjoining. Most of them are worshipped, like Moloch, in fires and flames. Some of them, like Baal, love to see their votaries cut and slashed,

and shedding their blood for them. Some of them like the Idol in the Apocrypha, must have treat and collations prepared for them every night. I have, indeed, been known, that some of them have been used by their incensed worshippers like the Chinese idols, who are whipped and scourged when they refuse to comply with the prayers that are offered to them.

I must here observe, that those idolaters who devote themselves to the Idols I am here speaking of differ very much from all other kinds of idolaters. For as others fall out because they worship different Idols, these idolaters quarrel because they worship the same.

The intention, therefore, of the Idol is quite contrary to the wishes of the idolaters; as the one desires to confine the Idol to himself, the whole business and ambition of the other is to multiply adorers. This humour of an Idol is prettily described in a tale of Chaucer. He represents one of them sitting at a table with three of her votaries about her, who are all of them courting her favour, and paying their adorations. She smiles upon one, drank to another, and trod upon the other's foot which was under the table. Now which of these three, says the old bard, do you think was the favourite? In truth, says he, not one of the three.

The behaviour of this old Idol in Chaucer puts me in mind of the beautiful Clarinda, one of the greatest Idols among the moderns. She is worshipped once a week by candle-light, in the midst of a large congregation, generally called an assembly. Some of the gayest youths in the nation endeavour to plant themselves in her eye, while she sits in form with multitudes of tapers burning about her. To encourage the zeal of her idolaters, she bestows a mark of her favour upon every one of them, before they go out of her presence. She asks a question of one, tells a story to another, glances an eye upon a third, takes a pinch of snuff from the fourth, lets her fan drop by accident to give the fifth an occasion of taking it up. In short, every one goes away satisfied with his success, and encouraged to renew his devotions on the same canonical hour that day sevensnight.

An Idol may be undeified by many accidents and causes. Marriage in particular is a kind of counter-apotheosis, or a deification inverted. When a man becomes familiar with his goddess, she quickly sinks into a woman.

Old age is likewise a great decayer of your Idol. The truth of it is, there is not a more unhappy being than a superannuated Idol, especially when she has contracted such airs and behaviour as are only graceful when her worshippers are about her.

Considering, therefore, that in these and many other cases the woman generally outlives the Idol, I must return to the moral of this paper, and desire my fair readers to give a proper direction to their passion for being admired; in order to which they must endeavour to make themselves the objects of a reasonable and lasting admiration. This is not to be hoped for, from beauty, or dress, or fashion, but from those inward ornaments which are not to be defaced by time or sickness, and which appear most amiable to those who are most acquainted with them.

But of all the descriptive parts of this song, there are none more beautiful than the four following stanzas, which have a great force and spirit in them, and are filled with very natural circumstances. The thought in the third stanza was never touched by any other poet, and is such an one as would have shined in Homer or in Virgil:

'So thus did both these nobles die,
Whose courage none could stain;
An English archer then perceiv'd
The noble earl was slain.'

'He had a bow bent in his hand,
Made of a trusty tree,
An arrow of a cloth-yard long
Unto the head drew he.

'Against Sir Hugh Montgomery
So right his shaft he set,
The grey-goose wing that was thereon
In his heart-blood was wet.

'This fight did last from break of day
Till setting of the sun;
For when they rung the evening bell
The battle scarce was done.'

One may observe, likewise, that in the catalogue of the slain, the author has followed the example of the great ancient poets, not only in giving a long list of the dead, but by diversifying it with little characters of particular persons.

'And with Earl Douglas there was slain
Sir Hugh Montgomery,
Sir Charles Carrel, that from the field
One foot would never fly:

'Sir Charles Murrel of Ratcliff too,
His sister's son was he;
Sir David Lamb, so well esteem'd,
Yet saved could not be.'

The familiar sound in these names destroys the majesty of the description; for this reason I do not mention this part of the poem but to show the natural cast of thought which appears in it, as the two last verses look almost like a translation of Virgil.

'—Cecidit et Rhipheus justissimus unus
Qui fuit in Teucriis et servatissimus aequi,
Dilectus atque vicinus—'

Æn. ii. 406.

'Then Rhipheus fell in the unequal fight,
Just of his word, observant of the right:
Heav'n thought not so.'

DRYDEN.

In the catalogue of the English who fell, Witherington's behaviour is in the same manner particularized very artfully, as the reader is prepared for it by that account which is given of him in the beginning of the battle; though I am satisfied your little buffoon readers (who have seen that passage ridiculed in Hudibras) will not be able to take the beauty of it: for which reason I dare not so much as quote it.

'Then stept a gallant 'quire forth,
Witherington was his name,
Who said, I would not have it told
To Henry our king for shame,

'That e'er my captain fought on foot,
And I stood looking on.'

We meet with the same heroic sentiment in Virgil.

'Non pudet, O Rutuli, cunctis pro talibus unum
Obsecrare animam? numerone an viribus aequi
Non sumus?—'

Æn. xii. 229.

'For shame, Rutilians, can you bear the sight
Of one exposed for all, in single fight?
Can we before the face of heav'n confess
Our courage colder, or our numbers less?'

DRYDEN.

What can be more natural, or more moving, than the circumstances in which he describes the beha-

viour of those women who had lost their husbands on this fatal day?

'Next day did many widows come
Their husbands to bewail;
They wail'd their wounds in British tears,
But all would not prevail.

'Their bodies bath'd in purple blood,
They bore with them away;
They kin'd them dead a thousand times,
When they were clad in clay.'

Thus we see how the thoughts of this poem, which naturally arise from the subject, are always simple, and sometimes exquisitely noble; that the language is often very sounding, and that the whole is written with a true poetical spirit.

If this song had been written in the Gothic manner, which is the delight of all our little wits, whether writers or readers, it would not have hit the taste of so many ages, and have pleased the readers of all ranks and conditions. I shall only beg pardon for such a profusion of Latin quotations; which I should not have made use of, but that I feared my own judgment would have looked too singular on such a subject, had not I supported it by the practice and authority of Virgil.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 75. SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1711.

Opus Aristippum decuit color, et status, et res.
HOR. l. Ep. xvii. 22.

All fortune fitted Aristippus well.

CREECH.

It is with some mortification that I suffered the rally of a fine lady of my acquaintance, for calling, in one of my papers *, Dorimant a clown. She was so unmerciful as to take advantage of my invincible taciturnity, and on that occasion with great freedom to consider the air, the height, the face, the gesture, of him who could pretend to judge so arrogantly of gallantry. She is full of motion, janty and lively in her impertinence, and one of those that commonly pass, among the ignorant, for persons who have a great deal of humour. She had the play of Sir Fopling in her hand, and after she had said it was happy for her there was not so charming a creature as Dorimant now living, she began with a theatrical air and tone of voice to read, by way of triumph over me, some of his speeches, 'Tis she! that lovely hair, that easy shape, those wanton eyes, and all those melting charms about her mouth, which Medley spoke of; I'll follow the lottery, and put in for a prize with my friend Bellair.'

'In love the victors from the vanquish'd fly;
They fly that wound, and they pursue that die.'

Then turning over the leaves, she reads alternately, and speaks,

'And you and Lovett to her cost shall find
I fathom all the depths of woman-kind.'

Oh the fine gentleman! But here, continues she, is the passage I admire most, where he begins to tease Lovett and mimic Sir Fopling. Oh the pretty satire, in his resolving to be a coxcomb to please, since noise and nonsense have such powerful charms.

'I, that I may successful prove,
Transform myself to what you love.'

Then how like a man of the town, so wild and gay is that!

'The wise will find a difference in our fate,
You wed a woman, I a good estate.'

It would have been a very wild endeavour for a man of my temper to offer any opposition to so simple a speaker as my fair enemy is; but her discourse gave me very many reflections, when I had left her company. Among others, I could not but consider with some attention, the false impressions the generality (the fair sex more especially) have of what should be intended, when they say a 'fine gentleman'; and could not help revolving that subject in my thoughts, and settling, as it were, an idea of that character in my own imagination.

No man ought to have the esteem of the rest of the world, for any actions which are disagreeable to those maxims which prevail, as the standards of behaviour in the country wherein he lives. What is opposite to the eternal rules of reason and good sense must be excluded from any place in the carriage of a well-bred man. I did not, I confess, explain myself enough on this subject, when I called Dorimant a clown, and made it an instance of it, that he called the orange-wench Double Tripe: I should have shown, that humanity obliges a gentleman to give no part of humankind reproach, for what they, whom they reproach, may possibly have in common with the most virtuous and worthy amongst us. When a gentleman speaks coarsely, he has dressed himself clean to no purpose. The clothing of our minds certainly ought to be regarded before that of our bodies. To betray in a man's talk a corrupt imagination, is a much greater offence against the conversation of gentlemen, than any negligence of dress imaginable. But this sense of the matter is so far from being received among people even of condition, that Vocifer passes for a fine gentleman. He is loud, haughty, gentle, soft, lewd, and obsequious by turns, just as a little understanding and great impudence prompt him at the present moment. He passes among the silly part of our women for a man of wit, because he is generally in doubt. He contradicts with a shrug, and confutes with a certain sufficiency, in professing such and such a thing above his capacity. What makes his character the pleasanter is, that he is a professed deluder of women; and because the empty coxcomb has no regard to any thing that is of itself sacred and inviolable, I have heard an unmarried lady of fortune say, It is pity so fine a gentleman as Vocifer is so great an atheist. The crowds of such inconsiderable creatures, that infest all places of assembling, every reader will have in his eye from his own observation; but would it not be worth considering what sort of figure a man who formed himself upon those principles among us, which are agreeable to the dictates of honour and religion, would make in the familiar and ordinary occurrences of life?

I hardly have observed any one fill his several duties of life better than Ignotus. All the under parts of his behaviour, and such as are exposed to common observation, have their rise in him from great and noble motives. A firm and unshaken expectation of another life makes him become firm; humanity and good-nature, fortified by the love of virtue, has the same effect upon him, as the neglect of all goodness has upon many others. Being firmly established in all matters of importance, that certain inattention which makes men's actions look easy, appears in him with greater

beauty: by a thorough contempt of little excellencies, he is perfectly master of them. This temper of mind leaves him under no necessity of studying his air, and he has this peculiar distinction, that his negligence is unaffected.

He that can work himself into a pleasure in considering this being as an uncertain one, and think to reap an advantage by its discontinuance, is in a fair way of doing all things with a graceful unconcern, and a gentleman-like ease. Such a one does not behold his life as a short, transient, perplexing state, made up of trifling pleasures and great anxieties; but sees it in quite another light; his griefs are momentary, and his joys immortal. Reflection upon death is not a gloomy and sad thought of resigning every thing that he delights in, but it is a short night followed by an endless day. What I would here contend for is, that the more virtuous the man is, the nearer he will naturally be to the character of genteel and agreeable. A man whose fortune is plentiful, shows an ease in his countenance, and confidence in his behaviour, which he that is under wants and difficulties cannot assume. It is thus with the state of the mind; he that governs his thoughts with the everlasting rules of reason and sense, must have something so inexpressibly graceful in his words and actions, that every circumstance must become him. The change of persons or things around him does not at all alter his situation, but he looks disinterested in the occurrences with which others are distracted; because the greatest purpose of his life is to maintain an indifference both to it and all its enjoyments. In a word, to be a fine gentleman, is to be a generous and a brave man. What can make a man so much in constant good humour, and shine, as we call it, as to be supported by what can never fail him, and to believe that whatever happens to him was the best thing that could possibly befall him, or else He on whom it depends, would not have permitted it to have befallen him at all!

STEELE.

R.

Nº 76. MONDAY, MAY 28, 1711.

Ut tu fortunam, sic nos te, Cæsar feremus.

HOR. 1 Ep. viii. 17.

As you your fortune bear, we will bear you.

CREECH.

THERE is nothing so common as to find a man whom in the general observation of his carriage you take to be of an uniform temper, subject to such unaccountable starts of humour and passion, that he is as much unlike himself, and differs as much from the man you at first thought him, as any two distinct persons can differ from each other. This proceeds from the want of forming some law of life to ourselves, or fixing some notion of things in general, which may affect us in such a manner as to create proper habits both in our minds and bodies. The negligence of this, leaves us exposed not only to an unbecoming levity in our usual conversation, but also to the same instability in our friendships, interests, and alliances. A man who is but a mere Spectator of what passes around him, and not engaged in commerces of any consideration, is but an ill judge of the secret motions of the heart of man, and by what degrees it is actuated to make such visible alterations in the same person: but at the same time, when a man is no way concerned in the effect of such inconsistencies,

in the behaviour of men of the world, the speculation must be in the utmost degree both diverting and instructive; yet to enjoy such observations in the highest relish, he ought to be placed in a post of direction, and have the dealings of their fortunes to them. I have therefore been wonderfully diverted with some pieces of secret history, which an antiquary, my very good friend, lent me as a curiosity. They are memoirs of the private life of Pharamond of France. 'Pharamond,' says my author, 'was a prince of infinite humanity and generosity, and at the same time the most pleasant and facetious companion of his time. He had a peculiar taste in him, which would have been unlucky in any prince but himself; he thought there could be no exquisite pleasure in conversation, but among equals; and would pleasantly bewail himself that he always lived in a crowd, but was the only man in France that could never get into company. This turn of mind made him delight in midnight rambles, attended only with one person of his bed-chamber. He would in these excursions get acquainted with men (whose temper he had a mind to try) and recommend them privately to the particular observation of his first minister. He generally found himself neglected by his new acquaintance as soon as they had hopes of growing great; and used on such occasions to remark, that it was a great injustice to tax princes of forgetting themselves in their high fortunes, when there were so few that could with constancy bear the favour of their very creatures.' My author, in these loose hints, has one passage that gives us a very lively idea of the uncommon genius of Pharamond. He met with one man whom he had put to all the usual proofs he had made of those he had a mind to know thoroughly, and found him for his purpose. In discourse with him one day, he gave him an opportunity of saying how much would satisfy all his wishes. The prince immediately revealed himself, doubled the sum, and spoke to him in this manner: 'Sir, you have twice what you desired, by the favour of Pharamond; but look to it, that you are satisfied with it, for it is the last you shall ever receive. I from this moment consider you as mine; and to make you truly so, I give you my royal word you shall never be greater or less than you are at present. Answer me not (concluded the prince smiling) but enjoy the fortune I have put you in, which is above my own condition; for you have hereafter nothing to hope or to fear.'

His majesty having thus well chosen and bought a friend and companion, he enjoyed alternately all the pleasures of an agreeable private man, and a great and powerful monarch. He gave himself, with his companion, the name of the Merry Tyrant; for he punished his courtiers for their insolence and folly, not by any act of public disavow, but by humorously practising upon their imaginations. If he observed a man untractable to his inferiors, he would find an opportunity to take some favourable notice of him, and render him insupportable. He knew all his own looks, words, and actions had their interpretations; and his friend Monsieur Eucrate (for so he was called) having a great soul without ambition, he could communicate all his thoughts to him, and fear no artful use would be made of that freedom. It was no small delight when they were in private, to reflect upon all which had passed in public.

Pharamond would often, to satisfy a vain fool of power in his country, talk to him in a full court, and with one whisper make him despise all his old

friends and acquaintance. He was come to that knowledge of men by long observation, that he would profess altering the whole mass of blood in some tempers, by thrice speaking to them. As fortune was in his power, he gave himself constant entertainment in managing the mere followers of it with the treatment they deserved. He would, by a skilful cast of his eye, and half a smile, make two fellows who hated, embrace, and fall upon each other's necks with as much eagerness, as if they followed their real inclinations, and intended to stifle one another. When he was in high good humour, he would lay the scene with Eucrate, and on a public night exercise the passions of his whole court. He was pleased to see an haughty beauty watch the looks of the man she had long despised from observation of his being taken notice of by Pharamond; and the lover conceive higher hopes than to follow the woman he was dying for the day before. In a court, where men speak affection in the strongest terms, and dislike in the faintest, it was a comical mixture of incidents to see disguises thrown aside in one case, and increased on the other, according as favour or disgrace attended the respective objects of men's approbation or disesteem. Pharamond, in his mirth upon the meanness of mankind, used to say, 'A he could take away a man's five senses, he could give him an hundred. The man in disgrace shall immediately lose all his natural endowments, as he that finds favour have the attributes of an angel.' He would carry it so far as to say, 'I should not be only so in the opinion of the lower part of his court, but the men themselves shall think thus meanly or greatly of themselves, as they are out, or in the good graces of a court.'

A monarch who had wit and humour like Pharamond, must have pleasures which no man else can ever have opportunity of enjoying. He gave fortune to none but those whom he knew could receive it without transport. He made a noble use of his observations, and did not regard his ministers as they were agreeable to himself but as they were useful to his kingdom. By this means, the king appeared in every officer of state and no man had a participation of the power, which had not a similitude of the virtue of Pharamond.

STABLE.

R.

Nº 77. TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1711.

*Non convalesce licet, nec urbs tota
Quisquam aut tam prope tam proculque nobis.*

MART. Epig. l. 62.

What correspondence can I hold with you,
Who are so near, and yet so distant too?

My friend Will Honeycomb is one of those sort of men who are very often absent in conversation and what the French call *à recuser* and *à distraire*. A little before our club-time last night, we were walking together in Somerset-garden, where I had picked up a small pebble of so odd a metal that he said he would present it to a friend of an eminent virtuoso. After we had walked some time, I made a full stop with my face towards the west, which Will knowing to be my usual method of asking what's o'clock, in an afternoon, immediately pulled out his watch, and told me we were seven minutes good. We took a turn or two more when to my great surprise, I saw him squint and

his plate. It is true the rest of the company want it, as well as their knives and forks, which Menalcas does not let them keep long. Sometimes in a morning he puts his whole family in an hurry, and at last goes out without being able to stay for his coach or dinner; and for that day you may see him in every part of the town, except the very place where he had appointed to be upon a business of importance. You would often take him for every thing that he is not; for a fellow quite stupid, for he hears nothing; for a fool, for he talks to himself, and has an hundred grimaces and motions in his head, which are altogether involuntary; for a proud man, for he looks full upon you, and takes no notice of your saluting him. The truth of it is, his eyes are open, but he makes no use of them, and neither sees you, nor any man, nor any thing else. He came once from his country-house, and his own footmen undertook to rob him, and succeeded. They held a flambeau to his throat, and bid him deliver his purse; he did so, and coming home told his friends he had been robbed; they desired to know the particulars. "Ask my servants," said Menalcas, "for they were with me."

BUDELL.

X.

Nº 78. WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1711.

Cum talis sis, utinam noster es!

Could we but call so great a genius ours!

THE following letters are so pleasant, that I doubt not but the reader will be as much diverted with them as I was. I have nothing to do in this day's entertainment, but taking the sentence from the end of the Cambridge letter, and placing it at the front of my paper, to show the author I wish him my companion with as much earnestness as he invites me to be his.

SIR,

I SEND you the inclosed, to be inserted (if you think them worthy of it) in your Spectator; in which so surprising a genius appears, that it is no wonder if all mankind endeavour to get something into a paper which will always live.

As to the Cambridge affair, the humour was really carried on in the way I describe it. However, you have a full commission to put out or in, and to do whatever you think fit with it. I have already had the satisfaction of seeing you take that liberty with some things I have before sent you. Go on, sir, and prosper. You have the best wishes of, SIR,

Your very affectionate,

And obliged humble servant *

MR. SPECTATOR,

Cambridge.

You well know it is of great consequence to clear titles, and it is of importance that it be done in the proper season; on which account, this is to assure you, that the club of Ugly Faces was instituted originally at Cambridge, in the merry reign of king Charles II. As in great bodies of men it is not difficult to find members enough for such a club, so (I remember) it was then feared, upon their intention of dining together, that the hall belonging to Clare hall, (the ugliest then in the town, though now the neatest) would not be large enough handsomely

to hold the company. Invitations were made in very great numbers, but very few accepted thereof without much difficulty. One pleaded, that being at London, in a bookseller's shop, a lady going to with a great belly longed to kiss him. He has certainly been excused, but that evidence appears that indeed one in London did pretend the longest to kiss him, but that it was only a pickpocket, who during his kissing her stole away all his money. Another would have got off by a dimple in his chin; but it was proved upon him, that he had, by coming into a room, made a woman miscarry, and frightened two children into fits. A third alleged that he was taken by a lady for another gentleman, who was one of the handsomest in the university; but upon inquiry it was found that the lady had actually lost one eye, and the other was very much upon the decline. A fourth produced letters of the country in his vindication, in which a gentleman offered him his daughter, who had lately fallen in love with him, with a good fortune: but it was made appear, that the young lady was amorous, and had like to have run away with her father's coachman, so that it was supposed, that his pretence of falling in love with him, was only in order to be well married. It was pleasant to hear the several excuses which were made, inasmuch that some made as much interest to be excused, as they would from serving sheriff; however, at last the society was formed, and proper officers were appointed; and the day was fixed for the entertainment, which was in venison season. A pleasant fellow of King's College (commonly called Crab, from his sour look, and the only man who did not pretend to get off) was nominated for chaplain; and nothing was wanting but some one to sit in the elbow chair, by way of president, at the upper end of the table; and there the business stuck, for there was no contention for superiority there. This affair made so great a noise, that the king, who was then at Newmarket, heard of it, and was pleased merrily and graciously to say, "He could not be there himself, but he would send them a brace of bucks."

I would desire you, sir, to set this affair in its true light, that posterity may not be misled in so important a point: for when the wise man who shall write your true history shall acquaint the world, that you had a diplomast from the Ugly club at Oxford, and that by virtue of it you were admitted into it, what a learned war will there be among future critics about the original of that club, which both universities will contend so warmly for? And perhaps some hardy Cantabrigian author may then boldly affirm, that the word Oxford was an interpolation of some Oxonian instead of Cambridge. This affair will be best adjusted in your lifetime; but I hope your affection to your mother will not make you partial to your aunt.

To tell you, sir, my own opinion: though I cannot find any ancient records of any acts of the society of the Ugly Faces, considered in a public capacity; yet, in a private one, they have certainly antiquity on their side. I am persuaded they will hardly give place to the Loungers*, and the Loungers are of the same standing with the university itself.

Though we well know, sir, you want no motives to do justice, yet I am commissioned to tell you that you are invited to be admitted *ad eundem* at Cambridge; and I believe I may venture myself to deliver this as the wish of our whole university.

* Supposed to be from Mr. Eusden, of Trinity-college, Cambridge, afterwards poet-laureat.

See Nº 54.

' TO MR. SPECTATOR,

' *The humble Petition of WHO and WHICH,*

' *SHewETH,*

' THAT your petitioners, being in a forlorn and destitute condition, know not to whom we should apply ourselves for relief, because there is hardly any man alive who hath not injured us. Nay, we speak it with sorrow, even you yourself, whom we should suspect of such a practice the last of all mankind, can hardly acquit yourself of having crying us some cause of complaint. We are descended of ancient families, and kept up our dignity and honour many years, till the jack-sprat THAT supplanted us. How often have we found ourselves alighted by the clergy in their pulpits, and the lawyers at the bar? Nay, how often have we heard, in one of the most polite and august assemblies in the universe, to our great mortification, these words, "That THAT that noble lord urged;" which if one of us had had justice done, would have sounded nobler thus, "that WHICH that noble lord urged." Senates themselves, the guardians of British liberty, have degraded us, and preferred THAT to us; and yet no decree was ever given against us. In the very acts of parliament, in which the utmost right should be done to every body, word, and thing, we find ourselves often either not used, or used one instead of another. In the first and best prayer children are taught, they learn to misname us: "Our Father which art in heaven," should be, "Our Father who art in heaven;" and even a Convocation, after long debates, refused to consent to an alteration of it. In our General Confession we say, "Spare thou them, O God, WHICH confess their faults," which ought to be "who confess their faults." What hopes then have we of having justice done us, when the makers of our very prayers and laws, and the most learned in all faculties, seem to be in a confederacy against us, and our enemies themselves must be our judges?

' The Spanish proverb says, "*El sabio muda consejo, el necio no;*" i. e. A wise man changes his mind, a fool never will." So that we think you, a very proper person, to address to, since we know you to be capable of being convinced, and changing your judgment. You are well able to settle this affair, and to you we submit our case. We desire you to assign the butts and heads of each of us; and that for the future we may both enjoy our own. We would desire to be heard by our counsel, but that we fear in their very pleadings they would betray our cause: besides, we have been oppressed so many years, that we can appear no other way but in *forma pauperum*. All which considered, we hope you will be pleased to do that which to right and justice shall appertain.

' And your petitioners, &c.'

WHEEL.

R.

Nº 79. THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1711.

Oderunt peccare boni virtutis amore.

HOR. 1 Ep. xvi. 32.

The good, for virtue's sake, abhor to sin.

CREECH.

I HAVE received very many letters of late from my humble correspondents, most of whom are very an-

gry with me for abridging their pleasures, and looking severely upon things in themselves indifferent. But I think they are extremely unjust to me in this imputation. All I contend for is, that those excellencies, which are to be regarded but in the second place, should not precede more weighty considerations. The heart of man deceives him in spite of the lectures of half a life spent in discourses on the subjection of passion; and I do not know why one may not think the heart of woman as unfaithful to itself. If we grant an equality in the faculties of both sexes, the minds of women are less cultivated with precepts, and consequently may, without disrespect to them, be accounted more liable to illusion, in cases wherein natural inclination is out of the interest of virtue. I shall take up my present time in commenting upon a billet or two which came from ladies, and from thence leave the reader to judge whether I am in the right or not, in thinking it is possible fine women may be mistaken. The following address seems to have no other design in it, but to tell me the writer will do what she pleases for all me.

' MR. SPECTATOR,

' I AM young, and very much inclined to follow the paths of innocence; but at the same time, as I have a plentiful fortune, and am of quality, I am unwilling to resign the pleasures of distinction, some little satisfaction in being admired in general, and much greater in being beloved by a gentleman whom I design to make my husband. But I have a mind to put off entering into matrimony till another winter is over my head, which (whatever, musty Sir, you may think of the matter) I design to pass away in hearing music, going to plays, visiting, and all other satisfactions which fortune and youth, protected by innocence and virtue, can procure for me,

' Your most humble servant,

M. T.

' My lover does not know I like him; therefore, having no engagements upon me, I think to stay and know whether I may like any one else better.'

I have heard Will Honeycomb say, 'A woman seldom writes her mind but in her postscript.' I think this gentlewoman has sufficiently discovered hers in this. I will lay what wager she pleases against her present favourite, and can tell her, that she will like ten more before she is fixed, and then will take the worst man she ever liked in her life. There is no end of affection taken in at the eyes only; and you may as well satisfy those eyes with seeing, as control any passion received by them only. It is from loving by sight, that coxcombs so frequently succeed with women, and very often a young lady is bestowed by her parents to a man who weds her as innocence itself, though she has, in her own heart, given her approbation of a different man in every assembly she was in the whole year before. What is wanting among women as well as among men, is the love of laudable things, and not to rest only in the forbearance of such as are reproachful.

How far removed from a woman of this light imagination is Eudokia! Eudokia has all the arts of life and good-breeding with so much ease, that the virtue of her conduct looks more like instinct than choice. It is as little difficult to her to think justly of persons and things, as it is to a woman of different accomplishments to move ill or look awk-

ward. That which was, at first, the effect of instruction, is grown into an habit; and it would be as hard for Badosia to indulge a wrong suggestion of thought, as it would be to Flavia, the fine dancer, to come into a room with an unbecoming air.

But the misapprehensions people themselves have of their own state of mind, is laid down with much discerning in the following letter, which is but an extract of a kind epistle from my charming mistress Hecatomia, who is above the vanity of external beauty, and is the better judge of the perfections of the mind.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I WRITE this to acquaint you, that very many ladies, as well as myself, spend many hours more than we used at the glass, for want of the female library, of which you promised us a catalogue. I hope, sir, in the choice of authors for us, you will have a particular regard to books of devotion. What they are, and how many, must be your chief care; for upon the propriety of such writings depends a great deal. I have known those among us who think, if they every morning and evening spend an hour in their closet, and read over so many prayers in six or seven books of devotion, all equally nonsensical, with a sort of warmth, (that might as well be raised by a glass of wine, or a dram of citrons) they may all the rest of their time go on in whatever their particular passion leads them to. The beautiful Philantia, who is (in your language) an Idol, is one of these votaries; she has a very pretty furnished closet, to which she retires at her appointed hours. This is her dressing-room, as well as chapel; she has constantly before her a large looking-glass; and upon the table, according to a very witty author,

“Together lie her prayer-book and paint,
At once to improve the sinner and the saint.”

‘It must be a good scene, if one could be present at it, to see this Idol by turns lift up her eyes to heaven, and steal glances at her own dear person. It cannot but be a pleasing conflict between vanity and humiliation. When you are upon this subject, choose books which elevate the mind above the world, and give a pleasing indifference to little things in it. For want of such instructions I am apt to believe so many people take it in their heads to be sullen, cross, and angry, under pretence of being abstracted from the affairs of this life, when at the same time they betray their fondness for them by doing their duty as a task, and pointing and reading good books for a week together. Much of this I take to proceed from the indiscretion of the books themselves, whose very titles of Weekly Preparations, and such limited godliness, lead people of ordinary capacities into great errors, and raise in them a mechanical religion, entirely distinct from morality. I know a lady so given up to this sort of devotion, that though she employs six or eight hours of the twenty-four at cards, she never misses one constant hour of prayer, for which time another holds her cards, to which she returns with no little anxiousness till two or three in the morning. All these acts are but empty shows, and, as it were, compliments made to virtue; the mind is all the while untouched with any true pleasure in the pursuit of it. From hence I presume it arises, that so many people call themselves virtuous, from no other pretence to it but an absence of ill. There is Dulciana the most insolent of all creatures to her friends and domestics,

upon no other pretence in nature, but that (as he silly phrase is) “no one can say black is her eye. She has no secrets, forsooth, which should make her afraid to speak her mind, and therefore she is in pertinently blunt to all her acquaintance, and unreasonably imperious to all her family. Dear sir be pleased to put such books into our hands, as may make our virtue more inward, and convince some of us, that in a mind truly virtuous, the scorn of vice is always accompanied with the pity of it. This and other things are impatiently expected from you by our whole sex; among the rest by, sir

‘Your most humble servant,

‘B. D.’
R.

STEEL.

Nº 80. FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1711.

Calum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt.
HOR. 1 Ep. xl. 27.

Those that beyond sea go, will sadly find,
They change their climate only, not their mind.
CREECH.

In the year 1688, and on the same day of that year were born in Chesopde, London, two females, of exquisite feature and shape; the one we shall call Brunetta, the other Phillis. A close intimacy between their parents made each of them the first acquaintance the other knew in the world. They played, dressed babies, acted visitings, learned to dance and make courtesies together. They were inseparable companions in all the little entertainments their tender years were capable of: which innocent happiness continued until the beginning of their fifteenth year, when it happened that Phillis had an head-dress on, which became her so very well, that instead of being beheld any more with pleasure for their amity to each other, the eyes of the neighbourhood were turned to remark them with comparison of their beauty. They now no longer enjoyed the ease of mind and pleasing indolence in which they were formerly happy; but all their words and actions were misinterpreted by each other, and every excellence in their speech and behaviour was looked upon as an act of emulation to surpass the other. These beginnings of distinction soon improved into a formality of behaviour, a general coldness, and by natural steps into an irreconcilable hatred.

These two rivals for the reputation of beauty, were in their stature, countenance, and mien, so very much alike, that if you were speaking of them in their absence, the words in which you described the one must give you an idea of the other. They were hardly distinguishable, you would think, when they were apart, though extremely different when together. What made their enmity the more entertaining to all the rest of their sex was, that in detraction from each other, neither could fall upon terms which did not hit herself as much as her adversary. Their nights grew restless with meditation of new devices to outvie each other, and inventing new devices to recal admirers, who observed the charms of the one rather than those of the other, on the last meeting. Their colours failed at each other's appearance, flushed with pleasure at the report of a disadvantage, and their countenances withered upon instances of applause. The decencies to which women are obliged, made these virgins stifle their resentment so far as not to break into open violences, while they equally suffered the torments of a regulated anger. Their mothers, as it is usual, engaged in the quarrel, and

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VOL. II.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

CHARLES LORD HALIFAX*.

MY LORD,

SIMILITUDE of manners and studies is usually mentioned as one of the strongest motives to affection and esteem; but the passionate veneration I have for your Lordship, I think, flows from an admiration of qualities in you, of which, in the whole course of these papers, I have acknowledged myself incapable. While I busy myself as a stranger upon earth, and can pretend to no other than being a looker-on, you are conspicuous in the busy and polite world, both in the world of men, and that of letters. While I am silent and unobserved in public meetings, you are admired by all that approach you, as the life and genius of the conversation. What an happy conjunction of different talents meets in him whose whole discourse is at once animated by the strength and force of reason, and adorned with all the graces and embellishments of wit! When learning irradiates common life, it is then in its highest use and per-

* This very distinguished wit and statesman was fourth son of the Hon. George Montague, of Harton, in Northamptonshire, son of Henry the first earl of Manchester, and born April 16, 1661. He was educated at Westminster-school, and at Trinity-college, Cambridge; shewed very early a most pregnant genius, and quickly made great progress in learning. In 1684 he wrote a poem "On the Death of king Charles II." in which he displayed his genius to such advantage, that he was invited by the earl of Dorset to London, where he soon increased his fame, particularly by a piece which he wrote in conjunction with Matthew Prior, and published in 1687, under the title of "The Hind and the Panther, travestied to the Story of the Country-mouse and the City-mouse." Upon the abdication of king James II. he was chosen one of the members of the convention, and recommended by the earl of Dorset to king William, who immediately allowed him a pension of five hundred pounds per annum. After some time, having given proofs of his great abilities in the house of commons, he was made one of the commissioners of the treasury, and soon after chancellor of the exchequer; in which post he brought about that great work of recoining all the current money of the nation. In 1698 he was appointed first commissioner of the treasury, and one of the lords justices of England during the king's absence in Holland; and in 1700 was created a peer of England by the

section; and it is to such as your lordship, that the sciences owe the esteem which they have with the active part of mankind. Knowledge of books in recluse men, is like that sort of lantern, which hides him who carries it, and serves only to pass through secret and gloomy paths of his own; but in the possession of a man of business, it is, as a torch in the hand of one who is willing and able to show those who were bewildered, the way which leads to their prosperity and welfare. Your generous concern for your country, and a passion for every thing which is truly great and noble are what actuate all your life and actions; and I hope you will forgive me that I have an ambition this book may be placed in the library of so good a judge of what is valuable, in that library where the choice is such, that it will not be a disparagement to be the meanest author in it. Forgive me, my lord, for taking this occasion of telling all the world how ardently I love and honour you; and that I am, with the utmost gratitude for all your favours, my lord, your lordship's most obliged, most obedient, and most humble servant,

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title of baron of Halifax in the county of York; but before his promotion, he had conferred on him the place of auditor of the exchequer, being succeeded in his post of first lord of the treasury by Sidney lord Godolphin. In 1701 the house of commons impeached him of high crimes and misdemeanors, in six articles, which, however, were dismissed by the house of lords. He was again attacked by the house of commons in 1702, but without success. In 1703 he wrote "An Answer to Mr. Bromley's Speech," respecting the occasional conformity-bill. In 1706 he was one of the commissioners for the union with Scotland; and upon passing the "Bill for the Naturalization of the illustrious House of Hanover, and for the better security of the succession of the crown in the Protestant line," his lordship was chosen to carry that act to Hanover. Upon the death of queen Anne, he was one of the lords of the regency in majesty's absence from his kingdoms; and when George had taken possession of his throne, his lordship was again appointed first commissioner of the treasury, and created earl of Halifax and knight of the garter. He died May 1715, and was interred in Westminster-abbey. His lordship wrote, besides those mentioned, some other poems, particularly one intitled, "The Man of Honour;" and his works have been since collected, and published among the works of the English poets.

vernement under a public exigence; which appeared so laudable an action in the eyes of their countrymen, that from thenceforth it was permitted by a law to pronounce public orations at the funeral of a woman in praise of the deceased person, which till that time was peculiar to men. Would our English ladies, instead of sticking on a patch against those of their own country, show themselves so truly public-spirited as to sacrifice every one her neck-lace against the common enemy, what decrees ought not to be made in favour of them?

Since I am recollecting upon this subject such passages as occur to my memory out of ancient authors, I cannot omit a sentence in the celebrated funeral oration of Pericles, which he made in honour of those brave Athenians that were slain in a fight with the Lacedaemonians. After having addressed himself to the several ranks and orders of his countrymen, and shown them how they should behave themselves in the public cause, he turns to the female part of his audience; 'And as for you,' says he, 'I shall advise you in very few words. Aspire only to those virtues that are peculiar to your sex; follow your natural modesty, and think it your greatest commendation not to be talked of one way or other.'

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 82. MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1711.

— *Coput domina venate sub hasta,*
JUV. Sat. iii. 33.

His fortunes ruin'd, and himself a slave.

PASSING under Ludgate * the other day, I heard a voice bawling for charity, which I thought I had somewhere heard before. Coming near to the grate, the prisoner called me by my name, and desired I would throw something into the box: I was out of countenance for him, and did as he bid me, by putting in half a crown. I went away, reflecting upon the strange constitution of some men, and how meanly they behave themselves in all sorts of conditions. The person who begged of me is now, as I take it, fifty: I was well acquainted with him till about the age of twenty-five; at which time a good estate fell to him by the death of a relation. Upon coming to this unexpected good fortune, he ran into all the extravagancies imaginable; was frequently in drunken disputes, broke drawers' heads, talked and swore loud, was unmannerly to those above him, and insolent to those below him. I could not but remark, that it was the same baseness of spirit which worked in his behaviour in both fortunes: the same little mind was insolent in riches, and shameless in poverty. This accident made me muse upon the circumstance of being in debt in general, and solve in my mind what tempers were most apt to fall into this error of life, as well as the misfortune it must needs be to languish under such pressures. As for myself, my natural aversion to that sort of conversation which makes a figure with the generality of mankind, exempts me from any temptations to expense; and all my business lies within a very narrow compass, which is only to give an honest man who takes care of my estate, proper vouchers for

his quarterly payments to me, and observe whether my landlady brings and takes away with her once a week. My steward brings his receipt ready for my signing; and I have a pretty impleme with the respective names of shirts, cravats, handkerchiefs and stockings, with proper numbers, know how to reckon with my landlady. This being almost all the business I have in the world, the care of my own affairs, I am at full leisure to observe upon what others do, with relation to their equipage and economy.

When I walk the street, and observe the hum about me in this town,

'Where, with like haste, through several ways they run
Some to undo, and some to be undone?'

I say, when I behold this vast variety of persons and humours, with the pains they both take in the accomplishment of the ends mentioned in the above verses of Denham, I cannot much wonder the endeavour after gain, but an extremely astonished that men can be so insensible of the danger of running into debt. One would think it impossible a man who is given to contract debts should not know, that his creditor has, from that moment in which he transgresses payment, so much as the demand comes to, in his debtor's honour, liberty and fortune. One would think he did not know that his creditor can say the worst thing imaginable of him, to wit, 'That he is unjust,' without dishonour; and can seize his person, without being guilty of an assault. Yet such is the loose and abandoned turn of some men's minds, that they can live under these constant apprehensions, and still go on to increase the cause of them. (1) There be a more low and servile condition, than to be ashamed or afraid to see any one man breaking? Yet he that is much in debt, is in that condition with relation to twenty different people. There are indeed circumstances, wherein men of honest natures may become liable to debts, by some unadvised behaviour in any great point of the life, or mortgaging a man's honesty as a security for that of another, and the like: but these instances are so particular and circumstantiated, that they cannot come within general consideration. For one such case as one of these, there are ten where a man, to keep up a farce of retinue and grandeur within his own house, shall shrink at the expectation of surly demands at his doors. The debtor is the creditor's criminal, and all the offices of power and state, whom we behold make great a figure, are no other than so many persons in authority to make good his charge against him. Human society depends upon his having the vengeance law allots him; and the debtor owes liberty to his neighbour, as much as the murderer does his life to his prince.

Our gentry are, generally speaking, in debt, and many families have put it into a kind of method of being so from generation to generation. The father mortgages when his son is very young: and the boy is to marry, as soon as he is at age, to a rich man, and find portions for his sisters. This, forsooth, is no great inconvenience to him; for he may wench, keep a public table, or feed down like a worthy English gentleman, till he has out-run half his estate, and leave the same incumbrance upon his first-born, and so on; till one more of more vigour than ordinary goes quite through the estate, or some man of sense comes into it, and scours to have an estate in partnership, that is

* A prison for such debtors as were freemen of the city of London. It was built in 1586, across Ludgate-hill, close to where the church now stands, and was pulled down in 1762, the prisoners being removed to the London workhouse in Bishopsgate-street. They have recently been again removed to a part of Giltspur-street computer.

serving, who was very busy in retouching the finest pieces, though he produced no originals of his own. His pencil aggravated every feature that was before overcharged, loaded every defect, and poisoned every colour it touched. Though this workman did so much mischief on the side of the living, he never turned his eye towards that of the dead. His name was Envy.

Having taken a cursory view of one side of the gallery, I turned myself to that which was filled by the works of those great masters that were dead; when immediately I fancied myself standing before a multitude of spectators, and thousands of eyes looking upon me at once; for all before me appeared so like men and women, that I almost forgot they were pictures. Raphael's figures stood in one row, Titian's in another, Guido Rheni's in a third. One part of the wall was peopled by Hannibal Carrache, another by Corregio, and another by Rubens. To be short, there was not a great master among the dead who had not contributed to the embellishment of this side of the gallery. The persons that owed their being to these several masters, appeared all of them to be real and alive, and differed among one another only in the variety of their shapes, complexions and clothes; so that they looked like different nations of the same species.

Observing an old man (who was the same person I before mentioned, as the only artist that was at work on this side of the gallery) creeping up and down from one picture to another, and retouching all the fine pieces that stood before me, I could not but be very attentive to all his motions. I found his pencil was so very light, that it worked imperceptibly, and after a thousand touches scarce produced any visible effect in the picture on which he was employed. However, as he busied himself incessantly, and repeated touch after touch without rest or intermission, he wore off insensibly every little disagreeable gloss that hung upon a figure. He also added such a beautiful brown to the shades, and mellowness to the colours, that he made every picture appear more perfect than when it came fresh from the master's pencil. I could not forbear looking upon the face of this ancient workman, and immediately, by the long lock of hair upon his forehead, discovered him to be Time*.

Whether it were because the thread of my dream was at an end I cannot tell; but upon my taking a survey of this imaginary old man, my sleep left me.

ADDISON.

C.

No 84. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1711.

*Quis talia fando
Myrmidonum Dolopumve aut duri miles Ulyssci
Temperet a lachrymis?*

VIRG. Æn. II. 6.

Who can such woes relate, without a tear,
As stern Ulysses must have wept to hear?

Looking over the old manuscript wherein the private actions of Pharamond are set down by way of table-book, I found many things which gave me great delight; and as human life turns upon the same principles and passions in all ages, I thought it very proper to take minutes of what passed in that age, for the instruction of this. The antiquary

* Hogarth, however, in his 'Analysis of Beauty,' strongly controverts the received opinion, that time improves the colouring of pictures.

who lent me these papers, gave me a character. Eucrate the favourite of Pharamond, extracted from an author who lived in that court. The account he gives both of the prince and this his faithful friend, will not be improper to insert here, because I may have occasion to mention many of their conversations, into which these memorials them may give light.

Pharamond, when he had a mind to retire for an hour or two from the hurry of business and fatigue of ceremony, made a signal to Eucrate, putting his hand to his face, placing his arm negligently on a window, or some such action as appeared indifferent to all the rest of the company. Upon such notice, unobserved by others, (for the entire intimacy was always a secret) Eucrate repaired to his own apartment to receive the king. There was a secret access to this part of the court at which Eucrate used to admit many whose mere appearance, in the eyes of the ordinary waiters and door-keepers, made them be repulsed from other parts of the palace. Such as these were admitted here by order of Eucrate, and had audience of Pharamond. This entrance Pharamond called 'The gate of the unhappy;' and the tears of the afflicted who came before him, he would say, were bribes received by Eucrate; for Eucrate had the most compassionate spirit of all men living, except his generous master, who was always kindle at the least affliction which was communicated to him. In the regard for the miserable, Eucrate took particular care, that the common forms of distress, and the idle pretenders to sorrow, about courts, who wanted only supplies to luxury, should never obtain favour by his means; but the distress which arise from the many inexplicable occurrences that happen among men, the unaccountable alienation of parents from their children, cruelty of husbands to wives, poverty occasioned from shipwreck or fire, the falling-out of friends, or such other terrible disasters, to which the life of man is exposed; in cases of this nature, Eucrate was the patron; and enjoyed this part of the royal favour so much without being envied, that it was never inquired into, by whose means what no one else cared for doing, was brought about.

One evening when Pharamond came into the apartment of Eucrate, he found him extremely dejected; upon which he asked (with a smile which was natural to him) "What, is there any one so miserable to be relieved by Pharamond, that Eucrate is melancholy?"—"I fear there is," answered the favourite: "a person without, of a good air well dressed, and, though a man in the strength of his life, seems to faint under some insupportable calamity. All his features seem suffused with agony of mind; but I can observe in him, that he is more inclined to break away in tears, than rage. I asked him what he would have. He said he would speak to Pharamond. I desired his business. He could hardly say to me, Eucrate, carry me to the king, my story is not to be told twice. I fear I shall not be able to speak it at all." Pharamond commanded Eucrate to let him enter; he did so, and the gentleman approached the king with an air which spoke him under the greatest concern in what manner to demean himself. The king, who had a quick discerning, relieved him from the oppression he was under: and with the most beautiful complacency said to him, "Sir, do not add to that load of sorrow I see in your countenance the awe of my presence. Think you are speaking to your friend. If the circumstances of your distress will admit of it, you shall find me

This song is a plain simple copy of nature, destitute of the helps and ornaments of art. The tale of it is a pretty tragical story, and pleases for no other reason but because it is a copy of nature. There is even a despicable simplicity in the verse; and yet, because the sentiments appear genuine and unaffected, they are able to move the mind of the most polite reader with inward meltings of humanity and compassion. The incidents grow out of the subject, and are such as are the most proper to excite pity; for which reason the whole narration has something in it very moving, notwithstanding the author of it (whoever he was) has delivered it in such an abject phrase and poorness of expression, that the quoting any part of it would look like a design of turning it into ridicule. But though the language is mean, the thoughts, as I have before said, from one end to the other, are natural, and therefore cannot fail to please those who are not judges of language, or those who, notwithstanding they are judges of language, have a true and unprejudiced taste of nature. The condition, speech, and behaviour of the dying parents, with the age, innocence, and distress of the children, are set forth in such tender circumstances, that it is impossible for a reader of common humanity not to be affected with them. As for the circumstance of the robin-red-breast, it is indeed a little poetical ornament; and to show the genius of the author amidst all his simplicity, it is just the same kind of fiction which one of the greatest of the Latin poets has made use of upon a parallel occasion; I mean that passage in Horace, where he describes himself when he was a child, fallen asleep in a desert wood, and covered with leaves by the turtles that took pity on him.

*‘Mæ fabulosa vulture in Apulo,
Attricis extra limen Apulie,
Ludo satigabamque sonno
Fronde nova puerum palumbæ
Tutæ———’*

4 Od. lili. v. 9.

*‘In lofty vulture’s rising grounds,
Without my nurse Apulia’s bounds,
When young, and tir’d with sport and play,
And bound with pleasing sleep I lay,
Doves cover’d me with myrtle boughs.’*

CREECH.

I have heard that the late Lord Dorset, who had the greatest wit tempered with the greatest candour, and was one of the finest critics as well as the best poets of his age, had a numerous collection of old English ballads, and took a particular pleasure in the reading of them. I can affirm the same of Mr. Dryden, and know several of the most refined writers of our present age who are of the same humour.

I might likewise refer my reader to Moliere’s thoughts on this subject, as he has expressed them in the character of the *Misanthrope*; but those only who are endowed with a true greatness of soul and genius, can divest themselves of the little images of ridicule, and admire nature in her simplicity and nakedness. As for the little conceited wits of the age, who can only show their judgment by finding fault, they cannot be supposed to admire these productions which have nothing to recommend them but the beauties of nature, when they do not know how to relish even those compositions that, with all the beauties of nature, have also the additional advantages of art.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 86. FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1711.

Hæc quam difficile est crimen non prodere vultus!
OVID. Met. li. 42.

How in the looks does conscious guilt appear!
ADDISON.

There are several arts which all men are in some measure masters of, without having been at the pains of learning them. Every one that speaks reasons is a grammarian and a logician, though he may be wholly unacquainted with the rules of grammar or logic, as they are delivered in books and systems. In the same manner, every one is in some degree a master of that art which is generally distinguished by the name of physiognomy; and naturally forms to himself the character or fortune of a stranger, from the features and lineaments of his face. We are no sooner presented to any one we never saw before, but we are immediately struck with the idea of a proud, a reserved, an affable or a good-natured man; and upon our first going into a company of strangers, our benevolence or aversion, awe or contempt, rises naturally towards several particular persons, before we have heard them speak a single word, or so much as know who they are.

Every passion gives a particular cast to the countenance, and is apt to discover itself in some feature or other. I have seen an eye curse for half an hour together, and an eye-brow call a man a scoundrel. Nothing is more common than for lovers to complain, resent, languish, de-pair, and die in dumb show. For my own part, I am not apt to frame a notion of every man’s humour or circumstances by his looks, that I have sometimes employed myself from Charing-Cross to the Royal Exchange in drawing the characters of those who have passed by me. When I see a man with a sour rivell’d face, I cannot forbear pitying his wife; and when I meet with an open ingenuous countenance, think on the happiness of his friends, his family, and relations.

I cannot recollect the author of a famous saying to a stranger who stood silent in his company: ‘Speak that I may see thee *.’ But, with submission, I think we may be better known by our looks than by our words, and that a man’s speech is much more easily disguised than his countenance. In this case, however, I think the air of the whole face is much more expressive than the lines of it. The truth of it is, the air is generally nothing else but the inward disposition of the mind made visible.

Those who have established physiognomy into an art, and laid down rules of judging men’s temper by their faces, have regarded the features more than the air. Martial has a pretty epigram on this subject:

*‘Crime ruber, niger ore, brevis pede, lumbis lævus
Rex magnæ prædæ, Zotic, et bonus es.’*
Epig. lib. I. 12.

‘Thy beard and head are of a different dye;
Short of one foot, distorted in an eye:
With all these tokens of a knave complete,
Should’st thou be honest, thou’rt a devilish cheat.’

I have seen a very ingenious author on this subject †, who founds his speculations on the supposition, that as a man hath in the mould of his face

* Socrates. † *Logique ut te videam.*

† John Baptista Porta, a Neapolitan, who died in the year 1515, leaving among other works, one *De Physiognomia*, which was printed at Leyden, 1645. See also Lavater on the same subject.

a remote likeness to that of an ox, a sheep, a lion, a hog, or any other creature; he hath the same resemblance in the frame of his mind, and is subject to those passions which are predominant in the creature that appears in his countenance. Accordingly he gives the prints of several faces that are of a different mould, and by a little overcharging the likeness, discovers the figures of these several kinds of brutal faces in human features. I remember, in the life of the famous Prince of Conde, the writer observes, the face of that prince was like the face of an eagle, and that the prince was very well pleased to be told so. In this case therefore we may be sure that he had in his mind some general implicit notion of this art of physiognomy which I have just now mentioned; and that when his courtiers told him his face was made like an eagle's, he understood them in the same manner as if they had told him, there was something in his looks which showed him to be strong, active, piercing, and of a royal descent. Whether or no the different motions of the animal spirits, in different passions, may have any effect on the mould of the face when the lineaments are pliable and tender, or whether the same kind of souls require the same kind of habitations, I shall leave to the consideration of the curious. In the mean time I think nothing can be more glorious than for a man to give the lie to his face, and to be an honest, just, good-natured man, in spite of all those marks and signatures which nature seems to have set upon him for the contrary. This very often happens among those, who, instead of being exasperated by their own looks, or envying the looks of others, apply themselves entirely to the cultivating of their minds, and getting those beauties which are more lasting, and more ornamental. I have seen many an amiable piece of deformity; and have observed a certain cheerfulness in as bad a system of features as ever was clapped together, which have appeared more lovely than all the blooming charms of an insolent beauty. There is a double praise due to virtue, when it is lodged in a body that seems to have been prepared for the reception of vice; in many such cases the soul and the body do not seem to be fellows.

Socrates was an extraordinary instance of this nature. There chanced to be a great physiognomist in his time at Athens, who had made strange discoveries of men's tempers and inclinations by their outward appearances. Socrates's disciples, that they might put this artist to the trial, carried him to their master, whom he had never seen before, and did not know he was then in company with him. After a short examination of his face, the physiognomist pronounced him the most loved, libidinous, drunken old fellow that he had ever met with in his whole life. Upon which the disciples all burst out a laughing, as thinking they had detected the falsehood and vanity of his art. But Socrates told them, that the principles of his art might be very true, notwithstanding his present mistake; for that he himself was naturally inclined to those particular vices which the physiognomist had discovered in his countenance; but that he had conquered the strong dispositions he was born with, by the dictates of philosophy.*

We are indeed told by an ancient author †, that Socrates very much resembled Silenus in his face; which we find to have been very rightly observed from the statues and busts of both, that are still in the Vatican; as well as on several antique seals and

precious stones, which are frequently enough to be met with in the cabinets of the curious. But however observations of this nature may sometimes hold, a wise man should be particularly cautious how he gives credit to a man's outward appearance. It is an irreparable injustice we are guilty of towards one another, when we are prejudiced by the looks and features of those whom we do not know. How often do we conceive hatred against a person of worth, or fancy a man to be proud or ill-natured by his aspect, whom we think we cannot esteem too much when we are acquainted with his real character? Dr. Moore, in his admirable System of Ethics, reckons this particular inclination to take a prejudice against a man for his looks, among the smaller vices in morality, and, if I remember, gives it the name of a *prosopolepsia* ‡.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 87. SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1711.

—Nimium ne crede colori.

VIRG. Ecl. ii. 17.

Trust not too much to an enchanting face.
DRYDEN.

It has been the purpose of several of my speculations to bring people to an unconcerned behaviour, with relation to their persons, whether beautiful or defective. As the secrets of the Ugly club † were exposed to the public, that men might see there were some noble spirits in the age, who are not at all displeased with themselves upon considerations which they had no choice in; so the discourse concerning Idols ‡ tended to lessen the value people put upon themselves from personal advantages and gifts of nature. As to the latter species of mankind, the beauties, whether male or female, they are generally the most untractable people of all others. You are so excessively perplexed with the particularities in their behaviour, that to be at ease, one would be apt to wish there were no such creatures. They expect so great allowances, and give so little to others, that they who have to do with them find in the main, a man with a better person than ordinary, and a beautiful woman, might be very happily changed for such to whom nature has been less liberal. The handsome fellow is usually so much a gentleman, and the fine woman has something so becoming, that there is no enduring either of them. It has therefore been generally my choice to mix with cheerful ugly creatures, rather than gentlemen who are graceful enough to omit or do what they please; or beauties who have charms enough to do and say what would be obliging in any but themselves.

Diffidence and presumption, upon account of our persons, are equally faults; and both arise from the want of knowing, or rather endeavouring to know ourselves, and for what we ought to be valued or neglected. But indeed I did not imagine these little consideration and coquetries could have the ill consequence as I find they have by the following letters of my correspondents, where it seems beauty is thrown into the account, in matters of sale, to those who receive no favour from the charmers.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

June 4.

* AFTER I have assured you, I am in every respect one of the handsomest young girls about town, I

• A Greek word, translated in our New Testament (Rom. ii. 11. and Eph. vi. 9.) † A respecter of persons. ‡

† See Nº 17, &c.

‡ See Nº 72.

P

• Cicero's Tusculan Questions.

† Plato.

need be particular in nothing but the make of my face, which has the misfortune to be exactly oval. This I take to proceed from a temper that naturally inclines me both to speak and hear.

With this account you may wonder how I can have the vanity to offer myself as a candidate, which I now do, to a society, where the Spectator and Hecathus* have been admitted with so much applause. I don't want to be put in mind how very defective I am in every thing that is ugly; I am too sensible of my own unworthiness in this particular, and therefore I only propose myself as a foil to the club.

You see how honest I have been to confess all my imperfections, which is a great deal to come from a woman, and what I hope you will encourage with the favour of your interest.

There can be no objection made on the side of the matchless Hecathus, since it is certain I shall be in no danger of giving her the least occasion of jealousy: and then a joint-stool in the very lowest place at the table, is all the honour that is covered by

Your most humble

and obedient servant,

ROSALINDA.

P. S. I have sacrificed my necklace to put into the public lottery against the common enemy. And last Saturday, about three o'clock in the afternoon, I began to patch indifferently on both sides of my face.

MR. SPECTATOR,

London, June 7, 1711.

UPON reading your late dissertation concerning Idols, I cannot but complain to you that there are, in six or seven places of this city, coffer-houses kept by persons of that sisterhood. These Idols sit and receive all day long the adoration of the youth within such and such districts. I know, in particular, goods are not entered as they ought to be at the Custom house, nor law-reports perused at the Temple, by reason of one beauty who detains the young merchants too long near Change, and another fair one who keeps the students at her house when they should be at study†. It would be worth your while to see how the idolaters alternately offer incense to their Idols, and what heart-burnings arise in those who wait for their turn to receive kind aspects from those little thrones, which all the company, but these lovers, call the bars. I saw a gentleman turn as pale as ashes, because an Idol turned the sugar in a tea-dish for his rival, and carelessly called the boy to serve him, with a "Sirrah! why don't you give the gentleman the box to please himself?" Certain it is, that a very hopeful young man was taken with leads in his pockets below bridge, where he intended to drown himself, because his Idol would wash the dish in which she had but just drank tea, before she would let him use it.

I am, sir, a person past being amorous, and do not give this information out of envy or jealousy, but I am a real sufferer by it. These lovers take any thing for tea and coffee; I saw one yesterday sweat to make his court, and all his rivals, at the same time, loud in the commendation of liquors that went against every body in the room that was not in love. While these young fellows resign their stomachs with their hearts, and drink at the Idol in this manner, we who come to do business, or talk politics, are utterly poisoned. They have also

drums for those who are more enamoured than ordinary; and it is very common for such as are to low in constitution to ogle the Idol upon the strength of tea, to fluster themselves with warmer liquors thus all pretenders advance, as fast as they can, to a fever, or a diabetes. I must repeat to you, that I do not look with an evil eye upon the profit of the Idols, or the diversions of the lovers; what hope from this remonstrance, is only that we plain people may not be served as if we were idolaters; but that from the time of publishing this in your paper, the Idols would mix ratsbane only for the admirers, and take more care of us who don't love them.

I am, sir, yours.

T. T. O.

* * * Adv. This is to give notice, that the three comedies who last Sunday settled the characters of my Lord Rochester and Bolleau, in the yard of a coffee-house in Fuller's Rents, will meet this next Sunday at the same time and place, to finish the merits of several dramatic writers: and will also make an end of the nature of true sublime.

STEELE.

R.

Nº 88. MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1711.

Quid domini facient, audient cum talia furis?

VIRG. Ecl. III. 16.

What will not masters do, when servants thus presume?

MR. SPECTATOR,

May 30, 1711.

I HAVE no small value for your endeavours to be before the world what may escape their observation, and yet highly conduces to their service. I have, I think, succeeded very well on many subjects; and seem to have been conversant in the different scenes of life. But in the consideration of mankind, as a Spectator, you should not on circumstances which relate to the inferior part of the world, any more than those which concern the greater. There is one thing in particular which I wonder you have not touched upon, and that is the general corruption of manners in the servants of Great Britain. I am a man that have travelled and seen many nations, but have for seven years last past resided constantly in London, or within twenty miles of it. In this time I have contracted numerous acquaintance among the best sort of people, and have hardly found one of them happy in their servants. This is matter of great astonishment to foreigners, and all such as have visited foreign countries; especially since we cannot but observe, that there is no part of the world where servants have those privileges and advantages as England. They have no where else such plentiful diet, large wages, or indulgent liberty. There is no place wherein they labour less, and yet where they are so little respectful, more wasteful, more negligent, or where they so frequently change their masters. To this I attribute, in a great measure, the frequent robberies and larcies which we see on the high road and in our own houses. That deed which gives me the present thought of this is, that a careless groom of mine has spoiled the prettiest pad in the world with only riding ten miles; and I assure you, if I were to make register of all the horses I have known thus abused by negligence of servants, the number would not be a register. I wish you would give us your

* See N.º 48.

† This Idol was a young widow who kept the Widow's coffee-house (then so called) in Devereux Court in the Strand.

* Mr. Euaden, afterwards post-laureat.

them under several heads, and address myself to them at different times. The first branch of them, to whose service I shall dedicate this paper, are those that have to do with women of dilatory tempers, who are for spinning out the time of courtship to an immoderate length, without being able either to close with their lovers, or to dismiss them. I have many letters by me filled with complaints against this sort of women. In one of them no less a man than a brother of the coil * tells me, that he began his suit *vicesimo nono Caroli secundi*, before he had been a twelvemonth at the Temple; that he prosecuted it for many years after he was called to the bar; that at present he is a serjeant at law; and notwithstanding he hoped that matters would have been long since brought to an issue, the fair one still demurs. I am so well pleased with this gentleman's phrase, that I shall distinguish this sort of women by the title of Demurrers. I find by another letter from one that calls himself Thyrsis, that his mistress has been demurring above these seven years. But among all my plaintiffs of this nature, I most pity the unfortunate Phylander, a man of a constant passion and plentiful fortune, who sets forth that the timorous and irresolute Sylvia has demurred till she is past child-bearing. Strephon appears by his letter to be a very choleric lover, and irrevocably smitten with one that demurs out of self-interest. He tells me with great passion, that she has bubbled him out of his youth; that she drilled him on to five and fifty, and that he verily believes she will drop him in his old age, if she can find her account in another. I shall conclude this narrative with a letter from honest Sam Hopewell, a very pleasant fellow, who it seems has at last married a Demurrer. I must only premise, that Sam, who is a very good bottle companion, has been the diversion of his friends, upon account of his passion, ever since the year one thousand six hundred and eighty-one.

* DEAR SIR,

'You know very well my passion for Mrs. Martha, and what a dance she has led me. She took me out at the age of two and twenty, and dodged with me above thirty years. I have loved her till she is grown as grey as a cat, and am with much ado become the master of her person, such as it is at present. She is however in my eye a very charming old woman. We often lament that we did not marry sooner, but she has nobody to blame for it but herself. You know very well that she would never think of me while she had a tooth in her head. I have put the date of my passion (*anno amoris trigesimo primo*) instead of a poey on my wedding ring. I expect you should send me a congratulatory letter, or, if you please, an epithalamium upon this occasion.

'Mrs. Martha's and your's eternally,
'SAM HOPWELL.'

In order to banish an evil out of the world, that does not only produce great uneasiness to private persons, but has also a very bad influence on the public, I shall endeavour to show the folly of demurrage from two or three reflections which I earnestly recommend to the thoughts of my fair readers.

First of all, I would have them seriously think on the shortness of their time. Life is not long enough for a coquette to play all her tricks in. A timorous woman drops into her grave before she has done deliberating. Were the age of man the

same that it was before the flood, a lady might as crisscross half a century to a scruple, and be two or three ages in demurring. Had she nine hundred years good, she might hold out to the conversion of the Jews before she thought fit to be prevailed upon. But, alas! she ought to play her part in haste, when she considers that she is suddenly to quit the stage, and make room for others.

In the second place, I would desire my female readers to consider, that as the term of life is short that of beauty is much shorter. The finest ski wrinkles in a few years, and loses the strength of its colourings so soon, that we have scarce time to admire it. I might embellish this subject with roses and rainbows, and several other ingenious conceits, which I may possibly reserve for another opportunity.

There is a third consideration which I would likewise recommend to a Demurrer, and that is the great danger of her falling in love when she is about threescore, if she cannot satisfy her doubts and scruples before that time. There is a kind of latter spring, that sometimes gets into the blood of an old woman, and turns her into a very odd sort of an animal. I would therefore have the Demurrer consider what a strange figure she will make, if she chances to get over all difficulties, and comes to a final resolution, in that unreasonable part of her life.

I would not however be understood, by any thing I have here said, to discourage that natural modesty in the sex, which renders a retreat from the first approaches of a lover both fashionable and graceful. All that I intend is, to advise them, when they are prompted by reason and inclination, to demur only out of form, and so far as decency requires. A virtuous woman should reject the first offer of marriage, as a good man does that of a bishoprick; but I would advise neither the one nor the other to persist in refusing what they secretly approve. I would in this particular propose the example of Eve to all her daughters, as Milton has represented her in the following passage *, which I cannot forbear transcribing entire, though only the twelve last lines are to my present purpose.

The rib he form'd and fashion'd with his hands;
Under his forming hands a creature grew,
Man-like, but different sex: so lovely fair,
That what seem'd fair in all the world, seem'd now
Mean, or in her summ'd up, in her contain'd,
And in her looks: which from that time infus'd
Sweetness into my heart, unfelt before;
And into all things from her air inspir'd
The spirit of Love and amorous delight.

She disappear'd, and left me dark; I wak'd
To find her, or for ever to deplore
Her loss, and other pleasures all abjure:
When out of hope, behold her, not far off,
Such as I saw her in my dream, adorn'd
With what all earth or heav'n could bestow
To make her amiable. On she came,
Led by her heavenly Maker, though unseen,
And guided by his voice, nor uniformed
Of nuptial sanctity and marriage rites:
Grace was in all her steps, heav'n in her eye,
In every gesture, dignity and love.

I, overjoy'd, could not forbear aloud;
'This turn hath made amends: thou hast fulfill'd
Thy words, Creator bounteous and benign!
Giver of all things fair; but farest this
Of all thy gifts, nor enviest. I now see
Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my self.' . . .
She heard me thus, and though divinely brought,
Yet innocence and virgin modesty,
Her virtue, and the conscience of her worth,
That would be woo'd, and not unsought be won,
Not obvious, not obtrusive, but retir'd
The more desirable, or to say all,

* A serjeant at law.

* Paradise Lost, viii. 469—511

Nature herself, though pure of sinful thought,
wrought in her so, that seeing me she turn'd,
I follow'd her: she what was honour knew,
And with obsequious majesty approved
My pleaded reason. To the nuptial bower
I led her blushing like the morn—

ADDITION.

L.

N° 90. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1711.

— Magna sine viribus ignis
Incensum furit

VIRG. Georg. iii. 99.

In vain he burns like hasty stubble fires.
DRYDEN.

THERE is not, in my opinion, a consideration more effectual to extinguish inordinate desires in the soul of man, than the notions of Plato and his followers upon that subject. They tell us, that every passion which has been contracted by the soul during her residence in the body, remains with her in a separate state; and that the soul in the body, or out of the body, differs no more than the man does from himself when he is in his house, or in open air. When therefore the obscene passions in particular have once taken root, and spread themselves in the soul, they cleave to her inseparably, and remain in her for ever, after the body is cast off and thrown aside. As an argument to confirm this their doctrine, they observe, that a lewd youth who goes on in a continued course of voluptuousness, advances by degrees into a libidinous old man; and that the passion survives in the mind when it is altogether dead in the body; nay, that the desire grows more violent, and (like all other habits) gathers strength by age, at the same time that it has no power of executing its own purposes. If, say they, the soul is the most subject to these passions at a time when it has the least investigations from the body, we may well suppose she will still retain them when she is entirely divested of it. The very substance of the soul is festered with them, the gangrene is gone too far to be ever cured; the inflammation will rage to all eternity.

In this therefore (say the Platonists) consists the punishment of a voluptuous man after death. He is tormented with desires which it is impossible for him to gratify; solicited by a passion that has neither objects nor organs adapted to it. He lives in a state of invincible desire and impotence, and always burns in the pursuit of what he always despairs to possess. It is for this reason (says Plato) that the souls of the dead appear frequently in cemeteries, and hover about the places where their bodies are buried, as still hankering after their old brutal pleasures, and desiring again to enter the body that gave them an opportunity of fulfilling them.

Some of our most eminent divines have made use of this Platonic notion, so far as it regards the subsistence of our passions after death, with great beauty and strength of reason. Plato indeed carries the thought very far, when he grafts upon it his opinion of ghosts appearing in places of burial. Though, I must confess, if one did believe that the departed souls of men and women wandered up and down these lower regions, and entertained themselves with the sight of their species, one could not devise a more proper hell for an impure spirit than that which Plato has touched upon.

The ancients seem to have drawn such a state of torments in the description of Tantalus, who was punished with the rage of an eternal thirst, and set

up to the chin in water that fled from his lips whenever he attempted to drink it.

Virgil, who has cast the whole system of Platonic philosophy, so far as it relates to the soul of man, into beautiful allegories, in the sixth book of his *Æneid* gives us the punishment of a voluptuary after death, not unlike that which we are here speaking of:

— Lucent genitalibus altis
Aurea fulcra toris, epulaeque ante ora parata
Ragifico luxu: Furiarum maxima iusta
Accubat et manibus prohibet contingere membra:
Eurgitque facem adolens, atque intonat ore.
Æn. vi. 604.

‘They lie below on golden beds display’d,
And genial feasts with regal pomp are made:
The queen of furies by their side is set,
And snatches from their mouths th’ untasted meat;
Which if they touch, her hissing snakes she rears,
Tossing her torch, and thundering in their ears.’
DRYDEN.

That I may a little alleviate the severity of this my speculation (which otherwise may lose me several of my polite readers), I shall translate a story that has been quoted upon another occasion by one of the most learned men of the present age, as I find it in the original. The reader will see it is not foreign to my present subject, and I dare say will think it a lively representation of a person lying under the torments of such a kind of Tantrism, or Platonic hell, as that which we have now under consideration. Monsieur Pontignau, speaking of a love-adventure that happened to him in the country, gives the following account of it.

‘When I was in the country last summer, I was often in company with a couple of charming women, who had all the wit and beauty one could desire in female companions, with a dash of coquetry, that from time to time gave me a great many agreeable torments. I was, after my way, in love with both of them, and had such frequent opportunities of pleading my passion to them when they were asunder, that I had reason to hope for particular favours from each of them. As I was walking one evening in my chamber, with nothing about me but my night-gown, they both came into my room and told me, they had a very pleasant trick to put upon a gentleman that was in the same house, provided I would bear a part in it. Upon this they told me such a plausible story, that I laughed at their contrivance, and agreed to do whatever they should require of me. They immediately began to swaddle me up in my night-gown with long pieces of linen, which they folded about me till they had wrapt me in above an hundred yards of swathe. My arms were pressed to my sides, and my legs closed together by so many wrappers one over another, that I looked like an Egyptian mummy. As I stood bolt upright upon one end in this antique figure, one of the ladies burst out a laughing. “And now Pontignau,” says she, “we intend to perform the promise that we find you have extorted from each of us. You have often asked the favour of us, and I dare say you are a better bred cavalier than to refuse to go to bed to two ladies that desire it of you.” After having stood a fit of laughter, I begged them to uncage me, and do with me what they pleased. “No, no,” said they, “we like you very well as you are:” and upon that ordered me to be carried to one of their houses, and put to bed in all my swaddles. The room was lighted up on all sides: and I was laid very decently between a pair of sheets, with my head (which was indeed the only

part I could move) upon a very high pillow; this was no sooner done, but my two female friends came into bed to me in their finest night-clothes. You may easily guess at the condition of a man that saw a couple of the most beautiful women in the world undressed and a-bed with him, without being able to stir hand or foot. I begged them to release me, and struggled all I could to get loose, which I did with so much violence, that about midnight they both leaped out of the bed, crying out they were undone. But seeing me safe, they took their posts again, and renewed their railery. Finding all my prayers and endeavours were lost, I composed myself as well as I could, and told them, that if they would not unbind me, I would fall asleep between them, and by that means disgrace them for ever. But alas! this was impossible; could I have been disposed to it, they would have prevented me by several little ill-natured carresses and caresses which they bestowed upon me. As much devoted as I am to woman-kind, I would not pass such another night to be master of the whole sex. My reader will doubtless be curious to know what became of me the next morning. Why, truly, my bedfellows left me about an hour before day, and told me, if I would be good and lie still, they would send somebody to take me up as soon as it was time for me to rise. Accordingly about nine o'clock in the morning an old woman came to unsaw me. I bore all this very patiently, being resolved to take my revenge of my tormentors, and to keep no measures with them as soon as I was at liberty; but upon asking my old woman what was become of the two ladies, she told me she believed they were by that time within sight of Paris, for that they went away in a coach and six before five o'clock in the morning.

ADMON.

L.

Nº 91. THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1711.

In furias ignemque ruunt: amor omnibus idem.
VIRG. Georg. lib. 244.

— They rush into the flames;
For love is lord of all, and is in all the same.
DRYDEN.

THOUGH the subject I am now going upon would be much more properly the foundation of a comedy, I cannot forbear inserting the circumstances which pleased me in the account a young lady gave me of the loves of a family in town, which shall be nameless; or rather, for the better sound and elevation of the history, instead of Mr. and Mrs. Such-a-one, I shall call them by feigned names. Without further preface, you are to know, that within the liberties of the city of Westminster lives the Lady Honoria, a widow about the age of forty, of a healthy constitution, gay temper, and elegant person. She dresses a little too much like a girl, affects a childish fondness in the tone of her voice, sometimes a pretty silliness in the leaning of her head, and now and then a downcast of her eyes on her fan. Neither her imagination nor her health would ever give her to know that she is turned of twenty; but that in the midst of these pretty softnesses, and airs of delicacy and attraction, she has a tall daughter within a fortnight of fifteen, who impudently comes into the room, and towers so much towards woman, that her mother is always checked by her presence, and every charm of Honoria droops at the entrance of Flavia. The agreeable Flavia would be what she is not, as well as

her mother Honoria; but all their beholders are more partial to an affectation of what a person is growing up to, than what has been already enjoyed, and is gone for ever. It is therefore allowed to Flavia to look forward, but not to Honoria to look back. Flavia is no way dependent on her mother with relation to her fortune, for which reason they live almost upon an equality in conversation; and as Honoria has given Flavia to understand, that it is ill-bred to be always calling mother, Flavia is as well pleased never to be called child. It happens by this means, that these ladies are generally rivals in all places where they appear; and the words mother and daughter never pass between them but out of spite. Flavia one night at a play observing Honoria draw the eyes of several in the pit, called to a lady who sat by her, and bled her ask her mother to lend her her snuff-box for one moment. Another time, when a lover of Honoria was on his knees beseeching the favour to him her hand, Flavia rushing into the room, kneeled down by him and asked her blessing. Several of these contradictory acts of duty have raised between them such a coldness, that they generally converse when they are in mixed company by way of talking at one another, and not to one another. Honoria is ever complaining of a certain sufficiency in the young women of this age, who assume to themselves an authority of carrying all things before them, as if they were possessors of the esteem of mankind, and all who were but a year before them in the world, were neglected or deceased. Flavia, upon such a provocation, is sure to observe, that there are people who can resign nothing, and know not how to give up what they know they cannot hold; that there are those who will not allow youth their follies, not because they are themselves past them, but because they love to continue in them. These beauties rival each other on all occasions, not that they have always had the same lovers, but each has kept up a vanity to show the other the charms of her lover. Dick Crastin and Tom Tulip, among many others, have of late been pretenders in this family: Dick to Honoria, Tom to Flavia. Dick is the only surviving beau of the last age, and Tom almost the only one that keeps up that order of men in this.

I wish I could repeat the little circumstances of a conversation of the four lovers with the spirit in which the young lady I had my account from, represented it at a visit where I had the honour to be present; but it seems Dick Crastin, the admirer of Honoria, and Tom Tulip, the pretender to Flavia, were purposely admitted together by the ladies, that each might show the other that her lover had the superiority in the accomplishments of that sort of creature whom the sillier part of women call a fine gentleman. As this age has a much more grovelling taste in courtship, as well as in every thing else, than the last had, these gentlemen are instances of it in their different manner of application. Tulip is ever making allusions to the vigour of his person, the sinewy force of his make; while Crastin professes a wary observation of the turns of his mistress's mind. Tulip gives himself the air of a restless ravisher, Crastin practices that of a skilful lover. Poetry is the inseparable property of every man in love; and as men of wit write verses on those occasions, the rest of the world repeat the verses of others. These servants of the ladies were used to imitate their manner of conversation, and allude to one another, rather than interchange discourse in what they said when they met. Tulip the other day seized his mistress's hand, and repeated out of Ovid's Art of Love,

the writers of them. Whether or no they are real husbands or personated ones, I cannot tell; but the books they recommend are as follow: A Paraphrase on the History of Susanna. Rules to keep Lent. The Christian's Overthrow prevented. A Dissuasive from the Play-house. The Virtues of Camphire, with directions to make camphire tea. The Pleasure of a Country Life. The Government of the Tongue. A letter dated from Cheapside desires me that I would advise all young wives to make themselves mistresses of Wingate's Arithmetic, and concludes with a postscript, that he hopes I will not forget The Countess of Kent's Receipts.

I may reckon the ladies themselves as a third class among these my correspondents and privy-counsellors. In a letter from one of them, I am advised to place Pharamond * at the head of my catalogue, and if I think proper to give the second place to Cassandra *. Coquetilla begs me not to think of nailing women upon their knees with manuals of devotion, nor of scorching their faces with books of housewifery. Florella desires to know if there are any books written against prudes, and intreats me, if there are, to give them a place in my library. Plays of all sorts have their several advocates: All for Love is mentioned in above fifteen letters; Sophonisba, or Hannibal's Overthrow, in a dozen: The Innocent Adultery is likewise highly approved of: Mithridates King of Pontus has many friends; Alexander the Great and Aurengzebe have the same number of voices; but Theodosius, or the Force of Love, carries it from all the rest.

I should, in the last place, mention such books as have been proposed by men of learning, and those who appear competent judges of this matter, and must here take occasion to thank A. B. whoever it is that conceals himself under these two letters, for his advice upon this subject. But as I find the work I have undertaken to be very difficult, I shall defer the executing of it till I am further acquainted with the thoughts of my judicious contemporaries, and have time to examine the several books they offer to me; being resolved, in an affair of this moment, to proceed with the greatest caution.

In the meanwhile, as I have taken the ladies under my particular care, I shall make it my business to find out in the best authors, ancient and modern, such passages as may be for their use, and endeavour to accommodate them as well as I can to their taste; not questioning but the valuable part of the sex will easily pardon me, if from time to time I laugh at those little vanities and follies which appear in the behaviour of some of them, and which are more proper for ridicule than a serious censure. Most books being calculated for male readers, and generally written with an eye to men of learning, makes a work of this nature the more necessary; besides, I am the more encouraged, because I flatter myself that I see the sex daily improving by these my speculations. My fair readers are already deeper scholars than the beaux. I could name some of them who talk much better than several gentlemen that make a figure at Will's; and as I frequently receive letters from the fine ladies and pretty fellows, I cannot but observe that the former are superior to the others not only in the sense, but in the spelling. This cannot but have a good effect upon the female

world, and keep them from being charmed by those empty coxcombs that have hitherto been admired among the women, though laughed at among the men.

I am credibly informed that Tom Tattle passes for an impertinent fellow, that Will Trippet begins to be smoked, and that Frank Smoothly himself is within a month of a coxcomb, in case I think fit to continue this paper. For my part, as it is my business in some measure to detect such as would lead astray weak minds by their false pretences to wit and judgment, humour and gallantry, I shall not fail to lend the best lights I am able to the fair sex for the continuation of these their discoveries.

ADDISON.

L.

N^o 93. SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1711.

Spatio brevis
Spem longam rescas: dum loquimur, fugerit invida
Ætas: carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero
HOR. 1 Od. xi. d.

— Be wiser, cut off long cares
From thy contracted span.

E'en whilst we speak, the envious time
Doth make swift haste away;
Then seize the present, use thy prime,
Nor trust another day.

CREECH.

We all of us complain of the shortness of time, saith Seneca, and yet have much more than we know what to do with. Our lives, says he, are spent, either in doing nothing at all, or in doing nothing to the purpose, or in doing nothing that we ought to do. We are always complaining our days are few, and acting as though there would be no end of them. That noble philosopher has described our inconsistency with ourselves in this particular, by all those various turns of expression and thought which are peculiar to his writings.

I often consider mankind as wholly inconsistent with itself in a point that bears some affinity to the former. Though we seem grieved at the shortness of life in general, we are wishing every period of it at an end. The minor longs to be at age, then to be a man of business, then to make up an estate, then to arrive at honours, then to retire. Thus although the whole life is allowed by every one to be short, the several divisions of it appear long and tedious. We are for lengthening out span in general, but would fain contract the parts of which it is composed. The usurer would be very well satisfied to have all the time annihilated that lies between the present moment and next quarter-day. The politician would be contented to lose three years in his life, could he place things in the posture which he fancies they will stand in after such a revolution of time. The lover would be glad to strike out of his existence all the moments that are to pass away before the happy meeting. Thus, as fast as our time runs, we should be very glad in most parts of our lives that it ran much faster than it does. Several hours of the day hang upon our hands, may we wish away whole years; and travel through time as through a country filled with many wild and empty wastes, which we would fain hurry over, that we may arrive at those several little settlements or imaginary points of rest which are dispersed up and down in it.

If we divide the life of most men into twenty parts, we shall find that at least nineteen of them are mere gaps and chasms, which are neither filled with pleasure nor business. I do not however in

* Two French romances, written by Goutier de Costes Seigneur de la Calprenède; and which had been then translated into English.

speculation that is more uncommon, and may therefore perhaps be more entertaining.

I have before shown how the unemployed parts of life appear long and tedious, and shall here endeavour to show how those parts of life which are exercised in study, reading, and the pursuits of knowledge, are long, but not tedious, and by that means discover a method of lengthening our lives, and at the same time of turning all the parts of them to our advantage.

Mr. Locke observes, 'That we get the idea of time or duration, by reflecting on that train of ideas which succeed one another in our minds: that for this reason, when we sleep soundly without dreaming, we have no perception of time, or the length of it whilst we sleep; and that the moment wherein we leave off to think, till the moment we begin to think again, seem to have no distance.' To which the author adds, 'and so I doubt not but it would be to a waking man, if it were possible for him to keep only one idea in his mind, without variation, and the succession of others; and we see, that one who fixes his thoughts very intently on one thing, so as to take but little notice of the succession of ideas that pass in his mind whilst he is taken up with that earnest contemplation, lets slip out of his account a good part of that duration, and thinks that time shorter than it is.'

We might carry this thought further, and consider a man as, on one side, shortening his time by thinking on nothing, or but a few things; so on the other, as lengthening it, by employing his thoughts on many subjects, or by entertaining a quick and constant succession of ideas. Accordingly Monsieur Mallebranche, in his *Inquiry after Truth* (which was published several years before Mr. Locke's *Essay on Human Understanding*), tells us, 'that it is possible some creatures may think half an hour as long as we do a thousand years; or look upon that space of duration which we call a minute, as an hour, a week, a month, or a whole age.'

This notion of Monsieur Mallebranche is capable of some little explanation from what I have quoted out of Mr. Locke; for if our notion of time is produced by our reflecting on the succession of ideas in our mind, and this succession may be infinitely accelerated or retarded, it will follow, that different beings may have different notions of the same parts of duration, according as their ideas, which we suppose are equally distinct in each of them, follow one another in a greater or less degree of rapidity.

There is a famous passage in the *Alcoran*, which looks as if Mahomet had been possessed of the notion we are now speaking of. It is there said, that the angel Gabriel took Mahomet out of his bed one morning to give him a sight of all things in the seven heavens, in paradise, and in hell, which the prophet took a distinct view of; and after having held ninety thousand conferences with God, was brought back again to his bed. All this, says the *Alcoran*, was transacted in so small a space of time, that Mahomet at his return found his bed still warm, and took up an earthen pitcher, which was thrown down at the very instant that the angel Gabriel carried him away, before the water was all spilt.

* *Essay on Human Understanding*, b. ii. ch. xiv. sect. 4.

† The *Koran* (*Al Koran*) has been searched for this passage, but no such relation is to be found in it. In a *Life of Mahomet* (London, 8vo. 1712) we find a passage something similar, but rather less extravagant, as it extends the duration of the journey to a 'tenth part of the night.'

There is a very pretty story in the Turkish tales which relates to this passage of that famous impostor, and bears some affinity to the subject we are now upon. A sultan of Egypt, who was an infidel, used to laugh at this circumstance in Mahomet's life, as what was altogether impossible and absurd: but conversing one day with a great doctor in the law, who had the gift of working miracles, the doctor told him he would quickly convince him of the truth of this passage in the history of Mahomet, if he would consent to do what he would desire of him. Upon this the sultan was directed to place himself by a huge tub of water, which he did accordingly; and as he stood by the tub amidst a circle of his great men, the holy man bid him plunge his head into the water, and draw it up again. The king accordingly thrust his head into the water, and at the same time found himself at the foot of a mountain on a sea-shore. The king immediately began to rage against his doctor for this piece of treachery and witchcraft; but at length, knowing it was in vain to be angry, he set himself to think on proper methods for getting a livelihood in this strange country. Accordingly he applied himself to some people whom he saw at work in a neighbouring wood: these people conducted him to a town that stood at a little distance from the wood, where, after some adventures, he married a woman of great beauty and fortune. He lived with this woman so long, that he had by her seven sons and seven daughters. He was afterwards reduced to great want, and forced to think of plying in the streets as a porter for his livelihood. One day as he was walking alone by the sea-side, being seized with many melancholy reflections upon his former and his present state of life, which had raised a fit of devotion in him, he threw off his clothes with a design to wash himself, according to the custom of the Mahometans, before he said his prayers.

After his first plunge into the sea, he no sooner raised his head above the water, but he found himself standing by the side of the tub, with the great men of his court about him, and the holy man at his side. He immediately upbraided his teacher for having sent him on such a course of adventures and betrayed him into so long a state of misery and servitude; but was wonderfully surprised when he heard that the state he talked of was only a dream and delusion; that he had not stirred from the place where he then stood; and that he had only dipped his head into the water, and immediately taken it out again.

The Mahometan doctor took this occasion of instructing the sultan, that nothing was impossible with God; and that He, with whom a thousand years are but as one day, can, if he pleases, make a single day, nay, a single moment, appear to all of his creatures as a thousand years.

I shall leave my reader to compare these eastern fables with the notions of those two great philosophers whom I have quoted in this paper; and shall only, by way of application, desire him to consider how we may extend life beyond its natural dimensions, by applying ourselves diligently to the pursuits of knowledge.

The hours of a wise man are lengthened by ideas, as those of a fool are by his passions. The time of the one is long, because he does not know what to do with it; so is that of the other, because he distinguishes every moment of it with useful and amusing thoughts; or, in other words, because one is always wishing it away and the other always enjoying it.

How different is the view of past life, in the man who is grown old in knowledge and wisdom, from that of him who is grown old in ignorance and folly! The latter is like the owner of a barren country, that fills his eye with the prospect of naked hills and plains, which produce nothing either profitable or ornamental; the other beholds a beautiful and spacious landscape divided into delightful gardens, green meadows, fruitful fields, and can scarce cast his eye on a single spot of his possessions, that is not covered with some beautiful plant or flower.

ADDITION.

L.

N° 95. TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1711.

Curae levis loquuntur, ingentes stupent.
SENECA.

Light sorrows speak, great grief is dumb.

HAVING read the two following letters with much pleasure, I cannot but think the good sense of them will be as agreeable to the town as any thing I could say either on the topics they treat of, or say other; they both allude to former papers of mine; and I do not question but the first, which is upon moaning, will be thought the production of a man who is well acquainted with the generous yearnings of distress in a manly temper, which is above the relief of tears. A speculation of my own on that subject I shall defer till another occasion.

The second letter is from a lady of a mind as great as her understanding. There is perhaps something in the beginning of it which I ought in modesty to conceal; but I have so much esteem for this correspondent, that I will not alter a tittle of what she writes, though I am thus scrupulous at the price of being ridiculous.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I WAS very well pleased with your discourse upon general moaning, and should be obliged to you if you will enter into the matter more deeply, and give us your thoughts upon the common sense the ordinary people have of the demonstrations of grief, who prescribe rules and fashions to the most solemn affliction; such as the loss of the nearest relations and dearest friends. You cannot go to visit a sick friend, but some impertinent waiter about him observes the muscles of your face as strictly, as if they were prognostics of his death or recovery. If he happens to be taken from you, you are immediately surrounded with numbers of these spectators, who expect a melancholy shrug of your shoulders, a pathological shake of your head, and an expressive distortion of your face, to measure your affection and value for the deceased. But there is nothing, on these occasions, so much in their favour as immoderate weeping. As all their passions are superficial, they imagine the seat of love and friendship to be placed visibly in the eyes. They judge what stock of kindness you had for the living, by the quantity of tears you pour out for the dead; so that if one body wants that quantity of salt water another abounds with, he is in great danger of being thought insensible or ill-natured. They are strangers to friendship, whose grief happens not to be moist enough to wet such a parcel of handkerchiefs. But experience has told us, nothing is so fallacious as this outward sign of sorrow; and the natural history of our bodies will teach us that this flux of the eyes, this faculty of weeping, is peculiar only to some constitutions. We observe

in the tender bodies of children, when crossed in their little wills and expectations, how dissolvable they are into tears. If this were what grief is in men, nature would not be able to support them in the excess of it for one moment. Add to this observation, how quick is their transition from this passion to that of their joy! I will not say we see often, in the next tender things to children, tears shed without much grieving. Thus it is common to shed tears without much sorrow, and as common to suffer much sorrow without shedding tears. Grief and weeping are indeed frequent companions: but, I believe, never in their highest excesses. As laughter does not proceed from profound joy, so neither does weeping from profound sorrow. The sorrow which appears so easily at the eyes, cannot have pierced deeply into the heart. The heart distended with grief, stops all the passages for tears or lamentations.

Now, sir, what I would incline you to in all this is, that you would inform the shallow critics and observers upon sorrow, that true affliction labours to be invisible, that it is a stranger to ceremony, and that it bears in its own nature a dignity much above the little circumstances which are affected under the notion of decency. You must know, sir, I have lately lost a dear friend, for whom I have not yet shed a tear; and for that reason your animadversions on that subject would be the more acceptable to,

SIR,

Your most humble servant,

B. D.

MR. SPECTATOR,

June the 15th.

As I hope there are but few who have so little gratitude as not to acknowledge the usefulness of your pen, and to esteem it a public benefit; so I am sensible, be that as it will, you must nevertheless find the secret and incomparable pleasure of doing good, and be a great sharer in the entertainment you give. I acknowledge our sex to be much obliged, and I hope improved by your labours, and even your intentions more particularly for our service. If it be true, as it is sometimes said, that our sex have an influence on the other, your paper may be a yet more general good. Your directing us to reading, is certainly the best means to our instruction; but I think with you, caution in that particular very useful, since the improvement of our understandings may, or may not, be of service to us, according as it is managed. It has been thought we are not generally so ignorant as ill-taught, or that our sex does not so often want wit, judgment, or knowledge, as the right application of them. You are so well-bred, as to say your fair readers are already deeper scholars than the beaux, and that you could name some of them that talk much better than several gentlemen that make a figure at Will's*. This may possibly be, and no great compliment, in my opinion, even supposing your comparison to reach Tom's and the Grecian. Surely you are too wise to think that the real commendation of a woman. Were it not rather to be wished we improved in our own sphere, and approved ourselves better daughters, wives, mothers, and friends?

I cannot but agree with the judicious trader in Cheapside † (though I am not at all prejudiced in his favour) in recommending the study of arithmetic; and must dissent even from the authority which you mention, when it advises the making our sex scholars. Indeed a little more philosophy, in order

* See N° 92.

† Ibid.

to the subduing our passions to our reason, might be sometimes serviceable; and a treatise of that nature I should approve of, even in exchange for Theophrastus, or the Force of Love; but as I well know you want not hints, I will proceed no further than to recommend the Bishop of Cambray's Education of a Daughter, as it is translated into the only language I have any knowledge of, though perhaps very much to its disadvantage. I have heard it objected against that piece, that its instructions are not of general use, but only fitted for a great lady; but I confess I am not of that opinion; for I do not remember that there are any rules laid down for the expenses of a woman, in which particular only I think a gentlewoman ought to differ from a lady of the best fortune, or highest quality, and not in their principles of justice, gratitude, sincerity, prudence, or modesty. I ought perhaps to make an apology for this long epistle; but as I rather believe you a friend to sincerity than ceremony, shall only assure you I am,

SIR,

'Your most humble servant,

'ANNABELLA.'

STEELE.

T.

N° 96. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1711.

Amicum
Mancipium domino, et fratri
 HOR. Sat. vii. l. 2. v. 3.

—The faithful servant, and the true.
 CREECH.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE frequently read your discourse upon servants*; and, as I am one myself, have been much offended, that in that variety of forms wherein you considered the bad, you found no place to mention the good. There is, however, one observation of yours I approve, which is, "That there are men of wit and good sense among all orders of men, and that servants report most of the good or ill which is spoken of their masters." That there are men of sense who live in servitude, I have the vanity to say I have felt to my woful experience. You attribute very justly the source of our general iniquity to board-wages, and the manner of living out of a domestic way: but I cannot give you my thoughts on this subject any way so well, as by a short account of my own life to this the forty-fifth year of my age; that is to say, from my being first a footboy at fourteen, to my present station of a nobleman's porter in the year of my age above mentioned.

'Know then, that my father was a poor tenant to the family of Sir Stephen Rackrent. Sir Stephen put me to school, or rather made me follow his son Harry to school, from my ninth year; and there, though Sir Stephen paid something for my learning, I was used like a servant, and was forced to get what scraps of learning I could by my own industry, for the schoolmaster took very little notice of me. My young master was a lad of very sprightly parts; and my being constantly about him, and loving him, was no small advantage to me. My master loved me extremely, and has often been whipped for not keeping me at a distance. He used always to say, that when he came to his estate I should have a lease of my father's tenement for nothing. I came up to town with him to Westminster-school; at which time he taught me at night all he learnt; and put me to find out words in the dictionary when he was about his exercise. It was

the will of Providence that master Harry was taken very ill of a fever, of which he died within ten days after his first falling sick. Here was the first sorrow I ever knew; and I assure you, Mr. Spectator, I remember the beautiful action of the sweet youth in his fever, as fresh as if it were yesterday. If he wanted any thing, it must be given him by Tom. When I let any thing fall through the grief I was under, he would cry, "Do not beat the poor boy: give him some more julep for me, nobody else shall give it me." He would strive to hide his being so bad, when he saw I could not bear his being in so much danger, and comforted me, saying, "Tom, Tom, have a good heart." When I was holding a cup at his mouth, he fell into convulsions; and at this very time I hear my dear master's last groan. I was quickly turned out of the room, and left to sob and beat my head against the wall at my leisure. The grief I was in was inexpressible; and every body thought it would have cost me my life. In a few days my old lady, who was one of the housewives of the world, thought of turning me out of doors, because I put her in mind of her son. Sir Stephen proposed putting me to prentice; but my lady, being an excellent manager, would not let her husband throw away his money in acts of charity. I had sense enough to be under the utmost indignation, to see her discard with so little concern one her son had loved so much; and went out of the house to ramble wherever my feet would carry me.

'The third day after I left Sir Stephen's family, I was strolling up and down the walks in the Temple. A young gentleman of the house, who (as I heard him say afterwards), seeing me half-starved and well-dressed, thought me an equipage ready to his hand, after very little inquiry more than "Did I want a master?" bid me follow him; I did so, and in a very little while thought myself the happiest creature in this world. My time was taken up in carrying letters to wenches, or messengers to young ladies of my master's acquaintance. We rambled from tavern to tavern, to the playhouse, the Mulberry-garden*, and all places of resort; where my master engaged every night in some new amuse, in which and drinking he spent all his time when he had money. During these extravagancies I had the pleasure of lying on the stairs of a tavern half a night, playing at dice with other servants, and the like idleness. When my master was moneyless, I was generally employed in transcribing amorous pieces of poetry, old songs and new lampoons. This life held till my master married, and he had then the prudence to turn me off, because I was in the secret of his intrigues.

'I was utterly at a loss what course to take next; when at last I applied myself to a fellow-sufferer, one of his mistresses, a woman of the town. She happening at that time to be pretty full of money, clothed me from head to foot; and, knowing me to be a sharp fellow, employed me accordingly. Sometimes I was to go abroad with her; and when she had pitched upon a young fellow she thought for her turn, I was to be dropped as one who could not trust. She would often cheapen goods at the New Exchange†; and when

* This was a place of entertainment near Buckingham-House; somewhat like our Vauxhall. Sir Charles Sedley has named one of his plays after it, the incidents of which chiefly arise there.

† Situated in the Strand, between Durham-Yard and York-Buildings. It was the fashionable part of the town at that time for milliners' shops. In 1737, it was taken down, and dwelling-houses erected on the spot. There still, however, remains a coffee house bearing the name.

respect to those who are miserable by their fault, and those who are so by their misfortune. Flatterers (concluded the king smiling) repeat to us princes, that we are heaven's viceregents: let us be so, and let the only thing out of our power be to do ill.'

Soon after the evening, wherein Pharamond and Eucrate had this conversation, the following edict was published against duels:

PHARAMOND'S EDICT AGAINST DUELS.

'Pharamond, King of the Gauls, to all his loving subjects sendeth greeting.

'WHEREAS it has come to our royal notice and observation, that in contempt of all laws divine and human, it is of late become a custom among the nobility and gentry of this our kingdom, upon slight and trivial, as well as great and urgent provocations, to invite each other into the field, there by their own hands, and of their own authority, to decide their controversies by combat; we have thought fit to take the said custom into our royal consideration, and find, upon inquiry into the usual causes whereon such fatal decisions have arisen, that by this wicked custom, manure all the precepts of our holy religion, and the rules of right reason, the greatest act of the human mind, forgiveness of injuries, is become vile and shameful; that the rules of good society and virtuous conversation are hereby inverted; that the loose, the vain, and the impudent, insult the careful, the discreet, and the modest; that all virtue is suppressed, and all vice supported, in the one act of being capable to dare to the death. We have also further, with great sorrow of mind, observed that this dreadful action, by long impunity (our royal attention being employed upon matters of more general concern), is become honourable, and the refusal to engage in it ignominious. In these our royal cares and inquiries we are yet further made to understand, that the persons of most eminent worth, and most hopeful abilities, accompanied with the strongest passion for true glory, are such as are most liable to be involved in the dangers arising from this licence. Now taking the said premises into our serious consideration, and well weighing that all such emergencies (wherein the mind is incapable of commanding itself, and where the injury is too sudden or too exquisite to be borne) are particularly provided for by laws heretofore enacted; and that the qualities of less injuries, like those of ingratitude, are too nice and delicate to come under general rules; we do resolve to blot this fashion, or wantonness of anger, out of the minds of our subjects, by our royal resolutions declared in this edict as follow:

'No person who either sends or accepts a challenge, or the posterity of either, though no death ensues thereupon, shall be, after the publication of this our edict, capable of bearing office in these our dominions.

'The person who shall prove the sending or receiving a challenge, shall receive to his own use and property, the whole personal estate of both parties; and their real estate shall be immediately vested in the next heir of the offenders in as ample manner as if the said offenders were actually deceased.

'In cases where the laws (which we have already granted to our subjects) admit of an appeal for blood; when the criminal is condemned by the said appeal, he shall not only suffer death, but his whole estate, real, mixed, and personal, shall from the

hour of his death be vested in the next heir of person whose blood he spilt.

'That it shall not hereafter be in our power, or that of our successors, to pardon the offences, or restore the offenders in their civil honour, or blood, for ever.

'Given at our court at Blois, the 8th of February 420, in the second year of our reign.'

STEEL.

Nº 98. FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1711.

—Tanta est quarrendi cura decoris.

JUV. Sat. vi. 500.

So studiously their persons they adorn.

THERE is not so variable a thing in nature as lady's head-dress. Within my own memory I have known it rise and fall above thirty degrees. About ten years ago it shot up to a very great height, so much that the female part of our species was much taller than the men*. The women were such an enormous stature, that 'we appeared grasshoppers before them†': at present the whole sex is in a manner dwarfed, and shrunk into a race of beauties that seems almost another species. I remember several ladies, who were once nearly seven foot high, that at present want no inches of five. How they came to be thus curtailed I cannot learn; whether the whole sex at present under any penance which we know nothing of, or whether they have cast their head-dresses in order to surprise us with something that kind which shall be entirely new; or whether some of the tallest of the sex being too cunning for the rest, have contrived this method to make themselves appear sizeable, is still a secret; though I find most are of opinion, they are at present like trees new lopped and pruned, that will certainly sprout up and flourish with greater heads than before. For my own part, as I do not love to be insulted by women who are taller than myself, I admire the sex much more in their present humiliation, which has reduced them to their natural dimensions, than when they had extended themselves and lengthened themselves out into formidable and gigantic figures. I am not for adding to the beautiful edifices of nature, nor for raising any whimsical superstructure upon her plans; must therefore repeat it, that I am highly pleased with the coiffure now in fashion, and think it does the good sense which at present very much recommends the valuable part of the sex. One I observe that women in all ages have taken more pains than men to adorn the outside of their heads, and indeed I very much admire, that those few architects, who raise such wonderful structures of ribbands, lace, and wire, have not been rewarded for their respective inventions. It is certain that there have been as many orders in these kinds of building, as in those which have been made of marble. Sometimes they rise in the shape of a pyramid, sometimes like a tower, and sometimes like a steeple. In Juvenal's time the building grew several orders and stories, as he has very humorously described it:

* Alluding to the commode, a kind of head-dress worn by the ladies at the beginning of the 18th century, which means of wire bore up the hair and fore part of the cap, consisting of folds of fine lace, to a great height.

† Numbers xliii. 33.

‡ The fashion suddenly changed into the opposite extreme.

*'Tut promit ordinibus, tot adhuc compagibus altum
Edificat caput: Andromachen a fronte videbis;
Pis minor est: aliam credas.'*

JUV. Sat. vi. 501.

'With curls on curls they build her head before,
And mount it with a formidable tow'r:
A quainter she seems; but look behind,
And then she dwindles to the pigmy kind.'

DRYDEN.

But I do not remember, in any part of my reading, that the head-dress aspired to so great an extravagance as in the fourteenth century; when it was built up in a couple of cones or spires, which stood so excessively high on each side of the head, that a woman, who was but a pigmy without her head-dress, appeared like a colossus upon putting it on. Monsieur Paradin* says, 'That these old-fashioned *fontanges* rose an ell above the head: that they were pointed like steeples, and had long loose pieces of crape fastened to the tops of them, which were curiously fringed, and hung down their backs like streamers.'

The women might possibly have carried this Gothic building much higher, had not a famous monk, Thomas Conecte† by name, attacked it with great zeal and resolution. This holy man travelled from place to place to preach down this monstrous commode; and succeeded so well in it, that as the magicians sacrificed their books to the flames upon the preaching of an apostle, many of the women threw down their head-dresses in the middle of his sermon, and made a bonfire of them within sight of the pulpit. He was so renowned as well for the sanctity of his life as his manner of preaching, that he had often a congregation of twenty thousand people; the men placing themselves on the one side of his pulpit, and the women on the other, that appeared (to use the similitude of an ingenious writer) like a forest of cedars with their heads reaching to the clouds. He warmed and animated the people against this monstrous ornament, that it lay under a kind of persecution; and whenever it appeared in public, was pelted down by the rabble, who flung stones at the persons that wore it. But notwithstanding this prodigy vanished while the preacher was among them, it began to appear again some months after his departure, or to tell it in Monsieur Paradin's own words, 'the women that, like snails in a fright, had drawn in their horns, shot them out again as soon as the danger was over.' This extravagance of the women's head-dresses in that age is taken notice of by Monsieur d'Argentre‡ in his history of Bretagne, and by other historians, as well as the person I have here quoted.

It is usually observed, that a good reign is the only proper time for making of laws against the exorbitance of power; in the same manner an excessive head-dress may be attacked the most effectually when the fashion is against it. I do therefore recommend this paper to my female readers by way of prevention.

I would desire the fair sex to consider how impossible it is for them to add any thing that can be ornamental to what is already the masterpiece of nature. The head has the most beautiful appearance, as well as the highest station, in a human figure. Nature has laid out all her art in beautify-

ing the face; she has touched it with vermillion, planted in it a double row of ivory, made it the seat of smiles and blushes, lighted it up and enlivened it with the brightness of the eyes, hang it on each side with curious organs of sense, given it airs and graces that cannot be described, and surrounded it with such a flowing shade of hair as sets all its beauties in the most agreeable light. In short, she seems to have designed the head as the cupola to the most glorious of her works; and when we load it with such a pile of supernumerary ornaments, we destroy the symmetry of the human figure, and foolishly contrive to call off the eye from great and real beauties, to childish gew-gaws, ribands, and bone-lace.

ADDISON.

L.

No 99. SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1711.

Turpi accersit honoratum.

HOR. Sat. 6. l. 1. v. 63.

You know to fix the bounds of right and wrong.

THE club, of which I have often declared myself a member, were last night engaged in a discourse upon that which passes for the chief point of honour among men and women; and started a great many hints upon the subject, which I thought were entirely new. I shall therefore methodize the several reflections that arose upon this occasion, and present my reader with them for the speculation of this day; after having premised, that if there is any thing in this paper which seems to differ with any passage of last Thursday's*, the reader will consider this as the sentiments of the club, and the other as my own private thoughts, or rather those of Pharamond.

The great point of honour in men is courage, and in women chastity. If a man loses his honour in one rencounter, it is not impossible for him to regain it in another; a slip in a woman's honour is irrecoverable. I can give no reason for fixing the point of honour to these two qualities, unless it be that each sex sets the greatest value on the qualification which renders them the most amiable in the eyes of the contrary sex. Had men chosen for themselves, without regard to the opinions of the fair sex, I should believe the choice would have fallen on wisdom or virtue; or had women determined their own point of honour, it is probable that wit or good-nature would have carried it against chastity.

Nothing recommends a man more to the female sex than courage; whether it be that they are pleased to see one who is a terror to others fall like a slave at their feet, or that this quality supplies their own principal defect, in guarding them from insults, and avenging their quarrels; or that courage is a natural indication of a strong and sprightly constitution. On the other side, nothing makes woman more esteemed by the opposite sex than chastity; whether it be that we always prize those most who are hardest to come at, or that nothing besides chastity, with its collateral attendants, truth, fidelity, and constancy, gives the man a property in the person he loves, and consequently endears her to him above all things.

I am very much pleased with a passage in the inscription on a monument erected in Westminster-abbey to the late Duke and Duchess of Newcastle. 'Her name was Margaret Lucas, youngest sister to

* A French historical writer of the sixteenth century.

† A celebrated Carmelite, native of Bretagne, who travelled through several parts of Europe, preaching against the dissolute vices of the age. At length, reproving the enormities of the Spanish clergy, he was burnt for heresy at Rome 1594.

‡ An eminent French lawyer of the sixteenth century.

* See No 97.

the Lord Lucas of Colchester; a noble family, for all the brothers were valiant, and all the sisters virtuous.

In books of chivalry, where the point of honour is strained to madness, the whole story runs on chastity and courage. The damsel is mounted on a white palfrey, as an emblem of her innocence; and, to avoid scandal, must have a dwarf for her page. She is not to think of a man, until some misfortune has brought a knight-errant to her relief. The knight falls in love, and, did not gratitude restrain her from murdering her deliverer, would die at her feet by her disdain. However, he must waste many years in the desert, before her virgin-heart can think of a surrender. The knight goes off, attacks every thing he meets that is bigger and stronger than himself, seeks all opportunities of being knocked on the head, and after seven years rambling returns to his mistress, whose chastity has been attacked in the mean time by giants and tyrants, and undergone as many trials as her lover's valour.

In Spain, where there are still great remains of this romantic humour, it is a transporting favour for a lady to cast an accidental glance on her lover from a window, though it be two or three stories high; as it is usual for the lover to assert his passion for his mistress, in single combat with a mad bull.

The great violation of the point of honour from man to man, is giving the lie. One may tell another he whores, drinks, blasphemes, and it may pass unresented; but to say he lies, though but in jest, is an affront that nothing but blood can expiate. The reason perhaps may be, because no other vice implies a want of courage so much as the making of a lie; and therefore telling a man he lies, is touching him in the most sensible part of honour, and indirectly calling him a coward. I cannot omit under this head what Herodotus tells us of the ancient Persians, that from the age of five years to twenty they instruct their sons only in three things, to manage the horse, to make use of the bow, and to speak truth.

The placing the point of honour in this false kind of courage, has given occasion to the very refuse of mankind, who have neither virtue nor common sense, to set up for men of honour. An English peer, who has not been long dead*, used to tell a pleasant story of a French gentleman that visited him early one morning at Paris, and, after great professions of respect, let him know that he had it in his power to oblige him; which, in short, amounted to this, that he believed he could tell his lordship the person's name who jostled him as he came out from the opera; but before he would proceed, he begged his lordship, that he would not deny him the honour of making him his second. The English lord, to avoid being drawn into a very foolish affair, told him, he was under engagements for his two next duels to a couple of particular friends, upon which the gentleman immediately withdrew, hoping his lordship would not take it ill if he meddled no further in an affair from whence he himself was to receive no advantage.

The beating down this false notion of honour, in so vain and lively a people as those of France, is deservedly looked upon as one of the most glorious parts of their present king's reign. It is pity but the punishment of these mischievous notions should have in it some particular circumstances of shame and infamy; that those who are slaves to them may

see, that, instead of advancing their reputation, they lead them to ignominy and dishonour.

Death is not sufficient to deter men who make it their glory to despise it; but if every one that fought a duel were to stand in the pillory, it would quickly lessen the number of these imaginary men of honour, and put an end to so absurd a practice.

When honour is a support to virtuous principles and runs parallel with the laws of God and our country, it cannot be too much cherished and encouraged: but when the dictates of honour are contrary to those of religion and equity, they are the greatest depravations of human nature, by giving wrong ambitions and false ideas of what is good and laudable; and should therefore be exploded by all governments, and driven out as the base and plague of human society.

ADDISON.

I.

Nº 100. MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1711.

Nili ego contulerim jucundo sanus amico.

HOR. l Sat. v. 44.

The greatest blessing is a pleasant friend.

A MAN advanced in years, that thinks fit to look back upon his former life, and calls that only life which was passed with satisfaction and enjoyment, excluding all parts which were not pleasant to him, will find himself very young, if not in his infancy. Sickness, ill-humour, and idleness, will have robbed him of a great share of that space we ordinarily call our life. It is therefore the duty of every man that would be true to himself, to obtain, if possible, a disposition to be pleased, and place himself in constant aptitude for the satisfactions of his Being. Instead of this, you hardly see a man who is uneasy in proportion to his advancement in the art of life. An affected delicacy is the common improvement we meet with in those who pretend to be refined above others. They do not aim at true pleasures themselves, but turn their thoughts upon observing the false pleasures of other men. Such people are valetudinarians in society, and the more should no more come into company than a sick man should come into the air. If a man is too weak to bear what is a refreshment to men in health, he must still keep his chamber. When any one in Sir Roger's company complains he is out of order, he immediately calls for some posset-drink for him for which reason, that sort of people who are ever bewailing their constitution in other places, are the cheerfulness imaginable when he is present.

It is a wonderful thing that so many, and the not reckoned absurd, shall entertain those with whom they converse by giving them the history of their pains and aches; and imagine such narratives their quota of the conversation. This is of a other the meanest help to discourse; and a man must not think at all, or think himself very insignificant, when he finds an account of his head-ache answered by another's asking what news in the last mail? Mutual good-humour is a dress we ought to appear in whenever we meet, and we should make no mention of what concerns ourselves, without it be of matters wherein our friends ought to rejoice: but indeed there are crowds of people who put themselves in no method of pleasing themselves or others; such are those whom we usually call indolent persons. Indolence is, methinks, an intermediate state between pleasure and pain, a very much unbecoming any part of our life after

* Thought to be William Cavendish, first Duke of Devonshire.

presented under their proper characters. Some eminent historian may then probably arise that will not write *recentibus editis* (as Tacitus expresses it) with the passions and prejudices of a contemporary author, but make an impartial distribution of fame among the great men of the present age.

I cannot forbear entertaining myself very often with the idea of such an imaginary historian describing the reign of Anne the First, and introducing it with a preface to his reader, that he is now entering upon the most shining part of the English story. The great rivals in fame will be then distinguished according to their respective merits, and shine in their proper points of light. 'Such an one (says the historian), though variously represented by the writers of his own age, appears to have been a man of more than ordinary abilities, great application, and uncommon integrity; nor was such an one (though of an opposite party and interest) inferior to him in any of these respects.' The several antagonists who now endeavour to depreciate one another, and are celebrated or traduced by different parties, will then have the same body of admirers, and appear illustrious in the opinion of the whole British nation. The deserving man, who can now recommend himself to the esteem of but half his countrymen, will then receive the approbations and applauses of a whole age.

Among the several persons that flourish in this glorious reign, there is no question but such a future historian, as the person of whom I am speaking, will make mention of the men of genius and learning who have now any figure in the British nation. For my own part, I often flatter myself with the honourable mention which will then be made of me; and have drawn up a paragraph in my own imagination, that I fancy will not be altogether unlike what will be found in some page or other of this imaginary historian.

'It was under this reign,' says he, 'that the Spectator published those little diurnal essays which are still extant. We know very little of the name or person of this author, except only that he was a man of a very short face, extremely addicted to silence, and so great a lover of knowledge, that he made a voyage to Grand Cairo for no other reason, but to take the measure of a pyramid. His chief friend was one Sir Roger de Coverley, a whimsical country knight, and a Templar whose name he has not transmitted to us. He lived as a lodger at the house of a widow-woman, and was a great humorist in all parts of his life. This is all we can affirm with any certainty of his person and character. As for his speculations, notwithstanding the several obsolete words and obscure phrases of the age in which he lived, we still understand enough of them to see the diversions and characters of the English nation in his time: not but that we are to make allowance for the mirth and humour of the author, who has doubtless strained many representations of things beyond the truth. For if we interpret his words in their literal meaning, we must suppose that women of the first quality used to pass away whole mornings at a puppet-show*: that they attested their principles by their patches†: that an audience would sit out an evening to hear a dramatical performance written in a language which they did not understand‡: that chairs and flower-pots were introduced as actors upon the British stage§: that a promiscuous assembly of men and women were allowed to meet at midnight in masks within the

verge of the court*; with many improbabilities of the like nature. We must therefore, in these and the like cases, suppose that these remote hints and allusions aimed at some certain follies which were then in vogue, and which at present we have not any notion of. We may guess by several passages in the speculations, that there were writers who endeavoured to detract from the works of this author; but as nothing of this nature has come down to us, we cannot guess at any objections that could be made to his paper. If we consider his style with that indulgence which we must show to old English writers, or if we look into the variety of his subjects, with those several critical dissertations, moral reflections,

The following part of the paragraph is so much to my advantage, and beyond any thing I can pretend to, that I hope my reader will excuse me for not inserting it.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 102. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1711.

*Lusus animo debent aliquando dari,
Ad captandum melior ut redeat sibi.*

PHLEGE. Fab. xiv. l. 2.

The mind ought sometimes to be diverted, that it may return the better to thinking.

I do not know whether to call the following letter a satire upon coquettes, or a representation of their several fantastical accomplishments, or what other title to give it; but as it is I shall communicate it to the public. It will sufficiently explain its own intentions, so that I shall give it my reader at length, without either preface or postscript.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'WOMEN are armed with fans as men with swords, and sometimes do more execution with them. To the end therefore that ladies may be entire mistresses of the weapon which they bear, I have erected an academy for the training up of young women in the exercise of the fan, according to the most fashionable airs and motions that are now practised at court. The ladies who carry fans under me are drawn up twice a-day in my great hall, where they are instructed in the use of their arms, and exercised by the following words of command: Handle your fans, Unfold your fans, Discharge your fans, Ground your fans, Recover your fans, Flutter your fans. By the right observation of these few plain words of command, a woman of a tolerable genius, who will apply herself diligently to her exercise for the space of but one half-year, shall be able to give her fan all the graces that can possibly enter into that little modish machine.

'But to the end that my readers may form to themselves a right notion of this exercise, I beg leave to explain it to them in all its parts. When my female regiment is drawn up in array, with every one her weapon in her hand, upon my giving the word to Handle their fans, each of them shakes her fan at me with a smile, then gives her right-hand woman a tap upon the shoulder, then presses her lips with the extremity of her fan, then lets her arms fall in an easy motion, and stands in readiness to receive the next word of command.

* See Nº 14. † Nº 81. ‡ Nº 18. § Nos. 22, 36.

* Nº 8.

All this is done with a close fan, and is generally learned in the first week.

The next motion is that of Unfurling the fan, which are comprehended several little flirts and vibrations, as also gradual and deliberate openings, with many voluntary fallings asunder in the fan itself, that are seldom learned under a month's practice. This part of the exercise pleases the spectators more than any other, as it discovers on a sudden an infinite number of cupids, garlands, altars, birds, beasts, rainbows, and the like agreeable figures, that display themselves to view, whilst every one in the regiment holds a picture in her hand.

Upon my giving the word to Discharge their fans, they give one general crack, that may be heard at a considerable distance when the wind is fair. This is one of the most difficult parts of the exercise; but I have several ladies with me, who at their first entrance could not give a pop loud enough to be heard at the further end of a room, who can now discharge a fan in such a manner, that it shall make a report like a pocket-pistol. I have likewise taken care (in order to hinder young women from letting off their fans in wrong places or on unsuitable occasions) to show upon what subject the crack of a fan may come in properly: I have likewise invented a fan, with which a girl of sixteen, by the help of a little wind which is inclosed about one of the largest sticks, can make as loud a crack as a woman of fifty with an ordinary fan.

When the fans are thus discharged, the word of command in course is, to Ground their fans. This teaches a lady to quit her fan gracefully when she throws it aside in order to take up a pack of cards, adjust a curl of hair, replace a falling pin, or apply herself to any other matter of importance. This part of the exercise, as it only consists in tossing a fan with an air upon a long table, (which stands by for that purpose) may be learned in two days' time as well as in a twelvemonth.

When my female regiment is thus disarmed, I generally let them walk about the room for some time; when on a sudden (like ladies that look upon their watches after a long visit) they all of them hasten to their arms, catch them up in a hurry, and place themselves in their proper stations upon my calling out, Recover your fans. This part of the exercise is not difficult, provided a woman applies her thoughts to it.

The Fluttering of the fan is the last, and indeed the masterpiece of the whole exercise; but if a lady does not mis-spent her time, she may make herself mistress of it in three months. I generally lay aside the dog-days and the hot time of the summer for the teaching this part of the exercise; for as soon as ever I pronounce Flutter your fans, the place is filled with so many zephyrs and gentle breezes as are very refreshing in that season of the year, though they might be dangerous to ladies of a tender constitution in any other.

There is an infinite variety of motions to be made use of in the flutter of a fan. There is the angry flutter, the modest flutter, the timorous flutter, the confused flutter, the merry flutter, and the amorous flutter. Not to be tedious, there is scarce any emotion in the mind which does not produce a suitable agitation in the fan; inasmuch, that if I only see the fan of a disciplined lady, I know very well whether she laughs, frowns, or blushes. I have seen a fan so very angry, that it would have been dangerous for the absent lover who provoked it to have come within the wind of it: and at other

times so very languishing, that I have been glad for the lady's sake the lover was at a sufficient distance from it. I need not add, that a fan is either a prude or coquette, according to the nature of the person who bears it. To conclude my letter, I must acquaint you that I have, from my own observations, compiled a little treatise for the use of my scholars, entitled 'The Passions of the Fan;' which I will communicate to you, if you think it may be of use to the public. I shall have a general review on Thursday next; to which you shall be very welcome if you will honour it with your presence. I am, &c.

'P. S. I teach young gentlemen the whole art of gallanting a fan.

'N. B. I have several little plain fans made for this use, to avoid expense.'

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 108. THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1711.

*Sibi quivis
Speret idem : Sudet multum, Frustraque labores
Avis idem*

HOR. Ars Poet. v. 240.

All men will try, and hope to write as well,
And not (without much pains) be undeciv'd.
ROSCOMMON.

My friend the divine having been used with words of complaisance, which he thinks could be properly applied to no one living, and I think could be only spoken of him, and that in his absence, was so extremely offended with the excessive way of speaking civilities among us, that he made a discourse against it at the club, which he concluded with this remark, 'that he had not heard one compliment made in our society since its commencement.' Every one was pleased with his conclusion; and as each knew his good-will to the rest, he was convinced that the many professions of kindness and service which we ordinarily meet with, are not natural where the heart is well inclined; but are a prostitution of speech, seldom intended to mean any part of what they express, never to mean all they express. Our reverend friend, upon this topic, pointed out to us two or three paragraphs on this subject in the first sermon of the first volume of the late archbishop's * posthumous works. I do not know that I ever read any thing that pleased me more; and as it is the praise of Longinus, that he speaks of the sublime in a style suitable to it, so one may say of this author upon sincerity, that he abhors any pomp of rhetoric on this occasion, and treats it with a more than ordinary simplicity, at once to be a preacher and an example. With what command of himself does he lay before us, in the language and temper of his profession, a fault, which by the least liberty and warmth of expression would be the most lively wit and satire! But his heart was better disposed, and the good man chastised the great wit in such a manner, that he was able to speak as follows:

'—Amongst too many other instances of the great corruption and degeneracy of the age wherein we live, the great and general want of sincerity in conversation is none of the least. The world is grown so full of dissimulation and compliment, that men's words are hardly any signification of their thoughts; and if any man measure his

* Tillotson's, on Sincerity, from John i. 47.

upon this Will had recourse to his old topic of showing the narrow spiritedness, the pride, and ignorance of pedants; which he carried so far, that upon my retiring to my lodgings, I could not forbear throwing together such reflections as occurred to me upon that subject.

A man who has been brought up among books, and is able to talk of nothing else, is a very indifferent companion, and what we call a pedant. But, methinks, we should enlarge the title, and give it to every one that does not know how to think out of his profession and particular way of life.

What is a greater pedant than a mere man of the town? Bar him the playhouses, a catalogue of the reigning beauties, and an account of a few fashionable distempers that have befallen him, and you strike him dumb. How many a pretty gentleman's knowledge lies all within the verge of the court! He would tell you the names of the principal favourites, repeat the shrewd sayings of a man of quality, whisper an intrigue that is not yet blown upon by common fame; or, if the sphere of his observations is a little larger than ordinary, will perhaps enter into all the incidents, turns, and revolutions in a game of *ombré*. When he has gone thus far, he has shown you the whole circle of his accomplishments; his parts are drained, and he is disabled from any further conversation. What are these but rank pedants? and yet these are the men who value themselves most on their exemption from the pedantry of colleges.

I might here mention the military pedant, who always talks in a camp, and is storming towns, making lodgments, and fighting battles, from one end of the year to the other. Every thing he speaks smells of gunpowder; if you take away his artillery from him, he has not a word to say for himself. I might likewise mention the law pedant, that is perpetually putting cases, repeating the transactions of Westminster-Hall, wrangling with you upon the most indifferent circumstances of life, and not to be convinced of the distance of a place, or of the most trivial point in conversation, but by dint of argument. The state pedant is wrapped up in pews, and lost in politics. If you mention either of the kings of Spain or Poland, he talks very notably; but if you go out of the Gazette, you drop him. In short, a mere courtier, a mere soldier, a mere scholar, a mere any thing, is an insipid pedantic character, and equally ridiculous.

Of all the species of pedants which I have mentioned, the book pedant is much the most supportable; he has at least an exercised understanding, and a head which is full, though confused; so that a man who converses with him may often receive from him hints of things that are worth knowing, and what he may possibly turn to his own advantage, though they are of little use to the owner. The worst kind of pedants among learned men, are such as are naturally endued with a very small share of common sense, and have read a great number of books without taste or distinction.

The truth of it is, learning, like travelling, and all other methods of improvement, as it finishes good sense, so it makes a silly man ten thousand times more insufferable, by supplying variety of matter to his impertinence, and giving him an opportunity of abounding in absurdities.

Shallow pedants cry up one another much more than men of solid and useful learning. To read the titles they give an editor or collector of a manuscript, you would take him for the glory of the

commonwealth of letters, and the wonder of his age; when perhaps upon examination you find that he has only rectified a Greek particle, or laid out a whole sentence in proper commas.

They are obliged indeed to be thus lavish of their praises, that they may keep one another in countenance; and it is no wonder if a great deal of knowledge, which is not capable of making man wise, has a natural tendency to make him vain and arrogant.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 106. MONDAY, JULY 2, 1711.

*Hinc tibi copia
Manabit ad plenum, benigno
Ruris honorum opulenta cornu.*

HOR. 1 Od. xvii. 14.

Here to thee shall plenty flow,
And all her riches show,
To raise the honour of the quiet plain.

CREECH.

HAVING often received an invitation from my friend Sir Roger de Coverley to pass away some time at his country-house, where I intend to form several of my evening speculations. Sir Roger, who is very well acquainted with my humours, lets me rise and go to bed when I please, dine at his own table or in my chamber as I think fit, and still and say nothing without bidding me be merry. When the gentlemen of the country come to see him, he only shows me at a distance. As I have been walking in his fields I have observed them stealing a sight of me over a hedge, and have heard the knight desiring them not to let me see them, for that I hated to be stared at.

I am the more at ease in Sir Roger's family because it consists of sober and staid persons; for as the knight is the best master in the world, he seldom changes his servants; and as he is beloved by all about him, his servants never care for leaving him; by this means his domestics are all in years, and grown old with their master. You would take his valet de chambre for his brother, his butler is grey-headed, his groom is one of the gravest men that I have ever seen, and his coachman has the looks of a privy-counsellor. You see the goodness of the master even in the old house-dog, and in a gray pad that is kept in the stable with great care and tenderness out of regard to his past services, though he has been useless for several years.

I could not but observe with a great deal of pleasure the joy that appeared in the countenance of these ancient domestics upon my friend's arrival at his country-seat. Some of them could not refrain from tears at the sight of their old master, every one of them pressed forward to do some thing for him, and seemed discouraged if they were not employed. At the same time the good old knight, with a mixture of the father and the master of the family, tempered the inquiries after his own affairs with several kind questions relating to themselves. Thus humanity and good-nature engaged every body to him; so that when he is pleased upon any of them, all his family are in good humour, and none so much as the person whom he diverts himself with: on the contrary, if he coughs or betrays any infirmity of old age, it is easy for a stander-by to observe a secret concern in the looks of all his servants.

nion, that giving his cast clothes to be worn by valets has a very ill effect upon little minds, and creates a silly sense of equality between the parties, in persons affected only with outward things. I have heard him often pleasant on this occasion, and describe a young gentleman abusing his man in that case, which a month or two before was the most pleasing distinction he was conscious of in himself. He would turn his discourse still more pleasantly upon the bounties of the ladies in this kind; and I have heard him say, he knew a fine woman, who distributed rewards and punishments in giving becoming or unbecoming dresses to her maids.

But my good friend is above these little instances of good-will, in bestowing only trifles on his servants; a good servant to him is sure of having it in his choice very soon of being no servant at all. As I before observed, he is so good a husband, and knows so thoroughly that the skill of the purse is the cardinal virtue of this life; I say he knows so well that frugality is the support of generosity, that he can often spare a large fine when a tenement falls, and give that settlement to a good servant who has a mind to go into the world, or make a stranger pay the fine to that servant, for his more comfortable maintenance, if he stays in his service.

A man of honour and generosity considers it would be miserable to himself to have no will but that of another, though it were of the best person breathing, and for that reason goes on as fast as he is able to put his servants into independent livelihoods. The greatest part of Sir Roger's estate is tenanted by persons who have served himself or his ancestors. It was to me extremely pleasant to observe the visitants from several parts to welcome his arrival into the country: and all the difference that I could take notice of between the late servants who came so to see him, and those who staid in the family, was, that these latter were looked upon as finer gentlemen and better courtiers.

This manumission and placing them in a way of livelihood, I look upon as only what is due to a good servant; which encouragement will make his successor be as diligent, as humble, and as ready as he was. There is something wonderful in the narrowness of those minds, which can be pleased, and be barren of bounty to those who please them.

One might, on this occasion, recount the sense that great persons in all ages have had of the merit of their dependants, and the heroic services which men have done their masters in the extremity of their fortunes; and shown to their undone patrons, that fortune was all the difference between them; but as I design this my speculation only as a gentle admonition to thankless masters, I shall not go out of the occurrences of common life, but assert it as a general observation, that I never saw, but in Sir Roger's family and one or two more, good servants treated as they ought to be. Sir Roger's kindness extends to their children's children, and this very morning he sent his coachman's grandson to prentice. I shall conclude this paper with an account of a picture in his gallery, where there are many which will deserve my future observation.

At the very upper end of this handsome structure I saw the portraiture of two young men standing in a river, the one naked, the other in a livery. The person supported seemed half dead, but still so much alive as to show in his face exquisite joy and love towards the other. I thought the fainting

figure resembled my friend Sir Roger; and looking at the butler who stood by me, for an account of it, he informed me that the person in the livery was a servant of Sir Roger's, who stood on the shore while his master was swimming, and observing him taken with some sudden illness, and sink under water, jumped in and saved him. He told me, Sir Roger took off the dress he was in as soon as he came home, and by a great bounty at that time, followed by his favour ever since, had made him master of that pretty seat which we saw at a distance as we came to this house. I remembered indeed Sir Roger said, there lived a very worthy gentleman, to whom he was highly obliged, without mentioning any thing further. Upon my looking a little dissatisfied at some part of the picture, my attendant informed me, that it was against Sir Roger's will, and at the earnest request of the gentleman himself, that he was drawn in the habit in which he had saved his master.

STEELE.

R.

Nº 108. WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1711.

Gratis anhclans, multa agendo nihil agens.
PHILDR. Fab. v. 2.

Out of breath to no purpose, and very busy about nothing.

As I was yesterday morning walking with Sir Roger before his house, a country-fellow brought him a huge fish, which, he told him, Mr. William Wimble* had caught that very morning; and that he presented it with his service to him, and intended to come and dine with him. At the same time he delivered a letter, which my friend read to me as soon as the messenger left him.

'SIR ROGER,

'I DESIRE you to accept of a jack, which is the best I have caught this season. I intend to come and stay with you a week, and see how the perch bite in the Black river. I observed with some concern, the last time I saw you upon the bowling green, that your whip wanted a lash to it; I will bring half a dozen with me that I twisted last week, which I hope will serve you all the time you are in the country. I have not been out of the saddle for six days last past, having been at Eton with Sir John's eldest son. He takes to learning hugely.

'I am, SIR,

'Your humble servant,

'WILL WIMBLE.

This extraordinary letter, and message that accompanied it, made me very curious to know the character and quality of the gentleman who wrote them; which I found to be as follow: 'William Wimble is younger brother to a baronet, and descended of the ancient family of the Wimbles. He is now between forty and fifty; but being bred to no business, and born to no estate, he generally lives with his elder brother as superintendent of his game. He hunts a pack of dogs better than any man in the country, and is very famous in finding out a hare. He is extremely well versed in all the little handicrafts of an idle man. He makes a May-day to a miracle; and furnishes the whole country with angle-rods. As he is a good natured officious fellow, and very much esteemed upon account of his family, he is a welcome guest

* Sketched from Mr. Thomas Morecraft, a Yorkshire tleman, younger son of a baronet. He died at Dublin, July 1741. See Nos. 126, 131, and 669.

dable courtesy and pardonable insolence. I do not know but it might be exactly where the coffee-house * is now.

'You are to know, this my ancestor was not only of a military genius, but fit also for the arts of peace, for he played on the bass-viol as well as any gentleman at court; you see where his viol hangs by his basket-hilt sword. The action at the Tilt-yard you may be sure won the fair lady, who was a maid of honour, and the greatest beauty of her time; here she stands the next picture. You see, sir, my great great grandmother has on the new-fashioned petticoat, except that the modern is gathered at the waist; my grandmother appears as if she stood in a large drum, whereas the ladies now walk as if they were in a go-cart. For all this lady was bred at court, she became an excellent country-wife, she brought ten children, and when I show you the library, you shall see in her own hand (allowing for the difference of the language) the best receipt now in England both for an hasty-pudding and a white-pot.

'If you please to fall back a little, because it is necessary to look at the three next pictures at one view; these are three sisters. She on the right hand, who is so very beautiful, died a maid; the next to her, still handsomer, had the same fate, against her will; this homely thing in the middle had both their portions added to her own, and was stolen by a neighbouring gentleman, a man of stratagem and resolution, for he poisoned three mastiffs to come at her, and knocked down two deer-stealers in carrying her off. Misfortunes happen in all families. The theft of this romp, and so much money, was no great matter to our estate. But the next heir that possessed it was this soft gentleman, whom you see there. Observe the small buttons, the little boots, the laces, the slashes about his clothes, and above all the posture he is drawn in (which to be sure was his own choosing); you see he sits with one hand on a desk writing, and looking as it were another way, like an easy writer, or a sonneteer. He was one of those that had too much wit to know how to live in the world; he was a man of no justice, but great good-manners; he ruined every body that had any thing to do with him, but never said a rude thing in his life; the most indolent person in the world, he would sign a deed that paved away half his estate with his gloves on, but would not put on his hat before a lady if it were to save his country. He is said to be the first that made love by squeezing the hand. He left the estate with ten thousand pounds debt upon it; but, however, by all hands I have been informed that he was every way the finest gentleman in the world. That debt lay heavy on our house for one generation; but it was retrieved by a gift from that honest man you see there, a citizen of our name, but nothing at all akin to us. I know Sir Andrew Freeport has said behind my back, that this man was descended from one of the ten children of the maid of honour I showed you above; but it was never made out. We winked at the thing, indeed, because money was wanting at that time.'

Here I saw my friend a little embarrassed, and turned my face to the next portraiture.

Sir Roger went on with his account of the gallery in the following manner. 'This man (pointing to him I looked at) I take to be the honour of our house. Sir Humphrey de Coverley; he was in his dealings as punctual as a tradesman, and as generous as a gentleman. He would have thought him

self as much undone by breaking his word, as if it were to be followed by bankruptcy. He served his country as knight of the shire to his dying day. He found it no easy matter to maintain an integrity in his words and actions, even in things that regarded the offices which were incumbent upon him, in the care of his own affairs and relations of life, and therefore dreaded (though he had great talents) to go into employments of state, where he must be exposed to the snares of ambition. Innocence of life and great ability were the distinguishing parts of his character; the latter, he had often observed, had led to the destruction of the former, and he used frequently to lament that great and good had not the same signification. He was an excellent husbandman, but had resolved not to exceed such a degree of wealth; all above it he bestowed in secret bounties many years after the sum he aimed at for his own use was attained. Yet he did not slacken his industry, but to a decent old age spent the life and fortune, which was superfluous to himself, in the service of his friends and neighbours.'

Here we were called to dinner, and Sir Roger ended the discourse of this gentleman, by telling me, as we followed the servant, that this his ancestor was a brave man, and narrowly escaped being killed in the civil wars; 'For,' said he, 'he was sent out of the field upon a private message, the day before the battle of Worcester.' The whim of narrowly escaping by having been within a day of danger, with other matters above mentioned, mixed with good sense, left me at a loss whether I was more delighted with my friend's wisdom or simplicity.

STEEL.

R.

Nº 110. FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1711.

Horror ubique animos, simul ipsa silentia terrent.

VIRG. *Æn.* li. 755.

All things are full of horror and affright,
And dreadful ev'n the silence of the night.
DRYDEN.

At a little distance from Sir Roger's house, among the ruins of an old abbey, there is a long walk of aged elms; which are shot up so very high, that when one paces under them, the rooks and crows that rest upon the tops of them seem to be cawing in another region. I am very much delighted with this sort of noise, which I consider as a kind of natural prayer to that Being who supplies the wants of his whole creation, and who, in the beautiful language of the Psalms *, feedeth the young ravens that call upon him. I like this retirement the better, because of an ill report it lies under and being haunted; for which reason (as I have been told in the family) no living creature ever walks about besides the chaplain. My good friend the Chancellor desired me with a very grave face not to venture myself in it after sun-set, for that one of the footmen had been almost frightened out of his wits by a spirit that appeared to him in the shape of a black horse without a head; to which he added that about a month ago one of the maids committed home late that way with a pail of milk upon her head, heard such a rustling among the bushes that she let it fall.

I was taking a walk in this place last night between the hours of nine and ten, and could not but fancy it one of the most proper scenes in the world for a ghost to appear in. The ruins of the abbey

* The Tilt-yard coffee house is still in being at Whitehall.

* Psalm cxlvii. 9.

are scattered up and down on every side, and half covered with ivy and elder-bushes, the harbours of several solitary birds which seldom make their appearance till the dusk of the evening. The place was formerly a church-yard, and has still several marks in it of graves and burying-places. There is such an echo among the old ruins and vaults, that if you stamp but a little louder than ordinary, you hear the sound repeated. At the same time the walk of elms, with the croaking of the ravens which from time to time are heard from the tops of them, looks exceeding solemn and venerable. These objects naturally raise seriousness and attention; and when night heightens the awfulness of the place, and pours out her supernumerary horrors upon every thing in it, I do not at all wonder that weak minds fill it with spectres and apparitions.

Mr. Locke, in his chapter of the Association of Ideas, has very curious remarks to show how by the prejudice of education one idea often introduces into the mind a whole set that bear no resemblance to one another in the nature of things. Among several examples of this kind, he produces the following instance. 'The ideas of goblins and sprites have really no more to do with darkness than light: yet let but a foolish maid inculcate these often on the mind of a child, and raise them there together, possibly he shall never be able to separate them again so long as he lives; but darkness shall ever afterwards bring with it those frightful ideas, and they shall be so joined, that he can no more bear the one than the other *.'

As I was walking in this solitude, where the dusk of the evening conspired with so many other occasions of terror, I observed a cow grazing not far from me, which an imagination that was apt to startle might easily have construed into a black horse without a head: and I dare say the poor footman lost his wits upon some such trivial occasions.

My friend Sir Roger has told me with a great deal of mirth, that at his first coming to his estate he found three parts of his house altogether useless; that the best room in it had the reputation of being haunted, and by that means was locked up; that noises had been heard in his long gallery, so that he could not get a servant to enter it after eight o'clock at night; that the door of one of his chambers was nailed up, because there went a story in the family that a butler had formerly hanged himself in it; and that his mother, who lived to a great age, had shut up half the rooms in the house, in which either her husband, a son, or daughter had died. The knight seeing his habitation reduced to so small a compass, and himself in a manner shut out of his own house, upon the death of his mother ordered all the apartments to be flung open, and exorcised by his chaplain, who lay in every room one after another, and by that means dissipated the fears which had so long reigned in the family.

I should not thus have been particular upon these ridiculous horrors, did not I find them so very much prevail in all parts of the country. At the same time I think a person who is thus terrified with the imagination of ghosts and spectres much more reasonable than one, who, contrary to the reports of all historians sacred and profane, ancient and modern, and to the traditions of all nations, thinks the appearance of spirits fabulous and groundless. Could not I give myself up to this general testimony of mankind, I should to the relations of par-

ticular persons who are now living, and whom I cannot distrust in other matters of fact. I might here add, that not only the historians, to whom we may join the poets, but likewise the philosophers of antiquity, have favoured this opinion. Lucretius *, though by the course of his philosophy he was obliged to maintain that the soul did not exist separate from the body, makes no doubt of the reality of apparitions, and that men have often appeared after their death. This I think very remarkable: he was so pressed with the matter of fact which he could not have the confidence to deny, that he was forced to account for it by one of the most absurd unphilosophical notions that was ever started. He tells us, that the surfaces of all bodies are perpetually flying off from their respective bodies, one after another; and that these surfaces or thin cases, that included each other whilst they were joined in the body like the coats of an onion, are sometimes seen entire when they are separated from it; by which means we often behold the shapes and shadows of persons who are either dead or absent.

I shall dismiss this paper with a story out of Josephus †, not so much for the sake of the story itself as for the moral reflections with which the author concludes it, and which I shall here set down in his own words: 'Glaphyra, the daughter of King Archelaus, after the death of her two first husbands (being married to a third, who was brother to her first husband, and so passionately in love with her that he turned off his former wife to make room for this marriage) had a very odd kind of dream. She fancied that she saw her first husband coming towards her, and that she embraced him with great tenderness; when in the midst of the pleasure which she expressed at the sight of him, he reproached her after the following manner: "Glaphyra," says he, "thou hast made good the old saying, That women are not to be trusted. Was not I the husband of thy virginity? Have I not children by thee? How couldst thou forget our loves so far as to enter into a second marriage, and after that into a third, nay to take for thy husband a man who has so shamelessly crept into the bed of his brother? However, for the sake of our past loves, I shall free thee from thy present reproach, and make thee mine for ever." Glaphyra told this dream to several women of her acquaintance, and died soon after. I thought this story might not be impertinent in this place wherein I speak of those kings. Besides that the example deserves to be taken notice of as it contains a most certain proof of the immortality of the soul, and of Divine Providence. If any man thinks these facts incredible, let him enjoy his own opinion to himself, but let him not endeavour to disturb the belief of others, who by instances of this nature are excited to the study of virtue.'

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 111. SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1711.

Inter niloni Academii quarere verum.

HOR. Ep. 2. l. 2. v. 45.

To search for truth in academic groves.

THE course of my last speculation led me insensibly into a subject upon which I always meditate with great delight, I mean the immortality of the soul,

* Book iv. ver. 34, &c.

† Jewish Antiquities, book xvii. chap. 15.

* Essay on Human Understanding, b. ii. ch. 33. sect. 10.

I was yesterday walking alone in one of my friend's woods, and lost myself in it very agreeably, as I was running over in my mind the several arguments that established this great point, which is the basis of morality, and the source of all the pleasing hopes and secret joys that can arise in the heart of a reasonable creature. I considered those several proofs, drawn:

First, from the nature of the soul itself, and particularly its immateriality; which, though not absolutely necessary to the eternity of its duration has, I think, been evinced to almost a demonstration.

Secondly, from its passions and sentiments, as particularly its love of existence, its horror of annihilation, and its hopes of immortality, with that sweet satisfaction which it finds in the practice of virtue, and that uneasiness which follows in it upon the commission of vice.

Thirdly, from the nature of the Supreme Being, whose justice, goodness, wisdom, and veracity are all concerned in this great point.

But among these and other excellent arguments for the immortality of the soul, there is one drawn from the perpetual progress of the soul to its perfection, without a possibility of ever arriving at it; which is a hint that I do not remember to have seen opened and improved by others who have written on this subject, though it seems to me to carry a great weight with it. How can it enter into the thoughts of man, that the soul, which is capable of such immense perfections, and of receiving new improvements to all eternity, shall fall away into nothing almost as soon as it is created? Are such abilities made for no purpose? A brute arrives at a point of perfection that he can never pass: in a few years he has all the endowments he is capable of; and were he to live ten thousand more, would be the same thing he is at present. Were a human soul then at a stand in her accomplishments, were her faculties to be full blown, and incapable of further enlargements, I could imagine it might fall away insensibly, and drop at once into a state of annihilation. But can we believe a thinking being, that is in a perpetual progress of improvements, and travelling on from perfection to perfection, after having just looked abroad into the works of its Creator, and made a few discoveries of his infinite goodness, wisdom, and power, must perish at her first setting out, and in the very beginning of her inquiries?

A man, considered in his present state, seems only sent into the world to propagate his kind. He provides himself with a successor, and immediately quits his post to make room for him.

Herodotus alterius, velut unda supervenit undam.
HOR. Ep. 2. l. 2. v. 175.

— 'Heir crowds heir, as in a rolling flood
Wave urges wave.'

CREECH.

He does not seem born to enjoy life, but to deliver it down to others. This is not surprising to consider in animals, which are formed for our use, and can finish their business in a short life. The silkworm, after having spun her task, lays her eggs and dies. But a man can never have taken in his full measure of knowledge, has not time to subdue his passions, establish his soul in virtue, and come up to the perfection of his nature, before he is hurried off the stage. Would an infinitely wise Being make such glorious creatures for so mean a purpose? Can he delight in the production of such abortive intelligences, such short-lived reasonable

beings? Would he give us talents that are not to be exerted? Capacities that are never to be gratified? How can we find that wisdom which shines through all his works in the formation of man, without looking on this world as only a nursery for the next, and believing that the several generations of rational creatures, which rise up and disappear in such quick successions, are only to receive their first rudiments of existence here, and afterwards to be transplanted into a more friendly climate, where they may spread and flourish to all eternity?

There is not, in my opinion, a more pleasing and triumphant consideration in religion than this of the perpetual progress which the soul makes towards the perfection of its nature, without ever arriving at a period in it. To look upon the soul as going on from strength to strength, to consider that she is to shine for ever with new accessions of glory, and brighter to all eternity; that she will be still adding virtue to virtue, and knowledge to knowledge; carries in it something wonderfully agreeable to that ambition which is natural to the mind of man. Nay, it must be a prospect pleasing to God himself, to see his creation for ever beautifying in his eye, and drawing nearer to him, by greater degrees of resemblance.

Methinks this single consideration, of the progress of a finite spirit to perfection, will be sufficient to extinguish all envy in inferior natures, and all contempt in superior. That cherubim, which now appears as a God to a human soul, knows very well that the period will come about in eternity, when the human soul shall be as perfect as he himself now is: nay, when she shall look down upon that degree of perfection, as much as she now falls short of it. It is true, the higher nature still advances, and by that means preserves his distance and superiority in the scale of being; but he knows that how high soever the station is of which he stands possessed at present, the inferior nature will at length mount up to it, and shine forth in the same degree of glory.

With what astonishment and veneration may we look into our own souls, where there are such hidden stores of virtue and knowledge, such inexhausted sources of perfection? We know not yet what we shall be, nor will it ever enter into the heart of man to conceive the glory that will be always in reserve for him. The soul, considered with its Creator, is like one of those mathematical lines* that may draw nearer to another for all eternity without a possibility of touching it: and can there be a thought so transporting, as to consider ourselves in these perpetual approaches to him, who is not only the standard of perfection but of happiness!

ADDISON.

I.

Nº 112. MONDAY, JULY 9, 1711.

Αθανάτους μὴ σφραγίσθης, τοῦ μὴ ὡς ἀθανάτου,
Τίμα—

PYTHAG.

First, in obedience to thy country's rites,
Worship th' immortal gods.

I AM always very well pleased with a country Sunday, and think, if keeping holy the seventh day were only a human institution, it would be the best method that could have been thought of for the publishing and civilizing of mankind. It is certain

* The asymptotes of the hyperbola.

passion by the methods which serve only to imprint it deeper. She has certainly the finest hand of any woman in the world.'

Here followed a profound silence; and I was not displeased to observe my friend falling so naturally into a discourse, which I had ever before taken notice he industriously avoided. After a very long pause, he entered upon an account of this great circumstance in his life, with an air which I thought raised my idea of him above what I had ever had before; and gave me the picture of that cheerful mind of his, before it received that stroke which has ever since affected his words and actions. But he went on as follows:

'I came to my estate in my twenty-second year, and resolved to follow the steps of the most worthy of my ancestors who have inhabited this spot of earth before me, in all the methods of hospitality and good neighbourhood, for the sake of my fame; and in country sports and recreations, for the sake of my health. In my twenty-third year I was obliged to serve as sheriff of the county; and in my servants, officers, and whole equipage, indulged the pleasure of a young man (who did not think ill of his own person) in taking that public occasion of showing my figure and behaviour to advantage. You may easily imagine to yourself what appearance I made, who am pretty tall, rid well, and was very well dressed, at the head of a whole county, with music before me, a feather in my hat, and my horse well bitted. I can assure you, I was not a little pleased with the kind looks and glances I had from all the balconies and windows as I rode to the hall where the amazes were held. But when I came there, a beautiful creature in a widow's habit sat in court to hear the event of a cause concerning her dower. This commanding creature (who was born for the destruction of all who beheld her) put on such a resignation in her countenance, and bore the whispers of all around the court with such a pretty easiness, I warrant you, and then recovered herself from one eye to another, until she was perfectly confused by meeting something so wistful in all she encountered, that at last, with a murrain to her, she cast her bewitching eye upon me. I no sooner met it but I bowed like a great surprised booby; and knowing her came to be the first which came on, I cried, like a captivated calf as I was, "Make way for the defendant's witnesses." This sudden partiality made all the county immediately see the sheriff also was become a slave to the fine widow. During the time her cause was upon trial, she behaved herself, I warrant you, with such a deep attention to her business, took opportunities to have little billets handed to her counsel, then would be in such a pretty confusion, occasioned, you must know, by acting before so much company, that not only I but the whole court was prejudiced in her favour; and all that the next heir to her husband had to urge, was thought so groundless and frivolous, that when it came to her counsel to reply, there was not half so much said as every one besides in the court thought he could have urged to her advantage. You must understand, sir, this perverse woman is one of those unaccountable creatures that secretly rejoice in the admiration of men, but indulge themselves in no further consequences. Hence it is that she has ever had a train of admirers, and she removes from her slaves in town to those in the country, according to the seasons of the year. She is a reading lady, and far gone in the pleasures of friendship. She is always accompanied by a confidant,

who is witness to her daily protestations against our sex, and consequently a bar to her first steps towards love, upon the strength of her own maxims and declarations.

'However, I must needs say, this accomplished mistress of mine has distinguished me above the rest, and has been known to declare Sir Roger de Coverley was the tamest and most humane of all the brutes in the country. I was told she said so, by one who thought he rallied me; but upon the strength of this slender encouragement of being thought least detestable, I made new liveries, new-paired my coach-horses, sent them all to town to be bitted, and taught to throw their legs well, and move all together, before I pretended to cross the country, and wait upon her. As soon as I thought my retinue suitable to the character of my fortune and youth, I set out from hence to make my addresses. The particular skill of this lady has ever been to inflame your wishes, and yet command respect. To make her mistress of this art, she has a greater share of knowledge, wit, and good sense, than is usual even among men of merit. Then she is beautiful beyond the race of women. If you will not let her go on with a certain artifice with her eyes, and the skill of beauty, she will arm herself with her real charms, and strike you with admiration instead of desire. It is certain, that if you were to behold the whole woman, there is that dignity in her aspect, that composure in her motion, that complacency in her manner, that if her form makes you hope, her merit makes you fear. But then again, she is such a desperate scholar, that no country-gentleman can approach her without being a jest. As I was going to tell you, when I came to her house I was admitted to her presence with great civility; at the same time she placed herself to be first seen by me in such an attitude, as I think you call the posture of a picture, that she discovered new charms, and I at last came towards her with such an awe as made me speechless. This she no sooner observed but she made her advantage of it, and began a discourse to me concerning love and honour, as they both are followed by pretenders, and the real votaries to them. When she discussed these points in a discourse, which I verily believe was as learned as the best philosopher in Europe could possibly make, she asked me whether she was so happy as to fall in with my sentiments on these important particulars. Her confidant sat by her, and upon my being in the last confusion and silence, this malicious aid of hers turning to her, says, "I am very glad to observe Sir Roger pauses upon this subject, and seems resolved to deliver all his sentiments upon the matter when he pleases to speak." They both kept their countenances, and after I had sat half an hour meditating how to behave before such profound casuists, I rose up and took my leave. Chance has since that time thrown me very often in her way, and she as often has directed a discourse to me which I do not understand. This barbarity has kept me ever at a distance from the most beautiful object my eyes ever beheld. It is thus also she deals with all mankind, and you must make love to her, as you would conquer the sphinx, by posing her. But were she like other women, and that there were any talking to her, how constant must the pleasure of that man be, who could converse with a creature—But, after all, you may be sure her heart is fixed on some one or other; and yet I have been credibly informed—but who can believe half that is said! after she had done speak-

the order of men suitable to our character, the care of superfluities is a vice no less extravagant, than the neglect of necessities would have been before.

Certain it is, that they are both out of nature, when she is followed with reason and good sense. It is from this reflexion that I always read Mr. Cowley with the greatest pleasure. His magnanimity is as much above that of other considerable men, as his understanding; and it is a true distinguishing spirit in the elegant author* who published his works, to dwell so much upon the temper of his mind and the moderation of his desires. By this means he has rendered his friend as amiable as famous. That state of life which bears the face of poverty with Mr. Cowley's great vulgar†, is admirably described; and it is no small satisfaction to those of the same turn of desire, that he produces the authority of the wisest men of the best age of the world, to strengthen his opinion of the ordinary pursuits of mankind.

It would, methinks, be no ill maxim of life, if, according to that ancestor of Sir Roger whom I lately mentioned, every man would point to himself what sum he would resolve not to exceed. He might by this means cheat himself into a tranquillity on this side of that expectation, or convert what he should get above it to nobler uses than his own pleasures or necessities. This temper of mind would exempt a man from an ignorant envy of restless men above him, and a more inexcusable contempt of happy men below him. This would be sailing by some compass, living with some design; but to be eternally bewildered in prospects of future gain, and putting on unnecessary armour against improbable blows of fortune, is a mechanic being which has not good sense for its direction, but is carried on by a sort of acquired instinct towards things below our consideration, and unworthy our esteem. It is possible that the tranquillity I now enjoy at Sir Roger's may have created in me this way of thinking, which is so abstracted from the common relish of the world; but as I am now in a pleasing arbour surrounded with a beautiful landscape, I find no inclination so strong as to continue in these mansions, so remote from the ostentatious scenes of life; and am at this present writing philosopher enough to conclude with Mr. Cowley—

'If e'er ambition did my fancy cheat
With any wish so mean as to be great;
Continue, Heav'n, still from me to remove
The humble blessings of that life I love.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 115. THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1711.

— *Ut sit mens sana in corpore sano.*
JUV. Sat. 10. v. 355.

A healthy body and a mind at ease.

BODILY labour is of two kinds; either that which a man submits to for his livelihood, or that which he undergoes for his pleasure. The latter of them generally changes the name of labour for that of exercise, but differs only from ordinary labour as motives from another motive.

A country life abounds in both these kinds of labour, and for that reason gives a man a greater

stock of health, and consequently a more perfect enjoyment of himself, than any other way of life. I consider the body as a system of tubes and glands, or, to use a more rustic phrase, a bundle of pipes and strainers, fitted to one another after so wonderful a manner as to make a proper engine for the soul to work with. This description does not only comprehend the bowels, bones, tendons, veins, nerves, and arteries, but every muscle and every ligature, which is a composition of fibres that are so many imperceptible tubes or pipes interwoven on all sides with invisible glands or strainers.

This general idea of a human body, without considering it in the niceties of anatomy, lets us see how absolutely necessary labour is for the right preservation of it. There must be frequent motions and agitations, to mix, digest, and separate the juices contained in it, as well as to clear and cleanse that infinite of pipes and strainers of which it is composed, and to give their solid part a more firm and lasting tone. Labour or exercise ferments the humours, casts them into their proper channels, throws off redundancies, and helps nature in those secret distributions, without which the body cannot subsist in its vigour, nor the soul in with cheerfulness.

I might here mention the effects which this has upon all the faculties of the mind, by keeping it understanding clear, the imagination untroubled, and refining those spirits that are necessary for the proper exertion of our intellectual faculties, during the present laws of union between soul and body. It is to a neglect in this particular that we may ascribe the spleen, which is so frequent in men of studious and sedentary temper, as well as the vapours to which those of the other sex are so often subject.

Had not exercise been absolutely necessary to our well-being, nature would not have made the body so proper for it, by giving such an activity to the limbs, and such a pliancy to every part, necessarily produce those compressions, extensions, contortions, dilations, and all other kinds of motions that are necessary for the preservation of such a system of tubes and glands as has been before mentioned. And that we might not want inducements to engage us in such an exercise of the body as is proper for its welfare, it is so ordered that nothing valuable can be procured without it. Not to mention riches and honour, even food and raiment are not to be come at without the toil of the hands and sweat of the brow. Providence furnishes materials, but expects that we should work them up ourselves. The earth must be laboured before it gives its increase; and when it is forced into its several products, how many hands must they pass through before they are fit for use. Manufactures, trade, and agriculture, naturally employ more than nineteen parts of the species; twenty; and as for those who are not obliged to labour, by the condition in which they are bred, they are more miserable than the rest of mankind, unless they indulge themselves in that voluntary labour which goes by the name of exercise.

My friend Sir Roger has been an indefatigable man in business of this kind, and has hung several parts of his house with the trophies of his several labours. The walls of his great hall are covered with the horns of several kinds of deer that he killed in the chase, which he thinks the most valuable furniture of his house, as they afford frequent topics of discourse, and show that he has not been idle. At the lower end of the hall

* Dr. Thomas Sprat, Bishop of Rochester.

† Hence, ye profane, I hate ye all,
Both the great vulgar and the small.

Cowley's Paraph. of Horace, Bk. 3. Od. 1.

'My hounds are bred out of the Spartan kind,
So flew'd*, so sanded†; and their heads are hung
With ears that sweep away the morning dew,
Creak-knee'd and dew-lapp'd like Thessalian bulls,
Slow in pursuit, but match'd in mouths like bells,
Each under each. A cry more tunable
Was never halloo'd to, nor cheer'd with horn.'

Sir Roger is so keen at this sport, that he has been out almost every day since I came down and upon the chaplain's offering to lend me his easy pad, I was prevailed on yesterday morning to make one of the company. I was extremely pleased, as we rid along, to observe the general benevolence of all the neighbourhood towards my friend. The farmers' sons thought themselves happy if they could open a gate for the good old knight as he passed by; which he generally requited with a nod or a smile, and a kind inquiry after their fathers or uncles.

After we had rid about a mile from home, we came upon a large heath, and the sportsmen began to beat. They had done so for some time, when, as I was at a little distance from the rest of the company, I saw a hare pop out from a small furze-brake almost under my horse's feet. I marked the way she took, which I endeavoured to make the company sensible of by extending my arm; but to no purpose, till Sir Roger, who knows that none of my extraordinary motions are insignificant, rode up to me, and asked me, if puss was gone that way? Upon my answering yes, he immediately called in the dogs, and put them upon the scent. As they were going off, I heard one of the country-fellows muttering to his companion, 'that 'twas a wonder they had not lost all their sport, for want of the silent gentleman's crying, Stole away.'

This, with my aversion to leaping hedges, made me withdraw to a rising ground, from whence I could have the pleasure of the whole chase, without the fatigue of keeping in with the hounds. The hare immediately threw them above a mile behind her; but I was pleased to find, that instead of running straight forwards, or in hunter's language, 'flying the country,' as I was afraid she might have done, she wheeled about, and described a sort of circle round the hill where I had taken my station, in such a manner as gave me a very distinct view of the sport. I could see her first pass by, and the dogs some time afterwards unravelling the whole track she had made, and following her through all her doubles. I was at the same time delighted in observing that deference which the rest of the pack paid to each particular hound, according to the character he had acquired amongst them. If they were at a fault, and an old hound of reputation opened but once, he was immediately followed by the whole cry; while a raw dog, or one who was a noted liar, might have yelped his heart out, without being taken notice of.

The hare now, after having squatted two or three times, and been put up again as often, came still nearer to the place where she was at first started. The dogs pursued her, and these were followed by the jolly knight, who rode upon a white gelding, accompanied by his tenants and servants, and cheering his hounds with all the gaiety of five and twenty. One of the sportsmen rode up to me, and told me, that he was sure the chase was almost at an end, because the old dogs, which had hitherto lain behind, now headed the pack. The fellow was in the right. Our hare took a large field just

under us, followed by the full cry, in view. I must confess the brightness of the weather, the cheerfulness of every thing around me, the chiding of the hounds, which was returned upon us in double echo from two neighbouring hills, with the hallooing of the sportsmen, and the sounding of the horn, lifted my spirits into a most lively pleasure which I freely indulged because I was sure it was innocent. If I was under any concern, it was the account of the poor hare, that was now quite spent, and almost within the reach of her enemy when the huntsman getting forward threw down his pole before the dogs. They were now within eight yards of that game which they had been pursuing for almost as many hours; yet on the sign before-mentioned they all made a sudden stand and though they continued opening as much as before, durst not once attempt to pass beyond the pole. At the same time Sir Roger rode forward and alighting took up the hare in his arms; which he soon after delivered up to one of his servants with an order, if she could be kept alive, to let her go in his great orchard; where it seems he has several of these prisoners of war, who live together in a very comfortable captivity. I was highly pleased to see the discipline of the pack, and the good-nature of the knight, who could not find his heart to murder a creature that had given him so much diversion.

As we were returning home, I remembered that Monsieur Pascal, in his most excellent discourse of the Misery of Man, tells us, that all our endeavours after greatness proceed from nothing but a desire of being surrounded by a multitude of persons at our disposal, that may hinder us from looking into ourselves, which is a view we cannot bear. He afterwards goes on to show that our love of sports comes from the same reason, and is particularly severe upon hunting. 'What,' says he, 'unless we be to drown thought, can make men throw away so much time and pains upon a silly animal, which they might buy cheaper in the market?' The foregoing reflection is certainly just, when a man suffers his whole mind to be drawn into his sports, and altogether loses himself in the woods; but does not affect those who propose a far more laudable end from this exercise, I mean, the preservation of health, and keeping all the organs of the soul in condition to execute her orders. Had that inexpressible person, whom I last quoted, been a little more indulgent to himself in this point, the world might probably have enjoyed him much longer; whereas through too great an application to his studies in his youth he contracted that ill habit of body, which, after a tedious sickness, carried him off in the fortieth year of his age; and the whole history we have of his life till that time, but one continued account of the behaviour of a noble soul struggling under innumerable pains and distempers*.

For my own part, I intend to hunt twice a week during my stay with Sir Roger; and shall prescribe the moderate use of this exercise to all my country friends, as the best kind of physic for mending a bad constitution, and preserving a good one.

I cannot do this better, than in the following lines out of Mr. Dryden †:

* The first physicians by debauch were made;
Excess began, and sloth austere the trade.

† Blaise Pascal, who when a mere youth might be said to challenge all the mathematicians of Europe, was born at Clermont, in Auvergne, 1623, and died in Paris, 1662.
‡ Epistle to his honoured kinsman John Dryden, of Chertton, in the county of Huntingdon, esq.

* *Fleury* are the large chaps of a deep mouthed hound.

† Marked with small spots, like sand.

By chase our long-liv'd fathers earn'd their food;
 Tug'd strong the nerves, and purify'd the blood;
 But re their sons, a pamper'd race of men,
 Are dwindled down to threescore years and ten.
 Better to hunt in fields for health unbought,
 Than for the doctor for a nauseous draught.
 The wise for cure on exercise depend:
 God never made his work for man to mend.*

BUDGELL.

X.

N° 117. SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1711.

— *Ipsi sibi somnia fingunt.*

VIRG. Eclog. viii. ver. 108.

Their own imaginations they deceive.

There are some opinions in which a man should stand neuter, without engaging his assent to one side or the other. Such a hovering faith as this, which refuses to settle upon any determination, is absolutely necessary in a mind that is careful to avoid errors and prepossessions. When the arguments press equally on both sides in matters that are indifferent to us, the safest method is to give up ourselves to neither.

It is with this temper of mind that I consider the subject of witchcraft. When I hear the relations that are made from all parts of the world, not only from Norway and Lapland, from the East and West Indies, but from every particular nation in Europe, I cannot forbear thinking that there is such an intercourse and commerce with evil spirits, as that which we express by the name of witchcraft. But when I consider that the ignorant and credulous parts of the world abound most in these relations, and that the persons among us, who are supposed to engage in such an infernal commerce, are people of a weak understanding and crazed imagination, and at the same time reflect upon the many impostures and delusions of this nature that have been detected in all ages, I endeavour to suspend my belief till I hear more certain accounts than any which have yet come to my knowledge. In short, when I consider the question, whether there are such persons in the world as those we call witches, my mind is divided between the two opposite opinions, or rather (to speak my thoughts freely) I believe in general that there is, and has been such a thing as witchcraft; but at the same time can give no credit to any particular instance of it.

I am engaged in this speculation, by some occurrences that I met with yesterday, which I shall give my reader an account of at large. As I was walking with my friend Sir Roger by the side of one of his woods, an old woman applied herself to me for my charity. Her dress and figure put me in mind of the following description of Otway:

'In a close lane as I pursu'd my journey,
 I spy'd a wrinkled hag, with age grown double,
 Picking dry sticks, and mumbling to herself.
 Her eyes with scalding rheum were gall'd and red;
 Cold palsy shook her head; her hands seem'd wither'd;
 And on her crooked shoulders had she wrapp'd
 The tatter'd remnant of an old striped hanging,
 Which served to keep her carcase from the cold:
 So there was nothing of a piece about her.
 Her lower weeds were all of one coarsely patch'd
 With different colour'd rags, black, red, white, yellow,
 And seem'd to speak variety of wretchedness*.'

As I was musing on this description, and comparing it with the object before me, the knight told me, that this very old woman had the reputation of a witch all over the country, that her lips were observed to be always in motion, and that there was not a witch about her house which her

neighbours did not believe had carried her several hundreds of miles. If she chanced to stumble, they always found sticks or straws that lay in the figure of a cross before her. If she made any mistake at church, and cried amen in a wrong place, they never failed to conclude that she was saying her prayers backwards. There was not a maid in the parish that would take a pin of her, though she should offer a bag of money with it. She goes by the name of Moll White, and has made the country ring with several imaginary exploits which are palmed upon her. If the dairy-maid does not make her butter come so soon as she would have it, Moll White is at the bottom of the churn. If a horse sweats in the stable, Moll White has been upon his back. If a hare makes an unexpected escape from the hounds, the huntsman curses Moll White. 'Nay,' says Sir Roger, 'I have known the master of the pack, upon such an occasion, send one of his servants to see if Moll White had been out that morning.'

This account raised my curiosity so far, that I begged my friend Sir Roger to go with me into her hovel, which stood in a solitary corner under the side of the wood. Upon our first entering, Sir Roger winked to me, and pointed at something that stood behind the door; which, upon looking that way, I found to be an old broom-staff. At the same time he whispered me in the ear to take notice of a tabby cat that sat in the chimney corner, which, as the old knight told me, lay under as bad a report as Moll White herself; for besides that Moll is said often to accompany her in the same shape, the cat is reported to have spoken twice or thrice in her life, and to have played several pranks above the capacity of an ordinary cat.

I was secretly concerned to see human nature in so much wretchedness and disgrace, but at the same time could not forbear smiling to hear Sir Roger, who is a little puzzled about the old woman, advising her as a justice of peace to avoid all communication with the devil, and never to hurt any of her neighbour's cattle. We concluded our visit with a bounty, which was very acceptable.

In our return home Sir Roger told me, that old Moll had been often brought before him for making children spit pins, and giving maids the nightmare; and that the country people would be tossing her into a pond, and trying experiments with her every day, if it was not for him and his chaplain.

I have since found upon inquiry, that Sir Roger was several times staggered with the reports that had been brought him concerning this old woman, and would frequently have bountied her over to the county sessions, had not his chaplain with much ado persuaded him to the contrary.

I have been the more particular in this account, because I hear there is scarce a village in England that has not a Moll White in it. When an old woman begins to dote, and grow chargeable to a parish, she is generally turned into a witch, and fills the whole country with extravagant fancies, imaginary distempers, and terrifying dreams. In the mean time, the poor wretch that is the innocent occasion of so many evils, begins to be frightened at herself, and sometimes confesses secret commerces and familiarities that her imagination forms in a delirious old age. This frequently cuts off charity from the greatest objects of compassion, and inspires people with a malevolence towards those poor decrepid parts of our species, in whom human nature is defaced by infirmity and dotage.

ADDISON.

L.

* Orphan, Act H.

Nº 118. MONDAY, JULY 16, 1711.

—*Harsh lateri lethalis arundo.* VIRG. *Æn.* iv. 73.

—The fatal dart
Sticks in his side, and rankles in his heart.
DRYDEN.

THIS agreeable seat is surrounded with so many pleasing walks, which are struck out of a wood, in the midst of which the house stands, that one can hardly ever be weary of rambling from one labyrinth of delight to another. To one used to live in a city the charms of the country are so exquisite, that the mind is lost in a certain transport which raises us above ordinary life, and yet is not strong enough to be inconsistent with tranquillity. This state of mind was I in, ravished with the murmur of waters, the whisper of breezes, the singing of birds; and whether I looked up to the heavens, down on the earth, or turned to the prospects around me, still struck with new sense of pleasure; when I found by the voice of my friend, who walked by me, that we had insensibly strolled into the grove sacred to the widow. 'This woman,' says he, 'is of all others the most unintelligible; she either designs to marry, or she does not. What is the most perplexing of all is, that she doth not either say to her lovers she has any resolution against that condition of life in general, or that she banishes them; but conscious of her own merit she permits their addresses, without fear of any ill consequence, or want of respect, from their rage or despair. She has that in her aspect, against which it is impossible to offend. A man whose thoughts are constantly bent upon so agreeable an object, must be excused if the ordinary occurrences in conversation are below his attention. I call her indeed perverse, but, alas! why do I call her so? because her superior merit is such, that I cannot approach her without awe, that my heart is checked by too much esteem: I am angry that her charms are not more accessible, that I am more inclined to worship than salute her. How often have I wished her unhappy, that I might have an opportunity of serving her. And how often troubled in that very imagination, at giving her the pain of being obliged? Well, I have led a miserable life in secret upon her account; but fancy she would have condescended to have some regard for me, if it had not been for that watchful animal her confidant.

'Of all persons under the sun,' (continued he, calling me by my name) 'be sure to set a mark upon confidants; they are of all people the most impertinent. What is most pleasant to observe in them, is, that they assume to themselves the merit of the persons whom they have in their custody. Orestilla is a great fortune, and in wonderful danger of surprise, therefore full of suspicions of the least indifferent thing, particularly careful of new acquaintance, and of growing too familiar with the old. Themista, her favourite woman, is every whit as careful of whom she speaks to, and what she says. Let the ward be a beauty, her confidant shall treat you with an air of distance; let her be a fortune, and she assumes the suspicious behaviour of her friend and patroness. Thus it is that very many of our unmarried women of distinction are to all intents and purposes married, except the consideration of different sexes. They are directly under the conduct of their whisperer; and

think they are in a state of freedom, while they can prate with one of these attendants of all men in general, and still avoid the man they most like. You do not see one heiress in a hundred whose fate does not turn upon this circumstance of choosing a confidant. Thus it is that the lady is addressed to, presented, and flattered, only by proxy, in her woman. In my case, how is it possible that.....' Sir Roger was proceeding in his harangue, when we heard the voice of one speaking very importantly, and repeating these words, 'What, not one smile?' We followed the sound till we came to a close thicket, on the other side of which we saw a young woman sitting as it were in a personated sullenness just over a transparent fountain. Opposite to her stood Mr. William, Sir Roger's master of the game. The knight whispered me, 'Hist, these are lovers.' The huntsman looking earnestly at the shadow of the young maiden in the stream, 'Oh thou dear picture, if thou couldst remain there in the absence of that fair creature whom you represent in the water, how willingly could I stand here satisfied for ever, without troubling my dear Betty herself with any mention of her unfortunate William, whom she is angry with! But alas! when she pleases to be gone, thou wilt also vanish..... Yet let me talk to thee while thou dost stay. Tell my dearest Betty thou dost not more depend upon her, than does her William: her absence will make away with me as well as thee. If she offers to remove thee, I will jump into these waves to lay hold on thee; herself, her own dear person, I must never embrace again.... Still do you hear me without one smile... It is too much to bear...' He had no sooner spoke these words, but he made an offer of throwing himself into the water: at which his mistress started up, and at the next instant he jumped across the fountain, and met her in an embrace. She, half recovering from her fright, said, in the most charming voice imaginable, and with a tone of complaint, 'I thought how well you would drown yourself. No, no, you will not drown yourself till you have taken your leave of Susan Holiday.' The huntsman, with a tenderness that spoke the most passionate love, and with his cheek close to hers, whispered the softest vows of fidelity in her ear, and cried, 'Do not, my dear, believe a word Kate Willow says; she is spiteful, and makes stories, because she loves to hear me talk to herself for your sake.' 'Look you there,' quoth Sir Roger, 'do you see there, all mischief comes from confidants! But let us not interrupt them; the maid is honest, and the man dare not be otherwise, for he knows I loved her father: I will interpose in this matter, and hasten the wedding. Kate Willow is a witty mischievous wench in the neighbourhood, who was a beauty, and makes me hope I shall see the perverse widow in her condition. She was so flippancy with her answers to all the hoarse fellows that came near her, and so very vain of her beauty, that she has valued herself upon her charms till they are ceased. She therefore now makes her business to prevent other young women from being more discreet than she was herself: however the sassy thing said the other day will enough 'Sir Roger and I must make a match, for we are both despised by those we loved.' The huntsman has a great deal of power wherever she comes, and has her share of cunning.

'However, when I reflect upon this woman, do not know whether in the main I am the worst for having loved her: whenever she is recalled to

my imagination, my youth returns, and I feel a forgotten warmth in my veins. This affliction in my life has wreaked all my conduct with a softness, of which I should otherwise have been incapable. It is owing, perhaps, to this dear image in my heart that I am apt to relent, that I easily forgive, and that many desirable things are grown into my temper, which I should not have arrived at by better motives than the thought of being one day hers. I am pretty well satisfied such a passion as I have had is never well cured; and between you and me, I am often apt to imagine it has had some whimsical effect upon my brain: for I frequently find, that in my most serious discourse I let fall some comical familiarity of speech or odd phrase that makes the company laugh. However, I cannot but allow she is a most excellent woman. When she is in the country I warrant she does not run into dairies, but reads upon the nature of plants; she has a glass be-hive, and comes into the garden out of books to see them work, and observe the policies of their commonwealth. She understands every thing. I would give ten pounds to hear her argue with my friend Sir Andrew Freeport about trade. No, no, for all she looks so innocent, as it were, take my word for it she is no fool.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 119. TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1711.

*Urbem quam dicunt Romanam, Melibæ, putat
Sedula ego hæc nostræ similem*

VIRG. Ecl. l. ver. 30.

Fool that I was, I thought imperial Rome
Like Mantua.

DRYDEN.

THE first and most obvious reflections that arise in a man who changes the city for the country, are upon the different manners of the people whom he sees with in those two different scenes of life. By manners I do not mean morals, but behaviour and good breeding, as they show themselves in the town and in the country.

And here, in the first place, I must observe a very great revolution that has happened in this article of good-breeding. Several obliging deferences, condescensions, and submissions, with many outward forms and ceremonies that accompany them, were first of all brought up among the politer part of mankind, who lived in courts and cities, and distinguished themselves from the rustic part of the species (who on all occasions acted bluntly and naturally) by such a mutual complaisance and intercourse of civilities. These forms of conversation by degrees multiplied and grew troublesome; the modish world found too great a constraint in them, and have therefore thrown most of them aside. Conversation, like the Romish religion, was so incumbered with show and ceremony, that it stood in need of a reformation to retrench its superfluities, and restore it to its natural good sense and beauty. At present therefore an unconstrained carriage, and a certain openness of behaviour, are the height of good-breeding. The fashionable world is grown free and easy: our manners sit more loose upon us. Nothing is so modish as an agreeable negligence. In a word, good-breeding shows itself most, where to an ordinary eye it appears the least.

If after this we look on the people of mode in the country, we find in them the manners of the last age. They have no sooner fetched themselves

up to the fashions of the polite world, but the town has dropped them, and are nearer to the first state of nature than to those refinements which formerly reigned in the court, and still prevail in the country. One may now know a man that never conversed in the world, by his excess of good-breeding. A polite country squire shall make you as many bows in half an hour, as would serve a coarctier for a week. There is infinitely more to do about place and precedence in a meeting of justices' wives, than in an assembly of duchesses.

This rural politeness is very troublesome to a man of my temper, who generally take the chair that is next me, and walk first or last, in the front or in the rear, as chance directs. I have known my friend Sir Roger's dinner almost cold before the company could adjust the ceremonial, and be prevailed upon to sit down; and have heartily pitied my old friend, when I have seen him forced to pick and cull his guests, as they sat at the several parts of his table, that he might drink their healths according to their respective ranks and qualities. Honest Will Wimble, who I should have thought had been altogether uninfected with ceremony, gives me abundance of trouble in this particular. Though he has been fishing all the morning, he will not help himself at dinner until I am served. When we are going out of the hall he runs behind me; and last night, as we were walking in the fields, stopped short at a stile until I came up to it, and upon my making signs to him to get over, told me with a serious smile, that sure I believed they had no manners in the country.

There has happened another revolution in the point of good-breeding, which relates to the conversation among men of mode, and which I can not but look upon as very extraordinary. It was certainly one of the first distinctions of a well-bred man to express every thing that had the most remote appearance of being obscene, in modest terms and distant phrases; whilst the clown, who had no such delicacy of conception and expression, clothed his ideas in those plain homely terms that are the most obvious and natural. This kind of good-manners was perhaps carried to an excess, so as to make conversation too stiff, formal, and precise: for which reason (as hypocrisy in one age is generally succeeded by atheism in another) conversation is in a great measure relapsed into the first extreme; so that at present several of our men of the town, and particularly those who have been polished in France, make use of the most coarse uncivilized words in our language, and utter themselves often in such a manner as a clown would blush to hear.

This infamous piece of good-breeding, which reigns among the coxcombs of the town, has not yet made its way into the country; and as it is impossible for such an irrational way of conversation to last long among a people that make any profession of religion, or show of modesty, if the country gentlemen get into it, they will certainly be left in the lurch. Their good-breeding will come too late to them, and they will be thought a parcel of lewd clowns, while they fancy themselves talking together like men of wit and pleasure.

As the two points of good-breeding which I have hitherto insisted upon regard behaviour and conversation, there is a third which turns upon dress. In this too the country are very much behind-hand. The rural beaux are not yet got out of the fashion that took place at the time of the revolution, but ride about the country in red coats

and laced hats, while the women in many parts are still trying to outvie one another in the height of their broad-dresses.

But a friend of mine, who is now upon the western circuit, having promised to give me an account of the several modes and fashions that prevail in the different parts of the nation through which he passes, I shall defer the enlarging upon this last topic till I have received a letter from him, which I expect every post *.

ADDISON.

L.

N^o 120. WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1711.

—*Equidem credo, quia sit divinitus illis Ingenium*—

VIRG. Georg. l. 415.

I think their breasts with heav'nly souls inspir'd.
DRYDEN.

My friend Sir Roger is very often merry with me upon my passing so much of my time among his poultry. He has caught me twice or thrice looking after a bird's nest, and several times sitting an hour or two together near a hen and chickens. He tells me he believes I am personally acquainted with every fowl about his house; calls such a particular cock my favourite; and frequently complains that his ducks and geese have more of my company than himself.

I must confess I am infinitely delighted with those speculations of nature which are to be made in a country life; and as my reading has very much lain among books of natural history, I cannot forbear recollecting upon this occasion the several remarks which I have met with in authors, and comparing them with what falls under my own observation; the arguments for Providence drawn from the natural history of animals being in my opinion demonstrative.

The make of every kind of animal is different from that of every other kind; and yet there is not the least turn in the muscles or twist in the fibres of any one, which does not render them more proper for that particular animal's way of life than any other cast or texture of them would have been.

The most violent appetites in all creatures are lust and hunger. The first is a perpetual call upon them to propagate their kind; the latter to preserve themselves.

It is astonishing to consider the different degrees of care that descend from the parent to the young, so far as is absolutely necessary for the leaving a posterity. Some creatures cast their eggs as chance directs them, and think of them no farther; as insects and several kinds of fish. Others, of a nicer frame, find out proper beds to deposit them in, and there leave them; as the serpent, the crocodile, and ostrich; others hatch their eggs and tend the birth, until it is able to shift for itself.

What can we call the principle which directs every different kind of bird to observe a particular plan in the structure of its nest, and directs all the same species to work after the same model? It cannot be imitation; for though you hatch a crow under a hen, and never let it see any of the works of its own kind, the nest it makes shall be the same, to the laying of a stick, with all the other nests of the same species. It cannot be reason; for were animals endued with it to as great a

degree as man, their buildings would be as different as ours, according to the different conveniences that they would propose to themselves.

Is it not remarkable, that the same temper of weather, which raises this genial warmth in animals, should cover the trees with leaves, and the fields with grass, for their security and concealment, and produce such infinite swarms of insects for the support and sustenance of their respective broods?

Is it not wonderful, that the love of the parent should be so violent while it lasts, and that it should last no longer than is necessary for the preservation of the young?

The violence of this natural love is exemplified by a very barbarous experiment; which I shall quote at length, as I find it in an excellent author, and hope my readers will pardon the mentioning such an instance of cruelty, because there is nothing can so effectually show the strength of that principle in animals of which I am here speaking. 'A person who was well skilled in dissection opened a bitch, and as she lay in the most exquisite tortures, offered her one of her young puppies, which she immediately fell a licking; and for the time seemed insensible of her own pain. On the removal, she kept her eye fixed on it, and began a wailing sort of cry, which seemed rather to proceed from the loss of her young one, than the sense of her own torments.'

But notwithstanding this natural love in brutes is much more violent and intense than in rational creatures, Providence has taken care that it should be no longer troublesome to the parent than it is useful to the young; for so soon as the wants of the latter cease, the mother withdraws her fondness, and leaves them to provide for themselves; and what is a very remarkable circumstance in this part of instinct, we find that the love of the parent may be lengthened out beyond its usual time, if the preservation of the species requires it: as we may see in birds that drive away their young, as soon as they are able to get their livelihood, but continue to feed them if they are tied to the nest, or confined within a cage, or by any other means appear to be out of a condition of supplying their own necessities.

This natural love is not observed in animals to ascend from the young to the parent, which is not at all necessary for the continuance of the species. nor indeed in reasonable creatures does it rise in any proportion, as it spreads itself downwards; for in all family affection, we find protection granted and favours bestowed, are greater motives to love and tenderness, than safety, benefits, or life received.

One would wonder to hear sceptical men disputing for the reason of animals, and telling us it is only our pride and prejudices that will not allow them the use of that faculty.

Reason shows itself in all occurrences of life; whereas the brute makes no discovery of such a talent, but in what immediately regards his own preservation, or the continuance of his species. Animals in their generation are wiser than the sons of men; but their wisdom is confined to a few particulars, and lies in a very narrow compass. Take a brute out of his instinct, and you find him wholly deprived of understanding. To use an instance that comes often under observation:

With what caution does the hen provide herself a nest in places unfrequented, and free from noise and disturbance! when she has laid her eggs in such a manner that she can cover them, what care

does she take in turning them frequently, that all parts may partake of the vital warmth! when she leaves them, to provide for her necessary sustenance, how punctually does she return before they have time to cool, and become incapable of producing an animal! In the summer you see her giving herself greater freedoms, and quitting her care for above two hours together; but in winter, when the rigour of the season would chill the principles of life, and destroy the young one, she grows more assiduous in her attendance, and stays away but half the time. When the birth approaches, with how much nicety and attention does she help the chick to break its prison! not to take notice of her covering it from the injuries of the weather, providing proper nourishment, and teaching it to help itself; nor to mention her forsaking the nest, if after the usual time of reckoning the young one does not make its appearance. A chymical operation could not be followed with greater art or diligence, than is seen in the hatching of a chick; though there are many other birds that show an infinitely greater sagacity in all the fore-mentioned particulars.

But at the same time the hen, that has all this seeming ingenuity (which is indeed absolutely necessary for the propagation of the species), considered in other respects, is without the least glimmerings of thought or common sense. She mistakes a piece of chalk for an egg, and sits upon it in the same manner. She is insensible of any increase or diminution in the number of those she lays. She does not distinguish between her own and those of another species; and when the birth appears of ever so different a bird, will cherish it for her own. In all these circumstances, which does not carry an immediate regard to the subsistence of herself or her species, she is a very idiot.

There is not, in my opinion, any thing more mysterious in nature than this instinct in animals, which thus rises above reason, and falls infinitely short of it. It cannot be accounted for by any properties in matter, and at the same time works after so odd a manner, that one cannot think it the faculty of an intellectual being. For my own part, I look upon it as upon the principle of gravitation in bodies, which is not to be explained by any known qualities inherent in the bodies themselves, nor from any laws of mechanism; but, according to the best notions of the greatest philosophers, is an immediate impression from the first Mover, and the divine energy acting in the creatures.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 121. THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1711,

———— *Jovis omnia plena.*

VIRG. Ecl. iii. ver. 60.

———— All is full of Jove.

As I was walking this morning in the great yard that belongs to my friend's country house, I was wonderfully pleased to see the different workings of instinct in a hen followed by a brood of ducks. The young, upon the sight of a pond, immediately ran into it; while the stepmother, with all imaginable anxiety, hovered about the borders of it, to call them out of an element that appeared to her so dangerous and destructive. As the different principle which acted in these different animals cannot be termed reason, so when we call it instinct we mean something we have no knowledge

of. To me, as I hinted in my last paper, it seems the immediate direction of Providence, and such an operation of the Supreme Being, as that which determines all the portions of matter to their proper centres. A modern philosopher, quoted by Monsieur Bayle in his learned dissertation on the Souls of Brutes, delivers the same opinion, though in a bolder form of words, where he says, *Deus est anima brutorum*, 'God himself is the soul of brutes.' Who can tell what to call that seeming sagacity in animals, which directs them to such food as is proper for them, and makes them naturally avoid whatever is noxious or unwholesome? Tully has observed, that a lamb no sooner falls from its mother, but immediately and of its own accord it applies itself to the teat. Dampier, in his Travels, tells us, that when seamen are thrown upon any of the unknown coasts of America, they never venture upon the fruit of any tree, how tempting soever it may appear, unless they observe that it is marked with the pecking of birds; but fall on without any fear or apprehension where the birds have been before them.

But notwithstanding animals have nothing like the use of reason, we find in them all the lower parts of our nature, the passions and senses in their greatest strength and perfection. And here it is worth our observation, that all beasts and birds of prey are wonderfully subject to anger, malice, revenge, and all the other violent passions that may animate them in search of their proper food; as those that are incapable of defending themselves, or annoying others, or whose safety lies chiefly in their flight, are suspicious, fearful, and apprehensive of every thing they see or hear: whilst others, that are of assistance and use to man, have their natures softened with something mild and tractable, and by that means are qualified for a domestic life. In this case the passions generally correspond with the make of the body. We do not find the fury of a lion in so weak and defenceless an animal as a lamb; nor the meekness of a lamb in a creature so armed for battle and assault as the lion. In the same manner, we find that particular animals have a more or less exquisite sharpness and sagacity in those particular senses which most turn to their advantage, and in which their safety and welfare is the most concerned.

Nor must we here omit that great variety of arms with which nature has differently fortified the bodies of several kind of animals, such as claws, hoofs, horns, teeth, and tusks, a tail, a sting, a trunk, or a proboscis. It is likewise observed by naturalists, that it must be some hidden principle, distinct from what we call reason, which instructs animals in the use of these their arms, and teaches them to manage them to the best advantage; because they naturally defend themselves with that part in which their strength lies, before the weapon be formed in it; as is remarkable in lambs, which, though they are bred within doors, and never saw the actions of their own species, push at those who approach them with their foreheads, before the first budding of a horn appears.

I shall add to these general observations an instance, which Mr. Locke * has given us of Providence even in the imperfections of a creature which seems the meanest and the most despicable in the whole animal world. 'We may,' says he, 'from the make of an oyster, or cockle, conclude, that it has not so many, nor so quick senses as a man, or several other animals: nor, if it had, would

* Essay on Human Understanding, b. ii. ch. 9. sect. 13.

it, in that state and incapacity of transferring itself from one place to another, be bettered by them. What good would sight and hearing do to a creature, that cannot move itself to or from the object wherein at a distance it perceives good or evil? and would not quickness of sensation be an inconvenience to an animal that must be still where chance has once placed it, and there receive the afflux of colder or warmer, clean or foul water, as it happens to come to it?

I shall add to this instance out of Mr. Locke another out of the learned Dr. More, who cites it from Cardan, in relation to another animal which Providence has left defective, but at the same time has shown its wisdom in the formation of that organ in which it seems chiefly to have failed. 'What is more obvious and ordinary than a mole? and yet what more palpable argument of Providence than she? the members of her body are so exactly fitted to her nature and manner of life; for her dwelling being under ground where nothing is to be seen, nature has so obscurely fitted her with eyes, that naturalists can hardly agree whether she have any sight at all, or no. But for amends, what she is capable of for her defence and warning of danger, she has very eminently conferred upon her; for she is exceeding quick of hearing. And then her short tail and short legs, but broad fore-feet armed with sharp claws; we see by the event to what purpose they are, she so swiftly working herself under ground, and making her way so fast in the earth as they that behold it cannot but admire it. Her legs therefore are short, that she need dig no more than will serve the mere thickness of her body; and her fore-feet are broad that she may scoop away much earth at a time; and little or no tail she has, because the courses it not on the ground, like the rat or mouse, of whose kindred she is; but lives under the earth, and is fain to dig herself a dwelling there. And she making her way through so thick an element, which will not yield easily, as the air or the water, it had been dangerous to have drawn so long a train behind her; for her enemy might fall upon her rear, and fetch her out, before she had completed or got full possession of her works.'

I cannot forbear mentioning Mr. Boyle's remark upon this last creature, who I remember somewhere in his works* observes, that though the mole be not totally blind (as it is commonly thought) she has not sight enough to distinguish particular objects. Her eye is said to have but one humour in it, which is supposed to give her the idea of light, but of nothing else, and is so formed that this idea is probably painful to the animal. Whenever she comes up into broad day she might be in danger of being taken, unless she were thus affected by a light striking upon her eye, and immediately warning her to bury herself in her proper element. More sight would be useless to her, as none at all might be fatal.

I have only instanced such animals as seem the most imperfect works of nature; and if Providence shows itself even in the blemishes of these creatures, how much more does it discover itself in the several endowments which it has variously bestowed upon such creatures as are more or less finished and completed in their several faculties, according to the condition of life in which they are posted.

I could wish our Royal Society would compile a

body of natural history, the best that could be gathered together from books and observations. If the several writers among them took each his particular species, and gave us a distinct account of its original, birth and education; its policies, humilities and alliances, with the frame and texture of its inward and outward parts, and particularly those that distinguish it from all other animals, with their peculiar aptitudes for the state of being in which Providence has placed them, it would be one of the best services their studies could do mankind, and not a little redound to the glory of the all wise Contriver.

It is true, such a natural history, after all the disquisitions of the learned, would be infinitely short and defective. Seas and deserts hide millions of animals from our observation. Innumerable artifices and stratagems are acted in the 'howling wilderness' and in the 'great deep,' that can never come to our knowledge. Besides that there are infinitely more species of creatures which are not to be seen without, nor indeed with the help of the finest glasses, than of such as are bulky enough for the naked eye to take hold of. However, from the consideration of such animals as lie within the compass of our knowledge, we might easily form a conclusion of the rest, that of the same variety of wisdom and goodness runs through the whole creation, and puts every creature in condition to provide for its safety and subsistence in its proper station.

Tully has given us an admirable sketch of natural history, in his second book concerning the Nature of the Gods; and that in a style so raised by metaphors and descriptions, that it lifts the subject above raillery and ridicule, which frequently fall on such nice observations when they pass through the hands of an ordinary writer.

ADDISON.

L.

N° 122. FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1711.

Comes jucundus in via pro vehiculo est.

PUBL. Syr. Fmg.

An agreeable companion upon the road is as good as a coach.

A MAN's first care should be to avoid the reproofs of his own heart; his next, to escape the censure of the world. If the last interferes with the former it ought to be entirely neglected; but otherwise there cannot be a greater satisfaction to an honest mind, than to see these approbations which it gives itself, seconded by the applauses of the public. A man is more sure of his conduct, when the verdict which he passes upon his own behaviour is thus warranted and confirmed by the opinion of all that know him.

My worthy friend Sir Roger is one of those who is not only at peace within himself, but beloved and esteemed by all about him. He receives a suitable tribute for his universal benevolence of mankind, in the returns of affection and good-will which are paid him by every one that lives within his neighbourhood. I lately met with two or three odd instances of that general respect which is shown to the good old knight. He would needs carry Will Whumble* and myself with him to the country amies. As we were upon the road Will Whumble joined a couple of plain men who rid before us and conversed with them for some time; during

* On the Nature of final Causes. Boyle's Works, vol. iv. fol. edit.

* See Nos. 108, 119, 136, and 151.

which my friend Sir Roger acquainted me with their characters.

'The first of them,' says he, 'that has a spaniel by his side, is a yeoman of about an hundred pounds a year, an honest man. He is just within the game-act, and qualified to kill an hare or a pheasant. He knocks down a dinner with his gun twice or thrice a week; and by that means lives much cheaper than those who have not so good an estate as himself. He would be a good neighbour if he did not destroy so many partridges. In short, he is a very sensible man; shoots flying; and has been several times foreman of the petty-jury.'

'The other that rides along with him is Tom Touchy, a fellow famous for "taking the law" of every body. There is not one in the town where he lives that he has not sued at a quarter-sessions. The rogue had once the impudence to go to law with the Widow. His head is full of costs, damages, and ejectments. He plagued a couple of honest gentlemen so long for a trespass in breaking one of his hedges, till he was forced to sell the ground it enclosed to defray the charges of the prosecution: his father left him fourscore pounds a year; but he has cast and been cast so often, that he is not now worth thirty. I suppose he is going upon the old business of the willow-tree.'

As Sir Roger was giving me this account of Tom Touchy, Will Wimble and his two companions stopped short till we came up to them. After having paid their respects to Sir Roger, Will told him that Mr. Touchy and he must appeal to him upon a dispute that arose between them. Will it seems had been giving his fellow-traveller an account of his singing one day in such a hole; when Tom Touchy, instead of hearing out his story, told him that Mr. Such-a-one, if he pleased, might 'take the law of him' for fishing in that part of the river. My friend Sir Roger heard them both, upon a round trot; and after having paused some time told them, with the air of a man who would not give his judgment rashly, that 'much might be said on both sides.' They were neither of them dissatisfied with the knight's determination, because neither of them found himself in the wrong by it. Upon which we made the best of our way to the assizes.

The court was sat before Sir Roger came; but notwithstanding all the justices had taken their places upon the bench, they made room for the old knight at the head of them; who for his reputation in the country took occasion to whisper in the judge's ear, that he was glad his lordship had met with so much good weather in his circuit. I was listening to the proceeding of the court with much attention, and infinitely pleased with that great appearance of solemnity which so properly accompanies such a public administration of our laws; when, after an hour's sitting, I observed, to my great surprise, in the midst of a trial, that my friend Sir Roger was getting up to speak. I was in some pain for him, until I found he had acquitted himself of two or three sentences, with a look of much business and great intrepidity.

Upon his first rising the court was hushed, and a general whisper ran among the country people, that Sir Roger 'was up.' The speech he made was a little to the purpose, that I shall not trouble my readers with an account of it; and I believe was not so much designed by the knight himself to inform the court, as to give him a figure in my eye, and keep up his credit in the country.

I was highly delighted, when the court rose, to see the gentlemen of the country gathering about my old friend, and striving who should compliment

him most; at the same time that the ordinary people gazed upon him at a distance, not a little admiring his courage, that was not afraid to speak to the judge.

In our return home we met with a very odd accident; which I cannot forbear relating, because it shows how desirous all who know Sir Roger are of giving him marks of their esteem. When we were arrived upon the verge of his estate, we stopped at a little inn to rest ourselves and our horses. The man of the house had, it seems, been formerly a servant in the knight's family; and to do honour to his old master, had some time since, unknown to Sir Roger, put him up in a sign-post before the door; so that the knight's head had hung out upon the road about a week before he himself knew any thing of the matter. As soon as Sir Roger was acquainted with it, finding that his servant's indiscretion proceeded wholly from affection and goodwill, he only told him that he had made him too high a compliment; and when the fellow seemed to think that could hardly be, added with a more decisive look, that it was too great an honour for any man under a duke; but told him at the same time, that it might be altered with a very few touches, and that he himself would be at the charge of it. Accordingly they got a painter, by the knight's directions, to add a pair of whiskers to the face, and by a little aggravation of the features, to change it into the Saracen's Head. I should not have known this story, had not the inn-keeper, upon Sir Roger's alighting, told him in my hearing, that his honour's head was brought back last night with the alterations that he had ordered to be made in it. Upon this my friend, with his usual cheerfulness, related the particulars above mentioned, and ordered the head to be brought into the room. I could not forbear discovering greater expressions of mirth than ordinary upon the appearance of this monstrous face, under which, notwithstanding it was made to frown and stare in a most extraordinary manner, I could still discover a distant resemblance of my old friend. Sir Roger, upon seeing me laugh, desired me to tell him truly if I thought it possible for people to know him in that disguise. I at first kept my usual silence; but upon the knight's conjuring me to tell him whether it was not still more like himself than a Saracen, I composed my countenance in the best manner I could, and replied, that 'much might be said on both sides.'

These several adventures, with the knight's behaviour in them, gave me as pleasant a day as ever I met with in any of my travels.

* * * This day is published, *The Farthingale revived; or More Work for the Cooper. A panegyric on the late, but most admirable invention of the hoop-petticoat. Written at the Bath.*

ADDISON,

L.

Nº 123. SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1711.

*Doctrina sed vim promoveat inilam,
Rectique cultus pectora roborant:
Uicunque debere moras,
Dedecorant bene nata culpa.*

HOR. & Od. iv. 32.

*Yet the best blood by learning is refresh'd,
And virtue arms the solid mind;
Whilst vice will stain the noblest race,
And the paternal stamp efface.*

ANON.

As I was yesterday taking the air with my friend Sir Roger, we were met by a fresh-coloured ruddy

young man, who rid by us full speed, with a couple of servants behind him. Upon my inquiry who he was, Sir Roger told me that he was a young gentleman of a considerable estate, who had been educated by a tender mother that lived not many miles from the place where we were. She is a very good lady, says my friend, but took so much care of her son's health, that she has made him good for nothing. She quickly found that reading was bad for his eyes, and that writing made his head ache. He was let loose among the woods as soon as he was able to ride on horseback, or to carry a gun upon his shoulder. To be brief, I found by my friend's account of him, that he had got a great stock of health, but nothing else; and that if it were a man's business only to live, there would not be a more accomplished young fellow in the whole country.

The truth of it is, since my residing in these parts I have seen and heard innumerable instances of young heirs and elder brothers, who, either from their own reflecting upon the estates they are born to, and therefore thinking all other accomplishments unnecessary, or from hearing these notions frequently inculcated to them by the flattery of their servants and domestics, or from the same foolish thought prevailing in those who have the care of their education, are of no manner of use but to keep up their families, and transmit their lands and houses in a line to posterity.

This makes me often think on a story I have heard of two friends, which I shall give my reader at large, under feigned names. The moral of it may, I hope, be useful, though there are some circumstances which make it rather appear like a novel, than a true story.

Eudoxus and Leontine began the world with small estates. They were both of them men of good sense and great virtue. They prosecuted their studies together in their earlier years, and entered into such a friendship as lasted to the end of their lives. Eudoxus, at his first setting out in the world, threw himself into a court, where by his natural endowments and his acquired abilities he made his way from one post to another, until at length he had raised a very considerable fortune. Leontine, on the contrary, sought all opportunities of improving his mind by study, conversation, and travel. He was not only acquainted with all the sciences, but with the most eminent professors of them throughout Europe. He knew perfectly well the interests of its princes, with the customs and fashions of their courts, and could scarce meet with the name of an extraordinary person in the Gazette whom he had not either talked to or seen. In short, he had so well mixed and digested his knowledge of men and books, that he made one of the most accomplished persons of his age. During the whole course of his studies and travels he kept up a punctual correspondence with Eudoxus, who often made himself acceptable to the principal men about court by the intelligence which he received from Leontine. When they were both turned of forty (an age in which, according to Mr. Cowley, 'there is no dallying with life') they determined, pursuant to the resolution they had taken in the beginning of their lives, to retire, and pass the remainder of their days in the country. In order to this, they both of them married much about the same time. Leontine, with his own and his wife's fortune, bought a farm of three hundred a year, which lay within the neighbourhood of his friend Eudoxus, who had purchased an estate of as many thousands. They were both of them fa-

thers about the same time, Eudoxus having a son born to him, and Leontine a daughter; but to the unspeakable grief of the latter, his young wife (in whom all his happiness was wrapped up) died a few days after the birth of her daughter. His affliction would have been insupportable, had he been comforted by the daily visits and conversations of his friend. As they were one day talking together with their usual intimacy, Leontine, considering how incapable he was of giving his daughter a proper education in his own house, and Eudoxus reflecting on the ordinary behaviour of a son who knows himself to be the heir of a great estate, they both agreed upon an exchange of children, namely, that the boy should be bred up with Leontine as his son, and that the girl should live with Eudoxus as his daughter, until they were of age to be removed at years of discretion. The wife of Eudoxus, knowing that her son could not be advantageously brought up as under the care of Leontine, and considering at the same time that she would be perpetually under her own eye, was degenerated prevailed upon to fall in with the project. She therefore took Leonilla, for that was the name of the girl, and educated her as her own daughter. The two friends on each side had wrought themselves to such an habitual tenderness for the children who were under their direction, that each of them had the real passion of a father, where the title was but imaginary. Florio, the name of the young heir that lived with Leontine, though he had all the duty and affection imaginable for his supposed parent, was taught to rejoice at the sight of Eudoxus, who visited his friend very frequently and was dictated by this natural affection, as well as by the rules of prudence, to make himself esteemed and beloved by Florio. The boy was now old enough to know his supposed father's circumstances, and that therefore he was to make his way in the world by his own industry. This consideration grew stronger in him every day, and produced so good an effect, that he applied himself with more than ordinary attention to the pursuit of every thing which Leontine recommended to him. His natural abilities, which were very good, assisted by the directions of so excellent a counsellor, enabled him to make a quicker progress than ordinary through all the parts of his education. Before he was twenty years of age, having finished his studies and exercises with great applause, he was removed from the university to a house of court, where there are very few that make themselves considerable proficient in the studies of the place, who know they shall arrive at great estates without them. This was not Florio's case; he found that three hundred a year was but a poor estate for Leontine and himself to live upon; that he studied without intermission till he gained a very good insight into the constitution and laws of his country.

I should have told my reader, that whilst Florio lived at the house of his foster-father, he was always an acceptable guest in the family of Eudoxus, where he became acquainted with Leontine from her infancy. His acquaintance with her degrees grew into love, which in a mind trained up in all the sentiments of honour and virtue came a very uneasy passion. He despaired of gaining an heiress of so great a fortune, and was rather have died than attempted it by any indirect methods. Leonilla, who was a woman of greatest beauty joined with the greatest modesty, entertained at the same time a secret passion for Florio, but conducted herself with so much

dece that she never gave him the least intimation of it. Florio was now engaged in all those arts and improvements that are proper to raise a man's private fortune, and give him a figure in his country, but secretly tormented with that passion which burns with the greatest fury in a virtuous and noble heart, when he received a sudden summons from Leontine to repair to him in the country the next day: for it seems Eudoxus was so filled with the report of his son's reputation, that he could no longer withhold making himself known to him. The morning after his arrival at the house of his supposed father, Leontine told him that Eudoxus had something of great importance to communicate to him; upon which the good man embraced him, and wept. Florio was no sooner arrived at the great house that stood in his neighbourhood, but Eudoxus took him by the hand, after the first salutes were over, and conducted him into his closet. He there opened to him the whole secret of his parentage and education, concluding after this manner: 'I have no other way left of acknowledging my gratitude to Leontine, than by marrying you to his daughter. He shall not lose the pleasure of being your father by the discovery I have made to you. Leonilla too shall be still my daughter; her filial piety, though misplaced, has been so exemplary, that it deserves the greatest reward I can confer upon it. You shall have the pleasure of seeing a great estate fall to you, which you would have lost the relish of had you known yourself born to it. Continue only to deserve it in the same manner you did before you were possessed of it. I have left your mother in the next room. Her heart yearns towards you. She is making the same discoveries to Leonilla which I have made to yourself.' Florio was so overwhelmed with this profusion of happiness, that he was not able to make a reply, but threw himself down at his father's feet, and amidst a flood of tears kissed and embraced his knees, asking his blessing, and expressing in dumb show those sentiments of love, duty, and gratitude, that were too big for utterance. To conclude, the happy pair were married, and half Eudoxus's estate settled upon them. Leontine and Eudoxus passed the remainder of their lives together; and received in the dutiful and affectionate behaviour of Florio and Leonilla the just recompence, as well as the natural effects, of that care which they had bestowed upon them in their education.

ADMONITION.

L.

Nº 194. MONDAY, JULY 23, 1711.

Μεγα βιβλίον, μέγα κακόν.

A great book is a great evil.

A MAN who publishes his works in a volume, has an infinite advantage over one who communicates his writings to the world in loose tracts and single pieces. We do not expect to meet with any thing so bulky a volume, till after some heavy preamble, and several words of course, to prepare the reader for what follows. Nay, authors have established it as a kind of rule, that a man ought to be dull sometimes; as the most severe reader makes allowances for many rests and nodding-places in a voluminous writer. This gave occasion to the famous Greek proverb which I have chosen for my motto, that 'a great book is a great evil.'

On the contrary, those who publish their thoughts

in distinct sheets, and as it were by piece-meal, have none of these advantages. We must immediately fall into our subject, and treat every part of it in a lively manner, or our papers are thrown by as dull and insipid. Our matter must lie close together, and either be wholly new in itself, or in the turn it receives from our expressions. Were the books of our best authors thus to be retailed to the public, and every page submitted to the taste of forty or fifty thousand readers, I am afraid we should complain of many flat expressions, trivial observations, beaten topics, and common thoughts, which go off very well in the lump. At the same time, notwithstanding some papers may be made up of broken hints and irregular sketches, it is often expected that every sheet should be a kind of treatise, and make out in thought what it wants in bulk; that a point of humour should be worked up in all its parts; and a subject touched upon in its most essential articles, without the repetitions, tautologies, and enlargements, that are indulged to longer labours. The ordinary writers of morality prescribe to their readers after the Galenic way; their medicines are made up in large quantities. An essay-writer must practise in the chemical method, and give the virtue of a full draught in a few drops. Were all books reduced thus to their quintessence, many a bulky author would make his appearance in a penny paper. There would be scarce such a thing in nature as a folio; the works of an age would be contained on a few shelves; not to mention millions of volumes, that would be utterly annihilated.

I cannot think that the difficulty of furnishing out separate papers of this nature, has hindered authors from communicating their thoughts to the world after such a manner: though I must confess I am amazed that the press should be only made use of in this way by news-writers, and the zealots of parties; as if it were not more advantageous to mankind, to be instructed in wisdom and virtue, than in politics; and to be made good fathers, husbands, and sons, than counsellors and statesmen. Had the philosophers and great men of antiquity, who took so much pains in order to instruct mankind, and leave the world wiser and better than they found it; had they, I say, been possessed of the art of printing, there is no question but they would have made such an advantage of it, in dealing out their lectures to the public. Our common prints* would be of great use were they thus calculated to diffuse good sense through the bulk of a people, to clear up their understandings, animate their minds with virtue, dissipate the sorrows of a heavy heart, or unbend the mind from its more severe employments with innocent amusements. When knowledge, instead of being bound up in books and kept in libraries and retirements, is thus obtruded upon the public; when it is canvassed in every assembly, and exposed upon every table, I cannot forbear reflecting upon that passage in the Proverbs: 'Wisdom crieth without, she uttereth her voice in the streets; she crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates. In the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long ye simple ones will ye love simplicity! And the scorers delight in their scorning? And fools hate knowledge!'

The many letters which come to me from persons of the best sense in both sexes (for I may pronounce their characters from their way of writ-

* Meaning the newspapers.

+ Prov. l. 20, 21, 22.

ing), do not a little encourage me in the prosecution of this my undertaking: besides that my bookseller tells me, the demand for these my papers increases daily. It is at his instance that I shall continue my rural speculations to the end of this month; several having made up separate sets of them, as they have done before of those relating to wit, to operas, to points of morality, or subjects of humour.

I am not at all mortified, when sometimes I see my works thrown aside by men of no taste nor learning. There is a kind of heaviness and ignorance that hangs upon the minds of ordinary men, which is too thick for knowledge to break through. Their souls are not to be enlightened.

—*Nox atra cava circumolat umbra.*
VIRG. *Æn.* II. ver. 360.

Dark night surrounds them with her hollow shade.

To these I must apply the fable of the mole, that, after having consulted many oculists for the bettering of his sight, was at last provided with a good pair of spectacles; but upon his endeavouring to make use of them, his mother told him very prudently, 'That spectacles, though they might help the eye of a man, could be of no use to a mole.' It is not therefore for the benefit of moles that I publish these my daily essays.

But besides such as are moles through ignorance, there are others who are moles through envy. As it is said in the Latin proverb, 'That one man is a wolf to another *; so, generally speaking, one author is a mole to another. It is impossible for them to discover beauties in one another's works; they have eyes only for spots and blemishes: they can indeed see the light, as it is said of the animals which are their name-sakes, but the idea of it is painful to them; they immediately shut their eyes upon it, and withdraw themselves into a wilful obscurity. I have already caught two or three of these dark undermining vermin, and intend to make a string of them, in order to hang them up in one of my papers, as an example to all such voluntary moles.

ADDISON.

C.

N° 125. TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1711.

No, pueri, ne tanta animis auspicatis bella:
Non patriæ validas in viscera vertite vires.
VIRG. *Æn.* VI. ver. 832.

Embrace again, my sons, be foes no more,
Not stain your country with her children's gore.
DRYDEN.

My worthy friend Sir Roger, when we are talking of the malice of parties, very frequently tells us an accident that happened to him when he was a schoolboy, which was at the time when the feuds ran high between the Round-heads and Cavaliers. This worthy knight, being then but a stripling, had occasion to inquire which was the way to St. Anne's Lane; upon which the person whom he spoke to, instead of answering his question, called him a young popish cur, and asked him who had made Anne a saint? The boy, being in some confusion, inquired of the next he met, which was the way to Anne's Lane? but was called a prickeared cur for his pains, and, instead of being shown the way, was told that she had been a saint before he was born, and would be one after he was hanged.

* *Plautus's Aulularia*, act II. sc. IV.

'Upon this,' says Sir Roger, 'I did not think it to repeat the former question, but, going into every lane of the neighbourhood, asked what they called the name of that lane.' By which ingenious artifice he found out the place he inquired after without giving offence to any party. Sir Roger generally closes this narrative with reflections on the mischief that parties do in the country; how they spoil good neighbourhood, and make honest gentlemen hate one another; besides that they manifestly tend to the prejudice of the land tax, and the destruction of the game.

There cannot a greater judgment befall a country than such a dreadful spirit of division as renders government into two distinct people, and makes them greater strangers and more averse to one another, than if they were actually two different nations. The effects of such a division are pernicious to the last degree, not only with regard to those advantages which they give the common enemy, but to those private evils which they produce in the heart of almost every particular person. This influence is very fatal both to men's morals and their understandings; it sinks the virtue of a nation, and not only so, but destroys even common sense.

A furious party-spirit, when it rages in its full violence, exerts itself in civil war and bloodshed, and when it is under its greatest restraints naturally breaks out in falsehood, detraction, calumny, and a partial administration of justice. In short, it fills a nation with spleen and rancour, and extinguishes all the seeds of good-nature, compassion, and humanity.

Plutarch says very finely, 'that a man should not allow himself to hate even his enemies, because,' says he, 'if you indulge this passion in some occasions, it will rise of itself in others; if you hate your enemies, you will contract such a vicious habit of mind, as by degrees will break out upon those who are your friends, or those who are indifferent to you.' I might here observe how admirably this precept of morality (which derives the malignity of hatred from the passion itself and not from its object) answers to that great rule which was dictated to the world about an hundred years before this philosopher wrote *; but, instead of that, I shall only take notice, with a real grief of heart, that the minds of many good men among us appear soured with party-principles, and alienated from one another in such a manner, as seem to me altogether inconsistent with the dictate either of reason or religion. Zeal for a public cause is apt to breed passions in the hearts of virtuous persons, to which the regard of their own private interest would never have betrayed them.

If this party-spirit has so ill an effect on our morals, it has likewise a very great one upon our judgments. We often hear a poor impartial paper or pamphlet cried up, and sometimes a noble piece depreciated, by those who are of a different principle from the author. One who is actuated by this spirit is almost under an incapacity of discerning either real blemishes or beauties. A man of merit in a different principle, is like an object seen in two different mediums, that appear crooked or broken, however straight and entire it may be in itself. For this reason there is scarce a person of any figure in England, who does not go by two contrary characters, as opposite to one another as light and darkness. Knowledge and learning suffer in a particular manner from this strange pre-

* See Luke vi. 27—32, &c.

judice, which at present prevails amongst all ranks and degrees in the British nation. As men formerly became eminent in learned societies by their parts and acquisitions, they now distinguish themselves by the warmth and violence with which they oppose their respective parties. Books are valued upon the like considerations. An abusive, scurrilous style passes for satire, and a dull scheme of party-notions is called fine writing.

There is one piece of sophistry practised by both sides, and that is the taking any scandalous story that has been ever whispered or invented of a private man, for a known undoubted truth, and raising suitable speculations upon it. Calumnies that have been never proved, or have been often refuted, are the ordinary postulations of these infamous scribblers, upon which they proceed as upon first principles granted by all men, though in their hearts they know they are false, or at best very doubtful. When they have laid these foundations of scurrility, it is no wonder that their superstructure is every way answerable to them. If this shameless practice of the present age endures much longer, praise and reproach will cease to be motives of action in good men.

There are certain periods of time in all governments when this inhuman spirit prevails. Italy was long torn in pieces by the Guelphs and Ghibellines, and France by those who were for and against the league: but it is very unhappy for a man to be born in such a stormy and tempestuous season. It is the restless ambition of artful men that thus breaks a people into factions, and draws several well-meaning persons to their interest by a specious concern for their country. How many honest minds are filled with uncharitable and barbarous notions, out of their zeal for the public good! What cruelties and outrages would they not commit against men of an adverse party, whom they would honour and esteem, if, instead of considering them as they are represented, they knew them as they are? Thus are persons of the greatest probity seduced into shameful errors and prejudices, and made bad men even by that noblest of principles, the 'love of their country.' I cannot here forbear mentioning the famous Spanish proverb, 'If there were neither fools nor knaves in the world, all people would be of one mind.'

For my own part, I could heartily wish that all honest men would enter into an association, for the support of one another against the endeavours of those whom they ought to look upon as their common enemies, whatsoever side they may belong to. Were there such an honest body of neutral forces, we should never see the worst of men in great figures of life, because they are useful to a party; nor the best unregarded, because they are above practising those methods which would be grateful to their faction. We should then single every criminal out of the herd, and hunt him down, however formidable and overgrown he might appear: on the contrary, we should shelter distressed innocence, and defend virtue, however beset with contempt or ridicule, envy or defamation. In short, we should not any longer regard our fellow-subjects as whigs or tories, but should make the man of merit our friend, and the villain our enemy.

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 126. WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1711.

Tros Rutulave fuit, nullo discrimine habebō.
VIRG. *Æn.* 2. ver. 108.

Rutulians, Trojans, are the same to me.
DRYDEN.

In my yesterday's paper I proposed, that the honest men of all parties should enter into a kind of association for the defence of one another, and the confusion of their common enemies. As it is designed this neutral body should act with a regard to nothing but truth and equity, and divest themselves of the little heats and prepossessions that cleave to parties of all kinds, I have prepared for them the following form of an association, which may express their intentions in the most plain and simple manner.

'We whose names are hereunto subscribed do solemnly declare, that we do in our consciences believe two and two make four; and that we shall adjudge any man whatsoever to be our enemy who endeavours to persuade us to the contrary. We are likewise ready to maintain, with the hazard of all that is near and dear to us, that six is less than seven in all times and all places; and that ten will not be more three years hence than it is at present. We do also firmly declare, that it is our resolution as long as we live to call black black, and white white. And we shall upon all occasions oppose such persons that upon any day of the year shall call black white, or white black, with the utmost peril of our lives and fortunes.'

Were there such a combination of honest men, who, without any regard to places, would endeavour to extirpate all such furious zealots as would sacrifice one half of their country to the passion and interest of the other; as also such infamous hypocrites, that are for promoting their own advantage under colour of the public good; with all the profligate immoral retainers to each side, that have nothing to recommend them but an implicit submission to their leaders; we should soon see that furious party-spirit extinguished, which may in time expose us to the derision and contempt of all the nations about us.

A member of this society that would thus carefully employ himself in making room for merit, by throwing down the worthless and depraved part of mankind from those conspicuous stations of life to which they have been sometimes advanced, and all this without any regard to his private interest, would be no small benefactor to his country.

I remember to have read in Diodorus Siculus an account of a very active little animal, which I think he calls the ichneumon, that makes it the whole business of his life to break the eggs of the crocodile, which he is always in search after. This instinct is the more remarkable, because the ichneumon never feeds upon the eggs he has broken, nor any other way finds his account in them. Were it not for the incessant labours of this industrious animal, Egypt, says the historian, would be overrun with crocodiles; for the Egyptians are so far from destroying those pernicious creatures, that they worship them as gods.

If we look into the behaviour of ordinary partizans, we shall find them far from resembling this disinterested animal; and rather acting after the example of the wild Tartars, who are ambitious of destroying a man of the most extraordinary parts and accomplishments, as thinking that upon his de-

cease, the same talents, whatever post they qualified him for, enter of course into his destroyer.

As in the whole train of my speculations I have endeavoured as much as I am able to extinguish that pernicious spirit of passion and prejudice, which rages with the same violence in all parties, I am still the more desirous of doing some good in this particular, because I observe that the spirit of party reigns more in the country than in the town. It here contracts a kind of brutality and rustic fierceness, to which men of a politer conversation are wholly strangers. It extends itself even to the return of the bow and the hat; and at the same time that the heads of parties preserve towards one another an outward show of good-breeding, and keep up a perpetual intercourse of civilities, their tools that are dispersed in these outlying parts will not so much as mingle together at a cock-match. This humour fills the country with several periodical meetings of Whig jockies and Tory fox-hunters; not to mention the innumerable curses, frowns, and whispers it produces at a quarter-sessions.

I do not know whether I have observed in any of my former papers, that my friends Sir Roger de Coverley and Sir Andrew Freepport are of different principles, the first of them inclined to the landed and the other to the moneyed interest. This humour is so moderate in each of them, that it proceeds no further than to an agreeable railery, which very often diverts the rest of the club. I find however that the knight is a much stronger Tory in the country than in town, which, as he has told me in my ear, is absolutely necessary for the keeping up his interest. In all our journey from London to his house, we did not so much as bait at a Whig inn; or if by chance the coachman stopped at a wrong place, one of Sir Roger's servants would ride up to his master full speed, and whisper to him that the master of the house was against such a one in the last election. This often betrayed us into hard beds and bad cheer; for we were not so inquisitive about the inn as the inn-keeper; and provided our landlord's principles were sound, did not take any notice of the staleness of his provisions. This I found still the more inconvenient, because the better the host was, the worse generally were his accommodations; the fellow knowing very well that those who were his friends would take up with coarse diet and an hard lodging. For these reasons, all the while I was upon the road I dreaded entering into an house of any one that Sir Roger had applauded for an honest man.

Since my stay at Sir Roger's in the country, I daily find more instances of this narrow party-humour. Being upon a bowling-green at a neighbouring market-town the other day, (for that is the place where the gentlemen of one side meet once a week) I observed a stranger among them of a better presence and genteeler behaviour than ordinary; but was much surprised, that notwithstanding he was a very fair better, nobody would take him up. But upon inquiry I found, that he was one who had given a disagreeable vote in a former parliament, for which reason there was not a man upon that bowling-green who would have so much correspondence with him as to win his money of him.

Among other instances of this nature, I must not omit one which concerns myself. Will Wimble was the other day relating several strange stories that he had picked up, nobody knows where, of a certain great man; and upon my staring at him, as one that was surprised to hear such things in the

country, which had never been so much as whispered in the town, Will stopped short in the thread of his discourse, and after dinner asked my friend Sir Roger in his ear if he was sure that I was not a fanatic.

It gives me a serious concern to see such a spirit of dissension in the country; not only as it destroys virtue and common sense, and renders us in a manner barbarians towards one another, but as it perpetuates our animosities, widens our breaches, and transmits our present passions and prejudices to our posterity. For my own part, I am sometimes afraid that I discover the seeds of a civil war in these our divisions; and therefore cannot but bewail, as in their first principles, the miseries and calamities of our children.

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 127. THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1711.

—Quantum est in rebus inane!

PERS. Sat. l. ver. 1.

How much of emptiness we find in things!

It is our custom at Sir Roger's, upon the coming in of the post, to sit about a pot of coffee, and hear the old knight read Dyer's Letter: which he does with his spectacles upon his nose, and in an audible voice, smiling very often at those little strokes of satire, which are so frequent in the writings of that author. I afterwards communicate to the knight such packets as I receive under the quality of Spectator. The following letter chancing to please him more than ordinary, I shall publish it at his request.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'You have diverted the town almost a whole month at the expence of the country, it is now high time that you should give the country their revenge. Since your withdrawing from this place, the fair sex are run into great extravagancies. Their petticoats, which began to heave and swell before you left us, are now blown up into a most enormous concave, and rise every day more and more. In short, sir, since our women know themselves to be out of the eye of the Spectator, they will be kept within no compass. You praised them a little too soon, for the modesty of their head-dresses; for as the humour of a sick person is often driven out of one limb into another, their superfluity of ornaments, instead of being intirely banished, seems only fallen from their heads upon their lower parts. What they have lost in height they make up in breadth, and, contrary to all rules of architecture, widen the foundations at the same time that they shorten the superstructure. Were they, like Spanish jennets, to impregnate by the wind, they could not have thought on a more proper invention. But as we do not hear any particular use in this petticoat, or that it contains any thing more than what was supposed to be in those of scantler make, we are wonderfully at a loss about it.

'The women give out, in defence of these wide bottoms, that they are airy, and very proper for the season; but this I look upon to be only a pretence, and a piece of art, for it is well known we have not had a more moderate summer these many years, so that it is certain the heat they complain of cannot be in the weather. Besides, I would fain ask these tender-constituted ladies, why

they should require more cooling than their mothers before them?

'I find several speculative persons are of opinion that our sex has of late years been very saucy, and that the hoop-petticoat is made use of to keep us at a distance. It is most certain, that a woman's honour cannot be better entrenched than after this manner, in circle within circle, amidst such a variety of outworks and lines of circumvallation. A female who is thus invested in whale-bone, is sufficiently secured against the approaches of an ill-bred fellow, who might as well think of Sir George Etherege's way of making "Love in a Tub *," as in the midst of so many hoops.

'Among these various conjectures, there are men of superstitious tempers, who look upon the hoop-petticoat as a kind of prodigy. Some will have it that it portends the downfall of the French king, and observe that the farthingal appeared in England a little before the ruin of the Spanish monarchy. Others are of opinion that it foretels battle and bloodshed, and believe it of the same prognostication as the tail of a blazing star. For my part, I am apt to think it is a sign that multitudes are coming into the world rather than going out of it.

'The first time I saw a lady dressed in one of these petticoats, I could not forbear blaming her in my own thoughts for walking abroad when she was 'so near her time,' but soon recovered myself out of my error, when I found all the modish part of the sex as "far gone" as herself. It is generally thought some crafty women have thus betrayed their companions into hoops, that they might make them necessary to their own concealments, and by that means escape the censure of the world; as wary generals have sometimes dressed two or three dozen of their friends in their own habit, that they might not draw upon themselves any particular attacks from the enemy. The strutting petticoat smooths all distinctions, levels the mother with the daughter, and sets maids and matrons, wives and widows, upon the same bottom. In the mean while, I cannot but be troubled to see so many well-shaped innocent virgins bloated up, and waddling up and down like big-bellied women †.

'Should this fashion get among the ordinary people, our public ways would be so crowded, that we should want street-room. Several congregations of the best fashion find themselves already very much straitened, and if the mode increase, I wish it may not drive many ordinary women into meetings and conventicles. Should our sex at the same time take it into their heads to wear trunk breeches (as who knows what their indignation at this female treatment may drive them to?) a man and his wife would fill a whole pew.

'You know, sir, it is recorded of Alexander the Great ‡, that in his Indian expedition he buried several suits of armour, which by his directions were made much too big for any of his soldiers, in order to give posterity an extraordinary idea of him, and make them believe he had commanded an army of giants. I am persuaded that if one of the present petticoats happens to be hung up in any repository of curiosities, it will lead into the

same error the generations that lie some removes from us; unless we can believe our posterity will think so disrespectfully of their great grandmothers, that they made themselves monstrous to appear amiable.

'When I survey this new-fashioned rotunda in all its parts, I cannot but think of the old philosopher, who after having entered into an Egyptian temple, and looked about for the idol of the place, at length discovered a little black monkey inscribed in the midst of it, upon which he could not forbear crying out, to the great scandal of the worshippers, "What a magnificent palace is here for such a ridiculous inhabitant!"

'Though you have taken a resolution, in one of your papers, to avoid descending to particularities of dress, I believe you will not think it below you, on so extraordinary an occasion, to unhoop the fair sex, and cure this fashionable tympany that is got among them. I am apt to think the petticoat will shrink of its own accord at your first coming to town; at least a touch of your pen will make it contract itself like the sensitive plant, and by that means oblige several who are either terrified or astonished at this portentous novelty, and among the rest,

'Your humble servant, &c.'

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 128. FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1711.

—Concordia discors.

LUCAN. l. ver. 96.

—Harmonious discord.

WOMEN in their nature are much more gay and joyous than men; whether it be that their blood is more refined, their fibres more delicate, and their animal spirits more light and volatile; or whether, as some have imagined, there may not be a kind of sex in the very soul, I shall not pretend to determine. As vivacity is the gift of women, gravity is that of men. They should each of them therefore keep a watch upon the particular bias which nature has fixed in their mind, that it may not draw too much, and lead them out of the paths of reason. This will certainly happen, if the one in every word and action affects the character of being rigid and severe, and the other of being brisk and airy. Men should beware of being captivated by a kind of savage philosophy, women by a thoughtless gallantry. Where these precautions are not observed, the man often degenerates into a cynic, the woman into a coquette; the man grows sullen and morose, the woman impertinent and fantastical.

By what I have said we may conclude, men and women were made as counterparts to one another, that the pains and anxieties of the husband might be relieved by the sprightliness and good-humour of the wife. When these are rightly tempered, care and cheerfulness go hand in hand; and the family, like a ship that is duly trimmed, wants neither sail nor ballast.

Natural historians observe (for whilst I am in the country, I must fetch my allusions from thence) that only the male birds have voices; that their songs begin a little before breeding-time, and end a little after: that whilst the hen is covering her eggs, the male generally takes his stand upon a neighbouring bough within her hearing; and by that means amuses and diverts her with his songs during the whole time of her sitting.

* Is the comedy so called, Act IV. scene 6, Dufoy, a Frenchman, carries a tub about the stage on his shoulders, his head coming through a hole at the upper end.

† An absurd and indelicate custom, in effect somewhat similar, prevailed for a time about the year 1793, and was then called the *Pad*.

‡ Hist. vit. Alexand.

This contract among birds lasts no longer than till a brood of young ones arises from it; so that in the feathered kind, the cares and fatigues of the married state, if I may so call it, lie principally upon the female. On the contrary, as in our species the man and the woman are joined together for life, and the main burden rests upon the former, nature has given all the little arts of soothing and blandishment to the female, that she may cheer and animate her companion in a constant and assiduous application to the making a provision for his family, and the educating of their common children. This however is not to be taken so strictly, as if the same duties were not often reciprocal, and incumbent on both parties; but only to set forth what seems to have been the general intentions of nature, in the different inclinations and endowments which are bestowed on the different sexes.

But whatever was the reason that man and woman were made with this variety of temper, if we observe the conduct of the fair sex, we find that they choose rather to associate themselves with a person who resembles them in that light and volatile humour which is natural to them, than to such as are qualified to moderate and counterbalance it. It has been an old complaint, that the cockcomb carries it with them before the man of sense. When we see a fellow loud and talkative, full of insipid life and laughter, we may venture to pronounce him a female favourite. Noise and flatter are such accomplishments as they cannot withstand. To be short, the passion of an ordinary woman for a man is nothing else but self-love diverted upon another object. She would have the lover a woman in every thing but the sex. I do not know a finer piece of satire on this part of woman-kind, than those lines of Mr. Dryden,

'Our thoughtless sex is caught by outward form
And empty noise, and loves itself in man.'

This is a source of infinite calamities to the sex, as it frequently joins them to men, who in their own thoughts are as fine creatures as themselves, or, if they chance to be good-humoured, serve only to dissipate their fortunes, inflame their follies, and aggravate their indiscretions.

The same female levity is no less fatal to them after marriage than before. It represents to their imaginations the faithful, prudent husband, as an honest, tractable, and domestic animal; and turns their thoughts upon the fine gay gentleman that laughs, sings, and dresses so much more agreeably.

As this irregular vivacity of temper leads astray the hearts of ordinary women in the choice of their lovers and the treatment of their husbands, it operates with the same pernicious influence towards their children; who are taught to accomplish themselves in all those sublime perfections that appear captivating in the eye of their mother. She admires in her son what she loved in her gallant; and by that means contributes all she can to perpetuate herself in a worthless progeny.

The younger Faustina was a lively instance of this sort of women. Notwithstanding she was married to Marcus Aurelius, one of the greatest, wisest, and best of the Roman emperors, she thought a common gladiator much the prettier gentleman; and had taken such care to accomplish her son Commodus according to her own notions of a fine man, that when he ascended the throne of his father, he became the most foolish and abandoned tyrant that was ever placed at the head of the Roman empire, signalling himself in nothing but

the fighting of prizes, and knocking out men's brains. As he had no taste of true glory, we see him in several medals and statues which are still extant of him equipped like an Hercules, with a club and a lion's skin.

I have been led into this speculation by the characters I have heard of a country-gentleman and his lady, who do not live many miles from Sir Roger. The wife is an old coquette, that is always hankering after the diversions of the town; the husband a morose rustic, that frowns and frets at the name of it. The wife is overrun with affection, the husband sunk into brutality. The lady cannot bear the noise of the larks and nightingales, hates your tedious summer-days, and is sick at the sight of shady woods and purling streams; the husband wonders how any one can be pleased with the fooleries of plays and operas, and rails from morning to night at ensenced fops and tawdry courtiers. The children are educated in these different notions of their parents. The sons follow the father about his grounds, while the daughters read volumes of love-letters and romances to their mother. By this means it comes to pass, that the girls look upon their father as a clown, and the boys think their mother no better than she should be.

How different are the lives of Aristus and Aspasia! The innocent vivacity of the one is tempered and composed by the cheerful gravity of the other. The wife grows wise by the discourses of the husband, and the husband good-humoured by the conversations of the wife. Aristus would not be so amiable were it not for his Aspasia, nor Aspasia so much esteemed were it not for her Aristus. Their virtues are blended in their children, and diffuse through the whole family a perpetual spirit of benevolence, complacency, and satisfaction.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 129. SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1711.

*Vertentem se frustra sectabere canthum,
Cum rota posterior curras et in axe secundo.*

PERR. Sat. v. ver. 71.

Thou, like the hindmost chariot-wheel, art curst
Still to be near, but ne'er to be the first.

DRYDEN.

GREAT masters in painting never care for drawing people in the fashion; as very well knowing that the head-dress, or periwig, that now prevails, gives a grace to their portraits at present, will make a very odd figure, and perhaps look monstrous in the eyes of posterity. For this reason they often represent an illustrious person in a Roman habit, or in some other dress that never varies. I could wish, for the sake of my country friend that there was such a kind of everlasting draper to be made use of by all who live at a certain distance from the town, and that they would agree upon such fashions as should never be liable to changes and innovations. For want of this standing dress, a man who takes a journey into the country is as much surprised, as one who walks into a gallery of old family pictures, and finds as great a variety of garbs and habits in the persons he converses with. Did they keep to one constant dress they would sometimes be in the fashion, which they never are as matters are managed at present. If instead of running after the mode, they would continue fixed in one certain habit, the mode would sometime or other overtake them, as a clock at last

stands still is sure to point right once in twelve hours. In this case therefore I would advise them, as a gentleman did his friend who was hunting about the whole town after a rambling fellow, If you follow him you will never find him; but if you plant yourself at the corner of any one street, I will engage it will not be long before you see him.

I have already touched upon this subject in a speculation * which shews how cruelly the country are led astray in following the town; and equipped in a ridiculous habit, when they fancy themselves in the height of the mode. Since that speculation I have received a letter (which I there hinted at) from a gentleman who is now in the western circuit.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

Being a lawyer of the Middle-Temple, a Cornish-man by birth, I generally ride the western circuit for my health; and, as I am not interrupted with clients, have leisure to make many observations that escape the notice of my fellow-travellers.

One of the most fashionable women I met with in all the circuit was my landlady at Staines, where I chanced to be on a holiday. Her commodest was not half a foot high, and her petticoat within some yards of a modish circumference. In the same place I observed a young fellow with a tolerable periwig, had it not been covered with a hat that was shaped in the Ramille-cock. As I proceeded in my journey, I observed the petticoat grew scantier and scantier, and about threescore miles from London was so very unfashionable, that a woman might walk in it without any manner of inconvenience.

Not far from Salisbury I took notice of a justice of peace's lady, who was at least ten years behind-hand in her dress, but at the same time as she as hands could make her. She was flounced and furbelowed from head to foot; every ribbon was wrinkled, and every part of her garments in curl, so that she looked like one of those animals which in the country we call a Friezeand hen.

Not many miles beyond this place I was informed that one of the last year's little muffs had by some means or other straggled into those parts, and that all the women of fashion were cutting their old muffs in two, or retrenching them, according to the little model which was got among them. I cannot believe the report they have there, that it was sent down franked by a parliament-man, in a little packet; but probably by next winter this fashion will be at the height in the country, when it is quite out at London.

The greatest beast at our next country sessions was dressed in a most monstrous flaxen periwig, that was made in King William's reign. The wearer of it goes, it seems, in his own hair when he is at home, and lets his wig lie in buckle for a whole half year, that he may put it on upon occasion to meet the judges in it.

I must not here omit an adventure which happened to us in a country church upon the frontiers of Cornwall. As we were in the midst of the service, a lady who is the chief woman of the place, and had passed the winter at London with her husband, entered the congregation in a little head-dress, and a hooped petticoat. The people, who were wonderfully startled at such a sight, all of

them rose up. Some stared at the prodigious bottom, and some at the little top of this strange dress. In the mean time the lady of the manor filled the area of the church, and walked up to her pew with an unspeakable satisfaction, amidst the whispers, conjectures, and astonishments of the whole congregation.

Upon our way from hence we saw a young fellow riding towards us full gallop, with a bob wig and a black silken bag tied to it. He stooped short at the coach, to ask us how far the judges were behind us. His stay was so very short, that we had only time to observe his new silk waistcoat, which was unbuttoned in several places to let us see that he had a clean shirt on, which was ruffled down to his middle.

From this place, during our progress through the most western parts of the kingdom, we fancied ourselves in King Charles the Second's reign, the people having made very little variations in their dress since that time. The smartest of the country squires appear still in the Monmouth-cock, and when they go a wooing, (whether they have any post in the militia or not) they generally put on a red coat. We were indeed very much surprised, at the place we lay at last night, to meet with a gentleman that had accoutred himself in a night-cap-wig, a coat with long pockets and slit sleeves, and a pair of shoes with high scollop tops; but we soon found by his conversation that he was a person who laughed at the ignorance and rusticity of the country people, and was resolved to live and die in the mode.

Sir, if you think this account of my travels may be of any advantage to the public, I will next year trouble you with such occurrences as I shall meet with in other parts of England. For I am informed there are greater curiosities in the northern circuit than in the western; and that a fashion makes its progress much slower into Cumberland than into Cornwall. I have heard in particular, that the Steenkirk * arrived but two months ago at Newcastle, and that there are several commodities in those parts which are worth taking a journey thither to see.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 130. MONDAY, JULY 30, 1711

—Semperque recentes

Conectare juvat pradus, et vivere raptis.

VIRG. Æn. vii. 748.

Hunting their sport, and plund'ring was their trade.

DRYDEN.

As I was yesterday riding out in the fields with my friend Sir Roger, we saw at a little distance from us a troop of gipsies. Upon the first discovery of them, my friend was in some doubt whether he should not exert the justice of the peace upon such a band of lawless vagrants; but not having his clerk with him, who is a necessary counsellor on these occasions, and fearing that his poultry might fare the worse for it, he let the thought drop: but at the same time gave me a particular account of the mischiefs they do in the country, in stealing people's goods and spoiling their servants. 'If a stray piece of linen hangs upon an hedge,' says Sir Roger, 'they are sure to have it; if the hog loses his way in the fields, it is ten to one but he becomes their prey: our geese cannot live in peace for them; if a man prosecutes them with severity, his hen-roost

* Nº 119.

† See the first note on Nº 98.

* A sort of gallitry neckcloth, made of black silk.

is sure to pay for it. They generally straggle into these parts about this time of the year; and set the heads of our servant-maids so agog for husbands, that we do not expect to have any business done as it should be whilst they are in the country. I have an honest dairy-maid who crowses their hands with a piece of silver every summer, and never fails being promised the handsomest young fellow in the parish for her pains. Your friend the butler has been fool enough to be seduced by them; and though he is sure to lose a knife, a fork, or a spoon every time his fortune is told him, generally shuts himself up in the pantry with an old gipsy for above half an hour once in a twelvemonth. Sweethearts are the things they live upon, which they bestow very plentifully upon all those that apply themselves to them. You see now and then some handsome young jades among them: the sluts have very often white teeth and black eyes.'

Sir Roger, observing that I listened with great attention to his account of a people who were so intirely new to me, told me, that, if I would, they should tell us our fortunes. As I was very well pleased with the knight's proposal, we rid up and communicated our hands to them. A Cassandra of the crew, after having examined my lines very diligently, told me, that I loved a pretty maid in a corner, that I was a good woman's man, with some other particulars which I do not think proper to relate. My friend Sir Roger alighted from his horse, and exposing his palm to two or three that stood by him, they crumpled it into all shapes, and diligently scanned every wrinkle that could be made in it; when one of them, who was older and more sun-burnt than the rest, told him, that he had a widow in his line of life. Upon which the knight cried, 'Go, go, you are an idle baggage;' and at the same time smiled upon me. The gipsy, finding he was not displeased in his heart, told him after a further inquiry into his hand, that his true-love was constant, and that she should dream of him to-night. My old friend cried Pish, and bid her go on. The gipsy told him that he was a bachelor, but would not be so long; and that he was dearer to somebody than he thought. The knight still repeated, 'She was an idle baggage,' and bid her go on. 'Ah, master,' says the gipsy, 'that roguish leer of yours makes a pretty woman's heart ache; you have not that simper about the mouth for nothing.' The uncouth gibberish with which all this was uttered, like the darkness of an oracle, made us the more attentive to it. To be short, the knight left the money with her that he had crowsed her hand with, and got up again on his horse.

As we were riding away, Sir Roger told me, that he knew several sensible people who believed these gipsies now and then foretold very strange things; and for half an hour together appeared more jocund than ordinary. In the height of his good-humour, meeting a common beggar upon the road, who was no conjurer, as he went to relieve him he found his pocket was picked; that being a kind of palmistry at which this race of vermin are very dextrous.

I might here entertain my reader with historical remarks on this idle prodigate people, who infest all the countries of Europe, and live in the midst of governments in a kind of commonwealth by themselves. But instead of entering into observations of this nature, I shall fill the remaining part of my paper with a story which is still fresh in Holland, and was printed in one of our monthly accounts about twenty years ago. 'As the treks-

chaps, or hackney-bout, which carries passengers from Leyden to Amsterdam, was putting off, a boy running along the side of the canal desired to be taken in: which the master of the boat refused, because the lad had not quite money enough to pay the usual fare. An eminent merchant being pleased with the looks of the boy, and secretly touched with compassion towards him, paid the money for him, and ordered him to be taken on board. Upon talking with him afterwards, he found that he could speak readily in three or four languages, and learned upon further examination that he had been stolen away when he was a child by a gipsy, and had rambled ever since with a gang of those strollers up and down several parts of Europe. It happened that the merchant, whose heart seems to have inclined towards the boy by a secret kind of instinct, had himself lost a child some years before. The parents, after a long search for him, gave him for drowned in one of the canals with which that country abounds; and the mother was so afflicted at the loss of a fine boy, who was her only son, that she died for grief of it. Upon lying together all particulars, and examining the several moles and marks by which the mother used to describe the child when he was first missing, the boy proved to be the son of the merchant whose heart had so unaccountably melted at the sight of him. The lad was very well pleased to find a father who was so rich, and likely to leave him a good estate; the father on the other hand was not a little delighted to see a son return to him, whom he had given for lost, with such a strength of constitution, sharpness of understanding, and skill in languages.—Here the printed story leaves off; but if I may give credit to reports, our linguist having received such extraordinary rudiments towards a good education, was afterwards trained up in every thing that becomes a gentleman; wearing off by little and little all the vicious habits and practices that he had been used to in the course of his peregrinations. Nay, it is said, that he has since been employed in foreign courts upon national business, with great reputation to himself and honour to those who sent him, and that he has visited several countries as a public minister, in which he formerly wandered as a gipsy.

ADDITION.

C.

Nº 151. TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1711.

— *Ipsa rursum concedite rythm.*

VIRG. Ecl. x. 63.

Once more, ye woods, adieu.

It is usual for a man who loves country sports to preserve the game in his own grounds, and dives himself upon those that belong to his neighbour. My friend Sir Roger generally goes two or three miles from his house, and gets into the frontiers of his estate, before he beats about in search of a hare or partridge, on purpose to spare his own field where he is always sure of finding diversion, the worst comes to the worst. By this means the breed about his house has time to increase and multiply, besides that the sport is the more agreeable where the game is the harder to come at, and where it does not lie so thick as to produce an perplexity or confusion in the pursuit. For the reason the country gentleman, like the fox, seldom preys near his own home.

In the same manner I have made a month's c:

curious out of the town, which is the great field of game for sportsmen of my species, to try my fortune in the country, where I have started several subjects, and hunted them down, with some pleasure to myself, and I hope to others. I am here forced to use a great deal of diligence before I can spring any thing to my mind, whereas in town, whilst I am following one character, it is ten to one but I am crossed in my way by another, and put up such a variety of odd creatures in both sexes, that they foil the scent of one another, and puzzle the chase. My greatest difficulty in the country is to find sport, and in town to choose it. In the mean time, as I have given a whole month's rest to the cities of London and Westminster, I promise myself abundance of new game upon my return thither.

It is indeed high time for me to leave the country, since I find the whole neighbourhood begin to grow very inquisitive after my name and character; my love of solitude, taciturnity, and particular way of life, having raised a great curiosity in all these parts.

The notions which have been framed of me are various; some look upon me as very proud, some as very modest, and some as very melancholy. Will Wimble, as my friend the butler tells me, observing me very much alone, and extremely silent when I am in company, is afraid I have killed a man. The country people seem to suspect me for a conjurer; and some of them, hearing of the visit which I made to Moll White, will needs have it that Sir Roger has brought down a cunning man with him, to cure the old woman, and free the country from her charms. So that the character which I go under in part of the neighbourhood, is what they here call a White Witch.

A justice of peace, who lives about five miles off, and is met of Sir Roger's party, has it seems said twice or thrice at his table, that he wishes Sir Roger does not harbour a Jesuit in his house, and that he thinks the gentlemen of the country would do very well to make me give some account of myself.

On the other side, some of Sir Roger's friends are afraid the old knight is imposed upon by a designing fellow; and as they have heard that he converses very promiscuously when he is in town, do not know but he has brought down with him some discarded Whig, that is sullen, and says nothing because he is out of place.

Such is the variety of opinions which are here entertained of me, so that I pass among some for a disaffected person, and among others for a popish priest; among some for a wizard, and among others for a murderer; and all this for no other reason than I can imagine, but because I do not bood, and halloo, and make a noise. It is true, my friend Sir Roger tells them, 'That it is my way,' and that I am only a philosopher; but this will not satisfy them. They think there is more in me than he discovers, and that I do not hold my tongue for nothing.

For these and other reasons I shall set out for London to-morrow, having found by experience that the country is not a place for a person of my temper, who does not love jollity, and what they call good neighbourhood. A man that is out of humour when an unexpected guest breaks in upon him, and does not care for sacrificing an afternoon to every chance-comer, that will be the master of his own time, and the pursuer of his own inclinations, makes but a very unsociable figure

in this kind of life. I shall therefore retire into the town, if I may make use of that phrase, and get into the crowd again as fast as I can, in order to be alone. I can there raise what speculations I please upon others without being observed myself, and at the same time enjoy all the advantages of company, with all the privileges of solitude. In the meanwhile, to finish the month, and conclude these my rural speculations, I shall here insert a letter from my friend Will Honeycomb, who has not lived a month for these forty years out of the smoke of London, and rallies me after his way upon my country life.

'DEAR SPEC,

'I SUPPOSE this letter will find thee picking of daisies, or smelling to a lock of hay, or passing away thy time in some innocent country diversion of the like nature. I have however orders from the club to summon thee up to town, being all of us cursedly afraid thou wilt not be able to relish our company, after thy conversations with Moll White and Will Wimble. Pr'ythee do not send us up any more stories of a cock and a bull, nor frighten the town with spirits and witches. Thy speculations begin to smell confoundedly of woods and meadows. If thou dost not come up quickly, we shall conclude that thou art in love with one of Sir Roger's dairy-maids. Service to the knight. Sir Andrew is grown the cock of the club since he left us, and, if he does not return quickly, will make every mother's son of us commonwealth's men.

'DEAR SPEC,

'Thine eternally,

'WILL HONEYCOMB.'

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 132. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1711.

— *Qui, aut tempus quid postulat non videt, aut plura loquitur, aut se ostendit, aut corum quibuscum est rationem non habet, is ineptus esse dicitur.*

TULL.

That man is guilty of impertinence, who considers not the circumstances of time, or engrosses the conversation, or makes himself the subject of his discourse, or pays no regard to the company he is in.

HAVING notified to my good friend Sir Roger, that I should set out for London the next day, his horses were ready at the appointed hour in the evening: and, attended by one of his grooms, I arrived at the county-town at twilight, in order to be ready for the stage-coach the day following. As soon as we arrived at the inn, the servant who waited upon me inquired of the chamberlain, in my hearing, what company he had for the coach? The fellow answered, 'Mrs. Betty Arable the great fortune, and the widow her mother; a recruiting officer (who took a place because they were to go) young 'Squire Quickset her cousin (that her mother wished her to be married to); Ephraim the quaker, her guardian; and a gentleman that had studied himself dumb from Sir Roger de Coverley's.' I observed, by what he said of myself, that according to his office he dealt much in intelligence; and doubted not but there was some foundation for his reports of the rest of the company, as well as for the whimsical account he gave of me. The next morning at day-break we were all called; and I, who know my own natural shyness, and endeavour to be as little liable to be disputed with as possible,

dressed immediately, that I might make no one wait. The first preparation for our setting out was, that the captain's half pike was placed near the coachman, and a drum behind the coach. In the mean time the drummer, the captain's equipage, was very loud, 'that none of the captain's things should be placed so as to be spoiled'; upon which his cloak-bag was fixed in the seat of the coach: and the captain himself, according to a frequent, though invidious behaviour of military men, ordered his man to look sharp, that none but one of the ladies should have the place he had taken fronting the coach-box.

We were in some little time fixed in our seats, and sate with that dislike which people not too good-natured usually conceive of each other at first sight. The coach jumbled us insensibly into some sort of familiarity: and we had not moved above two miles, when the widow asked the captain what success he had in his recruiting? The officer, with a frankness he believed very graceful, told her, 'that indeed he had but very little luck, and had suffered much by desertion, therefore should be glad to end his warfare in the service of her or her fair daughter. In a word,' continued he, 'I am a soldier, and to be plain is my character: you see me, madam, young, sound, and impudent; take me yourself, widow, or give me to her, I will be wholly at your disposal. I am a soldier of fortune, ha!'—This was followed by a vain laugh of his own, and a deep silence of all the rest of the company. I had nothing left for it but to fall fast asleep, which I did with all speed.—'Come,' said he, 'resolve upon it, we will make a wedding at the next town: we will wake this pleasant companion who is fallen asleep, to be the bride-man; and,' giving the quaker a clap on the knee, he concluded, 'This sly saint, who, I'll warrant, understands what is what as well as you or I, widow, shall give the bride as father.' The quaker, who happened to be a man of smartness, answered, 'Friend, I take it in good part that thou hast given me the authority of a father over this comely and virtuous child; and I must assure thee, that if I have the giving her, I shall not bestow her on thee. Thy mirth, friend, savoureth of folly: thou art a person of a light mind, thy drum is a type of thee, it soundeth because it is empty. Verily, it is not from thy fullness, but thy emptiness, that thou hast spoken this day. Friend, friend, we have hired this coach in partnership with thee, to carry us to the great city; we cannot go any other way. This worthy mother must hear thee if thou wilt needs utter thy follies; we cannot help it, friend, I say: if thou wilt, we must hear thee; but if thou wert a man of understanding, thou wouldst not take advantage of thy courageous countenance to abash us children of peace.—Thou art, thou sayest, a soldier; give quarter to us, who cannot resist thee. Why didst thou sleep at our friend, who feigned himself asleep? He said nothing; but how dost thou know what he containeth? If thou speakest improper things in the hearing of this virtuous young virgin, consider it is an outrage against a distressed person that cannot get from thee: to speak indiscreetly what we are obliged to hear, by being huddled up with thee in this public vehicle, is in some degree assaulting on the high road.'

Here Ephraim paused, and the captain with a happy and uncommon impudence, which can be convicted and support itself at the same time, cries, 'Faith, friend, I thank thee; I should have been

a little impertinent if thou hadst not reprimanded me. Come, thou art, I see, a smoky old fellow, and I will be very orderly the ensuing part of my journey. I was going to give myself airs, but, ladies, I beg pardon.'

The captain was so little out of humour, and our company was so far from being soured by this little ruffle, that Ephraim and he took a particular delight in being agreeable to each other for the future; and assumed their different provinces in the conduct of the company. Our reckonings, apartments, and accommodation, fell under Ephraim; and the captain looked to all disputes upon the road, as the good behaviour of our coachman, and the right we had of taking place as going to London, of all vehicles coming from thence. The occurrences we met with were ordinary, and very little happened which could entertain by the relation of them: but when I considered the company we were in, I took it for no small good-fortune, that the whole journey was not spent in impertinences, which to the one part of us might be an entertainment, to the other a suffering. What therefore Ephraim said when we were almost arrived at London, had to me an air not only of good understanding, but good breeding. Upon the young lady's expressing her satisfaction in the journey, and declaring how delightful it had been to her, Ephraim delivered himself as follows: 'There is no ordinary part of human life, which expresseth so much a good mind, and a right inward man, as his behaviour upon meeting with strangers, especially such as may seem the most unsuitable companions to him: such a man, when he falleth in the way with persons of simplicity and innocence, however knowing he may be in the ways of men, will not vaunt himself thereof, but will the rather hide his superiority to them, that he may not be painful unto them. My good friend,' continued he, turning to the officer, 'thou and I are to part by and by, and peradventure we may never meet again: but be advised by a plain man: modes and apparel are but trifles to the real man, therefore do not think such a man as thyself terrible for thy garb, nor such a one as me contemptible for mine. When two such as thou and I meet, with affections as we ought to have towards each other, thou shouldst rejoice to see my peaceable demeanour, and I should be glad to see thy strength and ability to protect me in it.'

STERLE.

T.

N° 133. THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1711.

*Quis desiderio sit pudor, aut modus
Tum chari capitis?*

BOR. Od. xxiv. lib. 1. vers. 1

—Who can grieve too much, what time shall end
Our mourning for so dear a friend!

CREECH.

TRUEN is a sort of delight, which is alternately mixed with terror and sorrow, in the contemplation of death. The soul has its curiosity more than ordinarily awakened, when it turns its thoughts upon the conduct of such who have behaved themselves with an equal, a resigned, a cheerful, a generous or heroic temper in that extremity. We are affected with these respective manners of behaviour, as we secretly believe the part of the dying person imitable by ourselves, or such as we imagine ourselves more particularly capable of. Men

exalted minds march before us like princes, and are, to the ordinary race of mankind, rather subjects for their admiration than example. However, there are no ideas strike more forcibly upon our imaginations, than those which are raised from reflections upon the exits of great and excellent men. Innocent men who have suffered as criminals, though they were benefactors to human society, seem to be persons of the highest distinction, among the vastly greater number of human race, the dead. When the iniquity of the times brought Socrates to his execution, how great and wonderful is it to behold him, unsupported by any thing but the testimony of his own conscience and conjectures of hereafter, receive the poison with an air of mirth and good-humour, and, as if going on an agreeable journey, bespeak some deity to make it fortunate!

When Phocion's good actions had met with the like reward from his country, and he was led to death with many others of his friends, they bewailing their fate, he walking composedly towards the place of execution, how gracefully does he support his illustrious character to the very last instant! One of the rabble spitting at him as he passed, with his usual authority he called to know if no one was ready to teach this fellow how to behave himself. When a poor-spirited creature that died at the same time for his crimes bemoaned himself unmanfully, he rebuked him with this question, 'Is it no consolation to such a man as thou art to die with Phocion?' At the instant when he was to die, they asked what commands he had for his son? he answered, 'To forget this injury of the Athenians.' Niocles, his friend, under the same sentence, desired he might drink the potion before him: Phocion said, 'because he had never denied him any thing, he would not even this, the most difficult request he had ever made.'

These instances were very noble and great, and the reflections of those sublime spirits had made death to them what it is really intended to be by the Author of nature, a relief from a various being, ever subject to sorrows and difficulties.

Epaminondas, the Theban general, having received in fight a mortal stab with a sword, which was left in his body, lay in that posture till he had intelligence that his troops had obtained the victory, and then permitted it to be drawn out, at which instant he expressed himself in this manner: 'This is not the end of my life, my fellow-soldiers; it is now your Epaminondas is born, who dies in so much glory.'

It were an endless labour to collect the accounts with which all ages have filled the world of noble and heroic minds that have resigned this being, as if the termination of life were but an ordinary occurrence of it.

This common-place way of thinking I fell into from an awkward endeavour to throw off a real and fresh affliction, by turning over books in a melancholy mood; but it is not easy to remove grief which touch the heart, by applying remedies which only entertain the imagination. As therefore this paper is to consist of any thing which concerns human life, I cannot help letting the present subject regard what has been the last object of my eyes, though an entertainment of sorrow.

I went this evening to visit a friend, with a design to rally him, upon a story I had heard of his intending to steal a marriage without the privacy of his intimate friends and acquaintance. I came into his apartment with that intimacy which I have done for very many years, and walked di-

rectly into his bed-chamber, where I found my friend* in the agonies of death.—What could I do? The innocent mirth in my thoughts struck upon me like the most flagitious wickedness: I in vain called upon him; he was senseless, and too far spent to have the least knowledge of my sorrow, or any pain in himself. Give me leave then to transcribe my soliloquy, as I stood by his mother, dumb with the weight of grief for a son who was her honour and her comfort, and never till that hour since his birth had been an occasion of a moment's sorrow to her.

'How surprising is this change! From the possession of vigorous life and strength, to be reduced in a few hours to this fatal extremity! Those lips which look so pale and livid, within these few days gave delight to all who heard their utterance: it was the business, the purpose of his being, next to obeying him to whom he is gone, to please and instruct, and that for no other end but to please and instruct. Kindness was the motive of his actions, and with all the capacity requisite for making a figure in a contentious world, moderation, good-nature, affability, temperance, and chastity, were the arts of his excellent life.—There as he lies in helpless agony, no wise man who knew him so well as I, but would resign all the world can bestow to be so near the end of such a life. Why does my heart so little obey my reason as to lament thee, thou excellent man?—Heaven receive him or restore him!—Thy beloved mother, thy obliged friends, thy helpless servants, stand around thee without distinction. How much wouldst thou, hadst thou thy senses, say to each of us!

But now that good heart bursts, and he is at rest—With that breath expired a soul who never indulged a passion unfit for the place he is gone to. Where are now thy plans of justice, of truth, of honour? Of what use the volumes thou hast collated, the arguments thou hast invented, the examples thou hast followed? Poor were the expectations of the studious, the modest, and the good, if the reward of their labours were only to be expected from man. No, my friend, thy intended pleadings, thy intended good offices to thy friends, thy intended services to thy country, are already performed (as to thy concern in them) in his sight, before whom, the past, present, and future appear at one view. While others with thy talents were tormented with ambition, with vain-glory, with envy, with emulation, how well didst thou turn thy mind to its own improvement in things out of the power of fortune; in probity, in integrity, in the practice and study of justice! How silent thy passage, how private thy journey, how glorious thy end! "Many have I known more famous, some more knowing, not one so innocent!"

STEELE.

R.

Nº 134. FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1711.

—Opifertur per orbem

Dico—

OVID. Met. l. l. ver. 521.

And am the great physician call'd below.

DRYDEN.

DURING my absence in the country, several packets have been left for me, which were not forwarded to me, because I was expected every day

* This, we are told, was Stephen Clay, Esq. barrister, of the Inner Temple.

in town. The author of the following letter dated from Tower-hill, having sometimes been entertained with some learned gentlemen in plush doublets*, who have vended their wares from a stage in that place, has pleasantly enough addressed to me, as no less a sage in morality, than those are in physic. To comply with his kind inclination to make my cures famous, I shall give you his testimonial of my great abilities at large in his own words.

* SIR,

Tower-hill, July 5, 1711.

'You're saying the other day there is something wonderful in the narrowness of those minds which can be pleased, and be barren of bounty to those who please them †, makes me in pain that I am not a man of power. If I were, you should soon see how much I approve your speculations. In the mean time, I beg leave to supply that inability with the empty tribute of an honest mind, by telling you plainly I love and thank you for your daily refreshments. I constantly peruse your paper as I smoke my morning's pipe (though I cannot forbear reading the motto before I fill and light), and really it gives a grateful relish to every whiff; each paragraph is fraught either with useful or delightful notions, and I never fail of being highly diverted or improved. The variety of your subjects surprises me as much as a box of pictures did formerly, in which there was only one face, that by pulling some pieces of isinglass over it, was changed into a grave senator or a Merry-Andrew, a patched lady or a nun, a beau or a black-amoor, a prude or a coquette, a country esquire or a conjurer, with many other different representations very entertaining, (as you are) though still the same at the bottom. This was a childish amusement, when I was carried away with outward appearance; but you make a deeper impression, and affect the secret springs of the mind; you charm the fancy, sooth the passions, and insensibly lead the reader to that sweetness of temper that you so well describe; you rouse generosity with that spirit, and inculcate humanity with that ease, that he must be miserably stupid that is not affected by you. I cannot say indeed that you have put impertinence to silence, or vanity out of countenance; but methinks you have bid as fair for it, as any man that ever appeared upon a public stage; and offer an infallible cure of vice and folly, for the price of one penny. And since it is usual for those who receive benefit by such famous operators, to publish an advertisement, that others may reap the same advantage, I think myself obliged to declare to all the world, that having for a long time been splenetic, ill-satured, froward, suspicious, and unsociable, by the application of your medicines, taken only with half an ounce of right Virginia tobacco, for six successive mornings, I am become open, obliging, officious, frank, and hospitable.

* I am

'Your humble servant,
'and great admirer,
'GEORGE TAUGHT.'

The careful father and humble petitioner hereafter mentioned, who are under difficulties about the just management of fans, will soon receive proper advertisements relating to the profemors in that behalf, with their places of abode and methods of teaching.

* Empties.

† See N° 107.

* SIR,

July the 5th, 1711

'In your Spectator of June the 7th*, you transcribe a letter sent to you from a new sort of a ter-master, who teaches ladies the whole exercise of the fan; I have a daughter just come to town who though she has always held a fan in her hand at proper times, yet she knows no more how to use it according to true discipline, than an awkward school-boy does to make use of his new sword. I have sent for her on purpose to learn the exercise she being already very well accomplished in other arts which are necessary for a young lady to understand; my request is, that you will speak your correspondent on my behalf, and in your paper let me know what he expects, either by word or the quarter, for teaching; and where keeps his place of rendezvous. I have a son to whom I would fain have taught to gallant himself, and should be glad to know what the gentleman will have for teaching them both, I finding it for practice at my own expense. This information will in the highest manner oblige,

* SIR,

'Your most humble servant,
'WILLIAM WISEACRE.

'As soon as my son is perfect in this art (which I hope will be in a year's time, for the boy is pretty apt), I design he shall learn to ride on a great horse, (although he is not yet above twelve years old) if his mother, whose darling he is, will venture him.'

'TO THE SPECTATOR,

'The humble Petition of Benjamin Easy, Gent.

* SHEWETH,

'THAT it was your petitioner's misfortune to wait on Hackney church last Sunday, where to his great amazement he met with a soldier of your own training; she furls a fan, recovers a fan, and goes through the whole exercise of it to admiration. This well-managed officer of yours has, to my knowledge, been the ruin of above five young gentlemen besides myself, and still goes on laying waste whosoever she comes, whereby the whole village is in great danger. Our humble request is, therefore, that this bold Amazon be ordered immediately to lay down her arms, or that you would issue forth an order, that we who have been thus injured may meet at the place of general rendezvous, and there be taught to manage our snuff-box in such manner as we may be an equal match for her;

'And your petitioner shall ever pray, &c.'

STEEL.

R.

N° 135. SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1711.

Est brevitate opus, ut currat sententia—
HOR. Sat. x. lib. i. ver. 9

Express your sentiments with brevity.

I HAVE somewhere read of an eminent person, who used in his private offices of devotion to give thanks to Heaven that he was born a Frenchman: for his own part, I look upon it as a peculiar blessing that I was born an Englishman. Among many other reasons, I think myself very happy in my country, as the language of it is wonderfully adapted to

* N° 102.

man who is sparing of his words, and an enemy to loquacity.

As I have frequently reflected on my good fortune in this particular, I shall communicate to the public my speculations upon the English tongue, not doubting but they will be acceptable to all my curious readers.

The English delight in silence more than any other European nation, if the remarks which are made on us by foreigners are true. Our discourse is not kept up in conversation, but falls into more pauses and intervals than in our neighbouring countries; as it is observed, that the matter of our writings is thrown much closer together, and lies in a narrower compass than is usual in the works of foreign authors: for, to favour our natural taciturnity, when we are obliged to utter our thoughts, we do it in the shortest way we are able, and give as quick a birth to our conceptions as possible.

This humour shows itself in several remarks that we may make upon the English language. As first of all by its abounding in monosyllables, which gives us an opportunity of delivering our thoughts in few words. This indeed takes off from the elegance of our tongue, but at the same time expresses our ideas in the readiest manner, and consequently answers the first design of speech better than the multitude of syllables, which make the words of other languages more tuneable and sonorous. The sounds of our English words are commonly like those of string music, short and transient, which rise and strike upon a single touch; those of other languages are like the notes of wind instruments, sweet and swelling, and lengthened out into variety of modulation.

In the next place we may observe, that where the words are not monosyllables, we often make them so, as much as lies in our power, by our rapidity of pronunciation; as it generally happens in most of our long words which are derived from the Latin, where we contract the length of the syllables that gives them a grave and solemn air in their own language, to make them more proper for dispatch, and more conformable to the genius of our tongue. This we may find in a multitude of words, a 'liberty, conspiracy, theatre, orator,' &c.

The same natural aversion to loquacity has of late years made a very considerable alteration in our language, by closing in one syllable the termination of our præterperfect tense, as in these words, 'drown'd, walk'd, arriv'd,' for 'drowned, walked, arrived,' which has very much disfigured the tongue, and turned a tenth part of our smoothest words into so many clusters of consonants. This is the more remarkable, because the want of vowels in our language has been the general complaint of our politest authors, who nevertheless are the men that have made these retrenchments, and consequently very much increased our former scarcity.

This reflection on the words that end in *ed*, I have heard in conversation from one of the greatest geniuses this age has produced*. I think we may add to the foregoing observation, the change which has happened in our language, by the abbreviation of several words that are terminated in '*eth*,' by substituting an *s* in the room of the last syllable, as in 'drowns, walks, arrives,' and innumerable other words, which in the pronunciation of our forefathers were 'drowneth, walketh, arriveth.' This has wonderfully multiplied a letter which was before too frequent in the

English tongue, and added to that hissing in our language, which is taken so much notice of by foreigners, but at the same time humours our facturnity, and eases us of many superfluous syllables.

I might here observe, that the same single letter on many occasions does the office of a whole word, and represents the '*his*' and '*her*' of our forefathers. There is no doubt but the ear of a foreigner, which is the best judge in this case, would very much disapprove of such innovations, which indeed we do ourselves in some measure, by retaining the old termination in writing, and in all the solemn offices of our religion.

As in the instances I have given we have epitomized many of our particular words to the detriment of our tongue, so on other occasions we have drawn two words into one, which has likewise very much untuned our language, and clogged it with consonants, as '*mayn't, can't, shan't, won't,*' and the like, for '*may not, can not, shall not, will not,*' &c.

It is perhaps this humour of speaking no more than we needs must, which has so miserably curtailed some of our words, that in familiar writings and conversations they often lose all but their first syllables, as in '*mob. rep. pos. incog.*' and the like; and as all ridiculous words make their first entry into a language by familiar phrases, I dare not answer for these, that they will not in time be looked upon as a part of our tongue. We see some of our poets have been so indiscreet as to imitate Hudibras's doggerel expressions in their serious compositions, by throwing out the signs of our substantives, which are essential to the English language. Nay, this humour of shortening our language had once run so far, that some of our celebrated authors, among whom we may reckon Sir Roger L'Estrange in particular, began to prune their words of all superfluous letters, as they termed them, in order to adjust the spelling to the pronunciation; which would have confounded all our etymologies, and have quite destroyed our tongue.

We may here likewise observe, that our proper names, when familiarized in English, generally dwindle to monosyllables, whereas in other modern languages they receive a softer turn on this occasion, by the addition of a new syllable.—Nick in Italian is Nicolini; Jack in French, Janot; and so of the rest.

There is another particular in our language which is a great instance of our frugality of words, and that is the suppressing of several particles which must be produced in other tongues to make a sentence intelligible. This often perplexes the best writers, when they find the relatives '*whom, which, or they,*' at their mercy, whether they may have admission or not; and will never be decided till we have something like an academy, that by the best authorities and rules drawn from the analogy of languages shall settle all controversies between grammar and idiom.

I have only considered our language as it shows the genius and natural temper of the English, which is modest, thoughtful, and sincere, and which perhaps may recommend the people, though it has spoiled the tongue. We might perhaps carry the same thought into other languages, and deduce a great part of what is peculiar to them from the genius of the people who speak them. It is certain, the light talkative humour of the French has not a little infected their tongue, which might be shown by many instances; as the genius of the Italians, which is so much addicted to music and ce-

remony, has moulded all their words and phrases to those particular uses. The stateliness and gravity of the Spaniards shows itself to perfection in the solemnity of their language; and the blunt honest humour of the Germans sounds better in the roughness of the High-Dutch, than it would in a politer tongue.

ADDISON.

C.

N° 136. MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1711.

— *Parthis mendacior* —
HOR. Ep. l. 2. ver. 112.
A greater liar Parthia never bred.

ACCORDING to the request of this strange fellow, I shall print the following letter:

‘MR. SPECTATOR,
‘I SHALL without any manner of preface or apology acquaint you, that I am, and ever have been from my youth upward, one of the greatest liars this island has produced. I have read all the Moralists upon the subject, but could never find any effect their discourses had upon me, but to add to my misfortune by new thoughts and ideas, and making me more ready in my language, and capable of sometimes mixing seeming truths with my improbabilities. With this strong passion towards falsehood in this kind, there does not live an honest man, or a sincerer friend; but my imagination runs away with me, and whatever is started, I have such a scene of adventures appears in an instant before me, that I cannot help uttering them; though, to my immediate confusion, I cannot but know I am liable to be detected by the first man I meet.

‘Upon occasion of the mention of the battle of Pultowa*, I could not forbear giving an account of a kinsman of mine, a young merchant who was bred at Moscow, that had too much mettle to attend books of entries and accounts, when there was so active a scene in the country where he resided, and followed the Czar as a volunteer. This warm youth (born at the instant the thing was spoke of) was the man who unhorsed the Swedish general, he was the occasion that the Muscovites kept their fire in so soldier-like a manner, and brought up those troops which were covered from the enemy at the beginning of the day; besides this, he had at last the good fortune to be the man who took count Piper†. With all this fire I knew my cousin to be the civillest creature in the world. He never made any impertinent show of his valour, and then he had an excellent genius for the world in every other kind. I had letters from him (here I felt in my pockets) that exactly spoke the Czar’s character, which I knew perfectly well; and I could not forbear concluding, that I lay with his imperial majesty twice or thrice a week all the while he lodged at Deptford‡. What is worse than all this, it is impossible to speak to me, but you give me some occasion of coming out with one lie, or other, that has neither wit, humour, prospect of interest, or any other motive that I

can think of in nature. The other day, when one was commending an eminent and learned divine, what occasion in the world had I to say, ‘Me-thinks he would look more venerable if he were not so fair a man?’ I remember the company smiled. I have seen the gentleman since, and he is coal-black. I have intimations every day in my life that nobody believes me, yet I am never the better. I was saying something the other day to an old friend at Will’s coffee-house, and he made me no manner of answer; but told me that an acquaintance of Tully the orator having two or three times together said to him, without receiving any answer, “that upon his honour he was but that very month forty years of age;” Tully answered, “Surely you think me the most incredulous man in the world, if I do not believe what you have told me every day these ten years.” The mischief of it is, I find myself wonderfully inclined to have been present at every occurrence that is spoken of before me; this has led me into many inconveniences, but indeed they have been the fewer, because I am no ill-natured man, and never speak things to any man’s disadvantage. I never directly defame, but I do what is as bad in the consequence, for I have often made a man say such and such a lively expression, who was born a mere elder brother. When one has said in my hearing, “Such a one is no wiser than he should be,” I immediately have replied, “Now, faith, I cannot see that, he said a very good thing to my Lord Such-a-one, upon such an occasion, and the like.” Such an honest dole as this has been watched in every expression he uttered, upon my recommendation of him, and consequently been subject to the more ridicule. I once endeavoured to cure myself of this impertinent quality, and resolved to hold my tongue for seven days together; I did so, but then I had so many winks and unnecessary distortions of my face upon what any body else said, that I found I only forbore the expression, and that I still lied in my heart to every man I met with. You are to know one thing (which I believe you will say is a pity, considering the use I should have made of it), I never travelled in my life; but I do not know whether I could have spoken of any foreign country with more familiarity than I do at present, in company who are strangers to me. I have cursed the inns in Germany; commended the brothels at Venice; the freedom of conversation in France; and though I never was out of this dear town, and fifty miles about it, have been three nights together dogged by braves, for an intrigue with a cardinal’s mistress at Rome.

‘It were endless to give you particulars of this kind; but I can assure you, Mr. Spectator, there are about twenty or thirty of us in this town: I mean by this town the cities of London and Westminster; I say there are in town a sufficient number of us to make a society among ourselves; and since we cannot be believed any longer, I beg of you to print this my letter, that we may meet together, and be under such regulation as there may be no occasion for belief or confidence among us. If you think fit, we might be called “the historians,” for liar is become a very harsh word. And that a member of the society may not hereafter be ill received by the rest of the world, I desire you would explain a little this sort of men, and not let us historians be ranked, as we are in the imaginations of ordinary people, among common liars, make-bates, impostors, and incendiaries. For your instruction herein, you are to know that an histo-

* Between Charles XII. of Sweden and Peter I. emperor of Russia, July 8, 1709.

† Charles XIIth’s prime minister.

‡ In the winter of 1697-8, the Czar had apartments at the seat of Mr. Evelyn, at Deptford; from which a back-door was opened into the king’s yard, through which he could go among the ship-builders, who showed him their draughts, and the method of laying down any vessel by the rules of proportion, &c.

bear, and have half brought it, when the woman meets me in the middle of the room to receive it, and at that instant she says, "No, she will not have it." Then I go back, and her woman comes up to her, and by this time she will have that, and two or three things more in an instant. The woman and I run to each other; I am loaded and delivering the things to her, when my lady says she wants none of all these things, and we are the dullest creatures in the world, and she the unhappiest woman living, for she shall not be drest in any time. Thus we stand not knowing what to do, when our good lady, with all the patience in the world, tells us as plain as she can speak, that she will have temper because we have no manner of understanding; and begins again to dress, and see if we can find out of ourselves what we are to do. When she is dressed she goes to dinner, and after she has disliked every thing there, she calls for her coach, then commands it in again, and then she will not go out at all; and then will go too, and orders the chariot. Now, good Mr. Specter, I desire you would, in the behalf of all who serve forward ladies, give out in your paper, that nothing can be done without allowing time for it, and that one cannot be back again with what one was sent for, if one is called back before one can go a step for that they want. And if you please, let them know that all mistresses are as like as all servants.

* I am your loving friend,

* PATIENCE GIDDY.*

These are great calamities; but I met the other day in the Five-fields, towards Chelsea, a pleasanter tyrant than either of the above represented. A fat fellow was passing on in his open waistcoat; a boy of fourteen in a livery, carrying after him his cloak, upper coat, hat, wig, and sword. The poor lad was ready to sink with the weight, and could not keep up with his master, who turned back every half furlong, and wondered what made the lazy young dog lag behind.

There is something very unaccountable, that people cannot put themselves in the condition of the persons below them, when they consider the commands they give. But there is nothing more common, than to see a fellow (who, if he were reduced to it, would not be hired by any man living) lament that he is troubled with the most worthless dogs in nature.

It would, perhaps, be running too far out of common life to urge, that he who is not master of himself and his own passions, cannot be a proper master of another. Equanimity in a man's own words and actions, will easily diffuse itself through his whole family. Pamphilio has the happiest household of any man I know, and that proceeds from the humane regard he has to them in their private persons, as well as in respect that they are his servants. If there be any occasion, wherein they may in themselves be supposed to be unfit to attend their master's concerns by reason of any attention to their own, he is so good as to place himself in their condition. I thought it very becoming in him, when at dinner the other day he made an apology for want of more attendants. He said, 'One of my footmen is gone to the wedding of his sister, and the other I do not expect to wait, because his father died but two days ago.'

STEEL.

Nº 138. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1711.

Utter in re non dubia testibus non necessariis.
TULL.

He uses unnecessary proofs in an indisputable point.

ONE meets now and then with persons who are extremely learned and knotty in expounding clear cases. Tully tells us of an author that spent some pages to prove that generals could not perform the great enterprises which have made them so illustrious, if they had not had men. He asserted also, it seems, that a minister at home, no more than a commander abroad, could do any thing without other men were his instruments and assistants. On this occasion he produces the example of Themistocles, Pericles, Cyrus, and Alexander himself, whom he denies to have been capable of effecting what they did, except they had been followed by others. It is pleasant enough to see such persons contend without opponents, and triumph without victory.

The author above-mentioned by the orator is placed for ever in a very ridiculous light, and we meet every day in conversation such as deserve the same kind of reason, for troubling those with whom they converse, with the like certainties. The persons that I have always thought to deserve the highest admiration in this kind are your ordinary story-tellers, who are most religiously careful of keeping to the truth in every particular circumstance of a narration, whether it concern the main rud or not. A gentleman whom I had the honour to be in company with the other day, upon some occasion that he was pleased to take, said, he remembered a very pretty repartee made by a very witty man in King Charles's time upon the like occasion. 'I remember (said he, upon entering into the tale) mock about the time of Oatras's plot, that a cousin-german of mine and I were at the Bear in Holborn: no, I am out, it was at the Crom-keys; but Jack Thomson was there, for he was very great with the gentleman who made the answer. But I am sure it was spoken somewhere thereabouts, for we drank a bottle in that neighbourhood every evening: but no matter for all that the thing is the same; but—'

He was going on to settle the geography of the jest when I left the room, wondering at this odd turn of head which can play away its words, wit uttering nothing to the purpose, still observing its own impertinencies, and yet proceeding in them. I do not question but he informed the rest of his audience, who had more patience than I, of the birth and parentage, as well as the collateral alliances of his family who made the repartee, and a him who provoked him to it.

It is no small misfortune to any who have a ju value for their time, when this quality of being very circumstantial, and careful to be exact, happens to show itself in a man whose quality obliges them to attend his proofs, that it is now day, or the like. But this is augmented when the same genius gets into authority, as it often does. Nay, have known it more than once ascend the very pulpit. One of this sort taking it in his head to be great admirer of Dr. Tillotson and Dr. Beveridge never failed of proving out of these great author things which no man living would have denied him upon his own single authority. One day resolved to come to the point in hand, he said, 'according to that excellent divine, I will enter upon t

T.

matter, or in his words, in his fifteenth sermon of the folio edition, page 160,

'I shall briefly explain the words, and then consider the matter contained in them.'

This honest gentleman needed not, one would think, strain his modesty so far as to alter his design of 'entering upon the matter,' to that of 'briefly explaining.' But so it was, that he would not even be contented with that authority, but added also the other divine, to strengthen his method, and told us, 'With the pious and learned Dr. Beveridge, page 4th of his 9th volume, "I shall endeavour to make it as plain as I can from the words which I have now read, wherein for that purpose we shall consider".' This wiseacre was reckoned by the parish, who did not understand him, a most excellent preacher; but that he read too much, and was so humble that he did not trust enough to his own parts.

Next to these ingenious gentlemen, who argue for what nobody can deny them, are to be ranked a sort of people who do not indeed attempt to prove insignificant things, but are ever labouring to raise arguments with you about matters you will give up to them without the least controversy. One of these people told a gentleman who said he saw Mr. Such-a-one go this morning at nine of the clock towards the Gravel-pits; 'Sir, I must beg your pardon for that, for though I am very loth to have any dispute with you, yet I must take the liberty to tell you it was nine when I saw him at St. James's.' When men of this genius are pretty far gone in learning, they will put you to prove that snow is white, and when you are upon that topic, can say that there is really no such thing as colour in nature; in a word, they can turn what little knowledge they have into a ready capacity of raising doubts into a capacity of being always frivolous, and always unanswerable. It was of two disputants of this impertinent and laborious kind that the cynic said, 'One of these fellows is milking a ram, and the other holds the pail.'

ADVERTISEMENT.

'The Exercise of the Snuff-box, according to the most fashionable airs and motions, in opposition to the Exercise of the Fan, will be taught with the best plain or perfumed snuff, at Charles Lillie's, perfumer, at the corner of Beaufort-buildings in the Strand, and attendance given for the benefit of the young merchants about the Exchange for two hours every day at noon, except Saturdays, at a toy-shop near Garraway's coffee-house. There will be likewise taught the Ceremony of the Snuff-box, or rules for offering snuff to a stranger, a friend, or a mistress, according to the degree of familiarity or distance; with an explanation of the careless, the scornful, the politic, and the surly pique, and the gestures proper to each of them.'

'N. B. The undertaker does not question but in a short time to have formed a body of regular snuff-boxes ready to meet and make head against all the regiments of fans which have been lately disciplined, and are now in motion.'

STEELE.

T.

N^o 139. THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1711.

Vera gloria radices agit, atque etiam propagatur; flos omnia celeriter, tanquam flosculi, decidit, nec simulatum potest quidquam esse diuturnum.

FULL.

True glory takes root, and even spreads: all false pretences, like flowers, fall to the ground; nor can any counterfeit last long.

Of all the affections which attend human life, the love of glory is the most ardent. According as this is cultivated in princes, it produces the greatest good or the greatest evil. Where sovereigns have it by impressions received from education only, it creates an ambitious rather than a noble mind: where it is the natural bent of the prince's inclination, it prompts him to the pursuit of things truly glorious. The two greatest men now in Europe (according to the common acceptance of the word great) are Lewis King of France, and Peter Emperor of Russia. As it is certain that all fame does not arise from the practice of virtue, it is, methinks, no unpleasing amusement to examine the glory of these potentates, and distinguish that which is empty, perishing, and frivolous, from what is solid, lasting, and important.

Lewis of France had his infancy attended by crafty and worldly men, who made extent of territory the most glorious instance of power, and mistook the spreading of fame for the acquisition of honour. The young monarch's heart was by such conversation easily deluded into a fondness for vainglory, and upon these unjust principles to form or fall in with suitable projects of invasion, rapine, murder, and all the guilts that attend war when it is unjust. At the same time this tyranny was laid, sciences and arts were encouraged in the most generous manner, as if men of higher faculties were to be bribed to permit the massacre of the rest of the world. Every superstructure which the court of France built upon their first designs, which were in themselves vicious, was suitable to its false foundation. The ostentation of riches, the vanity of equipage, shame of poverty, and ignorance of modesty, were the common arts of life: the generous love of one woman was changed into gallantry for all the sex, and friendships among men turned into commerces of interest, or mere professions. 'While these were the rules of life, perjuries in the prince, and a general corruption of manners in the subject, were the snares in which France has entangled all her neighbours.' With such false colours have the eyes of Lewis been enchanted, from the debauchery of his early youth, to the superstition of his present old age. Hence it is, that he has the patience to have statues erected to his prowess, his valour, his fortitude; and in the softness and luxury of a court, to be applauded for magnanimity and enterprise in military achievements.

Peter Alexovitz of Russia, when he came to years of manhood, though he found himself emperor of a vast and numerous people, master of an endless territory, absolute commander of the lives and fortunes of his subjects, in the midst of this unbounded power and greatness, turned his thoughts upon himself and people with sorrow. Sordid ignorance, and a brute manner of life, this generous prince beheld and condemned, from the light of his own genius. His judgment suggested this to him, and his courage prompted him to amend it. In order to this he did not send to the nation from whence the rest of the world has borrowed its po-

liteness, but himself left his diadem to learn the true way to glory and honour, and application to useful arts, wherein to employ the laborious, the simple, the honest part of his people. Mechanic employments and operations were very justly the first objects of his favour and observation. With this glorious intention he travelled into foreign nations in an obscure manner, above receiving little honours where he sojourned, but prying into what was of more consequence, their arts of peace and of war. By this means has this great prince laid the foundation of a great and lasting fame, by personal labour, personal knowledge, personal valour. It would be injury to any of antiquity to name them with him. Who, but himself, ever left a throne to learn to sit in it with more grace? Who ever thought himself mean in absolute power, till he had learned to use it?

If we consider this wonderful person, it is perplexity to know where to begin his encomium. Others may, in a metaphorical or philosophic sense, be said to command themselves, but this emperor is also literally under his own command. How generous and how good was his entering his own name as a private man in the army he raised, that none in it might expect to outrun the steps with which he himself advanced! By such measures this godlike prince learned to conquer, learned to use his conquests. How terrible has he appeared in battle, how gentle in victory! Shall then the base arts of the Frenchman be held polite, and the honest labours of the Russian barbarous? No: barbarity is the ignorance of true honour, or placing any thing instead of it. The unjust prince is ignoble and barbarous, the good prince only renowned and glorious.

Though men may impose upon themselves what they please by their corrupt imaginations, truth will ever keep its station; and as glory is nothing else but the shadow of virtue, it will certainly disappear at the departure of virtue. But how carefully ought the true notions of it to be preserved, and how industrious should we be to encourage any impulses towards it! The Westminster school-boy that said the other day he could not sleep or play for the colours in the hall*, ought to be free from receiving a blow for ever.

But let us consider what is truly glorious according to the author I have to-day quoted in the front of my paper.

The perfection of glory, says Tully, consists in these three particulars: 'That the people love us; that they have confidence in us; that, being affected with a certain admiration towards us, they think we deserve honour.' This was spoken of greatness in the commonwealth. But if one were to form a notion of consummate glory under our constitution, one must add to the above-mentioned felicities a certain necessary inexistence, and disrelish of all the rest, without the prince's favour. He should, methinks, have riches, power, honour, command, glory; but riches, power, honour, command, and glory should have no charms, but as accompanied with the affection of his prince. He should, methinks, be popular because a favourite, and a favourite because popular. Were it not to make the character too imaginary, I would give him sovereignty over some foreign territory, and make him esteem that an empty addition without the kind regards of his own prince. One may merely have an idea of a man thus composed and circumstantiated, and if he were so made for

power without an incapacity* of giving jealousy, he would be also glorious without possibility of receiving disgrace. This humility and this importance must make his glory immortal.

These thoughts are apt to draw me beyond the usual length of this paper; but if I could suppose such rhapsodies could outlive the common fate of ordinary things, I would say these sketches and faint images of glory were drawn in August, 1711, when John Duke of Marlborough made that memorable march wherein he took the French lines without bloodshed.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 140. FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1711.

— *Animum nunc hac celerem, nunc discedit illic*
VIRG. *Æn.* IV. 25.

This way and that he turned his anxious mind.

DRYDEN.

WHEN I acquaint my reader, that I have many other letters not yet acknowledged, I believe he will own, what I have a mind he should believe, that I have no small charge upon me, but am a person of some consequence in this world. I shall therefore employ the present hour only in reading petitions in the order as follows:

* MR. SPECTATOR,

I HAVE lost so much time already, that I desire upon the receipt hereof, you will sit down immediately, and give me your answer. And I would know of you whether a pretender of mine really loves me. As well as I can I will describe his manners. When he sees me he is always talking of constancy, but vouchsafes to visit me but once a fortnight, and then is always in haste to be gone. When I am sick, I hear he says he is mightily concerned, but neither comes nor sends, because, as he tells his acquaintance with a sigh, he does not care to let me know all the power I have over him, and how impossible it is for him to live without me. When he leaves the town he writes once in six weeks, desires to hear from me, complains of the torment of absence, speaks of flames, tortures, languishings, and ecstasies. He has the cant of an impatient lover, but keeps the pace of a lukewarm one. You know I must not go faster than he does, and to move at this rate is as tedious as counting a great clock. But you are to know he is rich, and my mother says, as he is slow he is sure; he will love me long, if he loves me little: but I appeal to you whether he loves at all.

* Your neglected humble servant,

LYDIA NOVELL.

* All these fellows who have money are extremely lazy and cold; pray, sir, tell them of it.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

I HAVE been delighted with nothing more through the whole course of your writings than the substantial account you lately gave of wit, and I could wish you would take some other opportunity to express further the corrupt taste the age is run into which I am chiefly apt to attribute to the prevalence of a few popular authors, whose merit in some respects has given a sanction to their fault in others. Thus the imitators of Milton seem to place all the excellency of that sort of writing

* The colours taken by Marlborough, at the battle of Hochstet, or Blenheim, August 2, 1704, were hung up in Westminster-hall.

* Probably we should read, 'a capacity.'

either in the unsmooth or antique words, or something else which was highly vicious, though pardonable, in that great man. The admirers of what we call point, or turn, look upon it as the particular happiness to which Cowley, Ovid, and others, owe their reputation, and therefore imitate them only in such instances. What is just, proper, and natural, does not seem to be the question with them, but by what means a quaint antithesis may be brought about, how one word may be made to look two ways, and what will be the consequence of a forced allusion. Now though such authors appear to me to resemble those who make themselves haire, instead of being well-dressed, or graceful; yet the mischief is, that these beauties in them, which I call blemishes, are thought to proceed from luxuriance of fancy, and overflowing of good sense. In one word, they have the character of being too witty; but if you would acquaint the world they are not witty at all, you would, among many others, oblige,

SIR,

'Your most benevolent reader,

R. D.'

MR,

I AM a young woman, and reckoned pretty; therefore you will pardon me that I trouble you to decide a wager between me and a cousin of mine, who is always contradicting one because he understands Latin: pray, sir, is Dimple spelt with a single or a double r?

I AM, SIR,

'Your very humble servant,

BETTY SAUNTER.

'Pray, sir, direct thus, "To the kind Querist," and leave it at Mr. Lillie's, for I do not care to be known in the thing at all. I am, sir, again, your humble servant.'

MR. SPECTATOR,

I MUST needs tell you there are several of your papers I do not much like. You are often so nice there is no enduring you, and so learned there is no understanding you. What have you to do with our petticoats?

'Your humble servant,

PARTHENOPE.'

MR. SPECTATOR,

LAST night as I was walking in the Park, I met a couple of friends. "Pr'ythee, Jack," says one of them, "let us go drink a glass of wine, for I am fit for nothing else." This put me upon reflecting on the many miscarriages which happen in conversations over wine, when men go to the bottle to remove such humours as it only stir up and awakens. This I could not attribute more to any thing than to the humour of putting company upon others which men do not like themselves. Pray, sir, declare in your papers, that he who is a troublesome companion to himself, will not be an agreeable companion to others. Let people reason themselves into good humour, before they impose themselves upon their friends. Pray, sir, be as eloquent as you can upon this subject, and do human life so much good, as to argue powerfully, that it is not every one that can swallow who is fit to drink a glass of wine.

'Your most humble servant.'

SIR,

I THIS morning cast my eye upon your paper concerning the expense of time. You are very obli-

ging to the women, especially those who are not young and past gallantry, by touching so gently upon gaming: therefore I hope you do not think it wrong to employ a little leisure time in that diversion; but I should be glad to hear you say something upon the behaviour of some of the female gamblers.

'I have observed ladies who, in all other respects are gentle, good-humoured, and the very pinks of good-breeding; who as soon as the ombre-table is called for, and sit down to their business, are immediately transmigrated into the voracious wasps in nature.

'You must know I keep my temper, and win their money; but am out of countenance to take it, it makes them so very uneasy. Be pleased, dear sir, to instruct them to lose with a better grace, and you will oblige, yours,

'RACHEL BASTO.'

MR. SPECTATOR,

YOUR kindness to Leonora, in one of your papers*, has given me encouragement to do myself the honour of writing to you. The great regard you have so often expressed for the instruction and improvement of our sex, will, I hope, in your own opinion, sufficiently excuse me from making any apology for the impertinence of this letter. The great desire I have to embellish my mind with some of those graces which you say are so becoming, and which you assert reading helps us to, has made me uneasy until I am put in a capacity of attaining them. This, sir, I shall never think myself in, until you shall be pleased to recommend some author or authors to my perusal.

'I thought, indeed, when I first cast my eye on Leonora's letter, that I should have had no occasion for requesting it of you; but, to my very great concern, I found on the perusal of that Spectator, I was intirely disappointed, and am as much at a loss how to make use of my time for that end as ever. Pray, sir, oblige me at least with one scene, as you were pleased to entertain Leonora with your prologue. I write to you not only my own sentiments, but also those of several others of my acquaintance, who are as little pleased with the ordinary manner of spending one's time as myself: and if a fervent desire after knowledge, and a great sense of our present ignorance, may be thought a good presage and earnest of improvement, you may look upon your time you shall bestow in answering this request not thrown away to no purpose. And I cannot but add, that unless you have a particular and more than ordinary regard for Leonora, I have a better title to your favour than she: since I do not content myself with tea-table reading of your papers, but it is my entertainment very often when alone in my closet. To show you I am capable of improvement and hate flattery, I acknowledge I do not like some of your papers; but even there I am readier to call in question my own shallow understanding than Mr. Spectator's profound judgment.

'I am, sir, your already (and in hopes of being more your) obliged servant,

PARTHENIA +.'

This last letter is written with so urgent and serious an air, that I cannot but think it incumbent

* See No 92.

+ Miss Shepherd, a sister of Mrs. Perry. See Nos. 92, and 163.

upon me to comply with her commands, which I shall do very suddenly*.

STEEL.

T.

N° 141. SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1711.

— *Migravit ab aure voluplas*
Omnis

HOR. 1 Ep. li. 187.

Pleasure no more arises from the ear.

In the present emptiness of the town, I have several applications from the lower part of the players, to admit suffering to pass for acting. They in very obliging terms desire me to let a fall on the ground, a stumble, or a good slap on the back, be reckoned a jest. These gambols I shall tolerate for a season, because I hope the evil cannot continue longer than till the people of condition and taste return to town. The method, some time ago, was to entertain that part of the audience, who have no faculty above eye-sight, with rope-dancers and tumblers; which was a way discreet enough, because it prevented confusion, and distinguished such as could show all the postures which the body is capable of, from those who were to represent all the passions to which the mind is subject. But though this was prudently settled, corporeal and intellectual actors ought to be kept at a still wider distance than to appear on the same stage at all: for which reason I must propose some methods for the improvement of the bear-garden, by dismissing all bodily actors to that quarter.

In cases of greater moment, where men appear in public, the consequence and importance of the thing can bear them out. And though a pleader or preacher is hoarse or awkward, the weight of their matter commands respect and attention; but in theatrical speaking, if the performer is not exactly proper and graceful, he is utterly ridiculous. In cases where there is little else expected, but the pleasure of the ears and eyes, the least diminution of that pleasure is the highest offence. In acting, barely to perform the part is not commendable, but to be the least out is contemptible. To avoid these difficulties and delicacies, I am informed, that while I was out of town, the actors have flown in the air, and played such pranks, and run such hazards, that none but the servants of the fire-office, tilers, and masons, could have been able to perform the like†. The author of the following letter, it seems, has been of the audience at one of these entertainments, and has accordingly complained to me upon it; but I think he has been to the utmost degree severe against what is exceptionable in the play he mentions, without dwelling so much as he might have done on the author's most excellent talent of humour. The pleasant pictures he has drawn of life, should have been more kindly mentioned, at the same time that he banishes his witches, who are too dull devils to be attacked with so much warmth.

* This promise may, perhaps, be considered as having been fulfilled by Steele's publication, three years afterwards, of 'The Lady's Library.'

† An allusion to Shadwell's comedy of 'The Lancashire Witches'; in which we find such stage directions as the following: 'one of the witches flies away with the candle and lantern; Mother Dendrike sets Clod upon the top of a tree, and they all fly away laughing.'—'Their brooms all march off and fetch bottles.'

MR. SPECTATOR,

UPON a report that Moll White had followed you to town, and was to act a part in the Lancashire Witches, I went last week to see that play. It was my fortune to sit next to a country justice, the peace, a neighbour (as he said) of Sir Roger who pretended to show her to us in one of the dances. There was witchcraft enough in the entertainment almost to incline me to believe his Ben Jonson* was almost lamed; young Ballock narrowly saved his neck; the audience was astonished, and an old acquaintance of mine, a person of worth, whom I would have bowed to the pit, at two yards distance, did not know me.

If you were what the country people report you, a white witch, I could have wished you had been there to have exorcised that rabble of broomsticks, with which we were haunted for above three hours. I could have allowed them to set Clod the tree, to have scared the Sportsmen, plague the Justice, and employed honest Teague with his holy water†. This was the proper use of them in comedy, if the author had stopped here; but cannot conceive what relation the sacrifice of a black lamb, and the ceremonies of their worship to the devil‡, have to the business of mirth and humour.

The gentleman who writ this play, and has drawn some characters in it very justly, appears to have been misled in his witchcraft by an airy following the inimitable Shakspeare. The incantations in Macbeth have a solemnity admirable adapted to the occasion of that tragedy, and fill the mind with a suitable horror; besides, that the witches are a part of the story itself, as we find it very particularly related in Hector Boetius from whom he seems to have taken it. This therefore is a proper machine where the business is dark, horrid, and bloody; but is extremely foreign from the affair of comedy. Subjects of this kind, while in themselves disagreeable, can at no time become entertaining, but by passing through an imagination like Shakspeare's, to form them; for which reason Mr. Dryden would not allow even Beaumont and Fletcher capable of imitating him.

But Shakspeare's magic could not copied be:
Within that circle none durst walk but he.

I should not, however, have troubled you with these remarks, if there were not something else in this comedy, which wants to be exorcised more than the witches: I mean the freedom of some passages, which I should have overlooked, if I had not observed that those jests can raise the loudest mirth, though they are painful to right sense, as an outrage upon modesty.

We must attribute such liberties to the taste of that age: but indeed by such representations a person sacrifices the best part of his audience to the word, and, as one would think, neglects the boxes, to write to the orange-wench.

I must not conclude till I have taken notice of the moral with which this comedy ends. The young ladies having given a notable example of outwitting those who had a right in the disposal of them, and marrying without consent of parents one of the injured parties, who is easily reconciled, winds up all with this remark,

Design whatever we will,
There is a fate which over-rules us still.

* Two comic actors of that time.

† Incidents in the foregoing play.

'We are to suppose that the gallants are men of merit, but if they had been rakes the excuse might have served as well. Hans Carvel's wife * was of the same principle, but has expressed it with a delicacy which shows she is not serious in her excuse, but in a sort of humorous philosophy turns off the thought of her guilt, and says,

'That if weak women go astray,
Their stars are more in fault than they.'

'This, no doubt, is a full reparation, and dismisses the audience with very edifying impressions.

'These things fall under a province you have partly pursued already, and therefore demand your animadversion, for the regulating so noble an entertainment as that of the stage. It were to be wished, that all who write for it hereafter would raise their genius, by the ambition of pleasing people of the best understanding; and leave others who show nothing of the human species but risibility, to seek their diversion at the bag-garden, or some other privileged place, where reason and good-manners have no right to disturb them.

August 8, 1711.

'I am, &c.'

STEEL.—But this letter by HUGHES. T.

N° 142. MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1711.

Irrupta tenet copula

HOR. Od. xiii. l. 1. ver. 18.

They equal move
In an unbroken yoke of faithful love.
GLANVIL.

The following letters being genuine, and the images of a worthy passion, I am willing to give the old ady's adomition to myself, and the representation of her own happiness, a place in my writings.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

August 9, 1711.

I AM NOW in the sixty-seventh year of my age, and read you with approbation; but methinks you do not strike at the root of the greatest evil in life, which is the false notion of gallantry in love. It has long been, upon a very ill foot; but I who have been a wife forty years, and was bred in a way that has made me ever since very happy, see through the folly of it. In a word, sir, when I was a young woman, all who avoided the vices of the age were very carefully educated, and all fantastical objects were turned out of our sight. The tapestry hangings, with the great and venerable simplicity of the scripture stories, had better effects than now the loves of Venus and Adonis, or Bacchus and Ariadne, in your fine present prints. The gentleman I am married to, made love to me in rapture, but it was the rapture of a christian and a man of honour, not a romantic hero or a whining coxcomb. This put our life upon a right basis. To give you an idea of our regard one to another, I inclose to you several of his letters, writ forty years ago, when my lover; and one writ the next day, after so many years cohabitation.

Your servant,

'ANDROMACHE.

'MADAM,

August 7, 1671.

If my vigilance, and ten thousand wishes for your welfare and repose, could have any force,

you last night slept in security, and had every good angel in your attendance. To have my thoughts ever fixed on you, to live in constant fear of every accident to which human life is liable, and to send up my hourly prayers to avert them from you; I say, madam, thus to think, and thus to suffer, is what I do for Her who is in pain at my approach, and calls all my tender sorrow impertinence. You are now before my eyes, my eyes that are ready to flow with tenderness, but cannot give relief to my gushing heart, that dictates what I am now saying, and yearns to tell you all its achings. How art thou, oh my soul, stoln from thyself! how is all thy attention broken! my books are blank paper, and my friends intruders. I have no hope of quiet but from your pity. To grant it, would make more for your triumph. To give pain is the tyranny, to make happy the true empire of beauty. If you would consider aright, you would find an agreeable change in dismissing the attendance of a slave, to receive the complaisance of a companion. I bear the former in hopes of the latter condition. As I live in chains without murmuring at the power which inflicts them, so I could enjoy freedom without forgetting the mercy that gave it.

'MADAM, I am,

'Your most devoted,
'most obedient servant.'

'Though I made him no declarations in his favour, you see he had hopes of me when he writ this in the month following.

'MADAM,

September 3, 1671.

'BEFORE the light this morning dawn'd upon the earth I awak'd, and lay in expectation of its return, not that it could give any new sense of joy to me, but as I hop'd it would bless you with its cheerful face, after a quiet which I wish'd you last night. If my prayers are heard, the day appeared with all the influence of a merciful Creator upon your person and actions. Let others, my lovely charmer, talk of a blind being that disposes their hearts, I condemn their low images of love. I have not a thought which relates to you, that I cannot with confidence beseech the All-seeing Power to bless me in. May He direct you in all your steps, and reward your innocence, your sanctity of manners, your prudent youth, and becoming piety, with the continuance of his grace and protection. This is an unusual language to ladies; but you have a mind elevated above the giddy notions of a sex ensnared by flattery, and misled by a false and short adoration into a solid and long contempt. Beauty, my fairest creature, palls in the possession, but I love also your mind: your soul is as dear to me as my own; and if the advantages of a liberal education, some knowledge and as much contempt of the world, joined with the endeavours towards a life of strict virtue and religion, can qualify me to raise new ideas in a breast so well disposed as yours is, our days will pass away with joy; and old age, instead of introducing melancholy prospects of decay, give us hope of eternal youth in a better life. I have but few minutes from the duty of my employment to write in, and without time to read over what I have writ, therefore beseech you to pardon the first hints of my mind, which I have expressed in so little order.

'I am, dearest creature,

'Your most obedient,
'most devoted servant.'

'The two next were written after the day for our marriage was fixed.

"MADAM, September 25, 1711.
'It is the hardest thing in the world to be in love, and yet attend business. As for me, all that speak to me find me out, and I must lock myself up, or other people will do it for me. A gentleman asked me this morning, 'What news from Holland?' and I answered, 'She is exquisitely handsome.' Another desired to know when I had been last at Windsor? I replied, 'She designs to go with me.' Pr'ythee, allow me at least to kiss your hand before the appointed day, that my mind may be in some composure. Methinks I could write a volume to you, but all the language on earth would fail in saying how much, and with what disinterested passion,

"I am ever yours."

"DEAR CREATURE, September 30, 1711, seven in the morning.
'NEXT to the influence of heaven, I am to thank you that I see the returning day with pleasure. To pass my evenings in so sweet a conversation, and have the esteem of a woman of your merit, has in it a particularity of happiness no more to be expressed than returned. But I am, my lovely creature, contented to be on the obliged side, and to employ all my days in new endeavours to convince you and all the world of the sense I have of your condescension in choosing,

"MADAM,
'Your most faithful,
'most obedient humble servant."

'He was, when he writ the following letter, as agreeable and pleasant a man as any in England.

"MADAM, October 30, 1711.
'I beg pardon that my paper is not finer, but I am forced to write from a coffee-house where I am attending about business. There is a dirty crowd of busy faces all around me talking of money, while all my ambition, all my wealth, is love: love, which animates my heart, sweetens my humour, enlarges my soul, and affects every action of my life. It is to my lovely charmer I owe, that many noble ideas are continually affixed to my words and actions: it is the natural effect of that generous passion to create in the admirers some similitude of the object admired; thus, my dear, am I every day to improve from so sweet a companion. Look up, my fair one, to that Heaven which made thee such, and join with me to implore its influence on our tender innocent hours, and beseech the author of love to bless the rites he has ordained, and mingle with our happiness a just sense of our transient condition, and a resignation to his will, which only can regulate our minds to a steady endeavour to please him and each other.

"I am, for ever, your faithful servant."

'I will not trouble you with more letters at this time; but if you saw the poor withered hand which sends you these minutes, I am sure you will smile to think that there is one who is so gallant as to speak of it still as so welcome a present, after forty years possession of the woman whom he writes to.

"MADAM, June 23, 1711.
'I REARTELTY beg your pardon for my omission to write yesterday. It was no fault of my tender

regard for you; but having been very much perplexed in my thoughts on the subject of my last made me determine to suspend speaking of it till I came myself. But, my lovely creature, know I am not in the power of age, or misfortune, or any other accident which hangs over human life, to take from me the pleasing esteem I have for you, or the memory of the bright figure you appeared in, when you gave your hand and heart to,

"MADAM,
'Your most grateful husband,
'and obedient servant"

STEEL *.

7.

Nº 143. TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1711.

Non est vivere sed valere vita.

MART. Epig. lxx. 15

To breathe is not to live; but to be well.

It is an unreasonable thing some men expect of their acquaintance. They are ever complaining that they are out of order, or displeased, or that they know not how, and are so far from letting that be a reason for retiring to their own homes, that they make it their argument for coming into company. What has any body to do with accounts of a man being indisposed but his physician? If a man is in company, where the rest are in humour enough to enjoy themselves, he should not take ill if a servant is ordered to present him with a porringer of caudle or posset-drink, by way of a monition that he go home to bed. That part of conversation, is an indulgence to the sociable part of our make; and should incline us to bring our portion of good-will or good-humour among the friends we meet with, and not to trouble them with relations which must of necessity oblige them to a real or feigned affliction. Cares, distresses, diseases, uneasiness, and dislikes of our own, by no means to be obtruded upon our friends. If we would consider how little of this vicissitude of motion and rest, which we call life, is spent with satisfaction, we should be more tender of our friends, than to bring them little sorrows which not belong to them. There is no real life but cheerful life; therefore valetudinarians should swear before they enter into company, not to say a word of themselves till the meeting be over. It is not here pretended, that we should always sit with chaplets of flowers round our heads, or be crowned with roses, in order to make our entertainment agreeable to us; but if (as is usually observed) they who resolve to be melancholy are so; it will be much more unlikely for us to be well-pleased, if they are admitted to be always complaining they are sad. What we do, we should keep up the cheerfulness of our spirits, and never let them sink below an inclination at least to be well-pleased. The way to it is to keep our bodies in exercise, our minds in ease. That insipid state wherein neither vigour, is not to be accounted any part of our notion of being. When we are in the satisfaction of some innocent pleasure, or pursuit of some laudable design, we are in the possession of life, of

* All the letters in this paper are genuine. By the publication of "The Epistolary Correspondence of Sir Isaac Newton," we find that they were originally written by him, and sent, with but little variation, to Mrs. Scarbrough, who he afterwards married.

man life. Fortune will give us disappointments enough, and nature is attended with infirmities enough, without our adding to the unhappy side of our account by our spleen or ill-humour. Poor Cottius*, among so many real evils, a chronic distemper and a narrow fortune, is never heard to complain. That equal spirit of his, which any man may have, that, like him, will conquer pride, vanity, and affectation, and follow nature, is not to be broken, because it has no points to contend for. To be anxious for nothing but what nature demands as necessary, if it is not the way to an estate, is the way to what men aim at by getting an estate. This temper will preserve health in the body, as well as tranquillity in the mind. Cottius sees the world in an hurry, with the same scorn that a sober person sees a man drunk. Had he been contented with what he ought to have been, how could, says he, such a one have met with such a disappointment? If another had valued his mistress for what he ought to have loved her, he had not been in her power. If her virtue had had a part of his passion, her levity had been his cure; she could not then have been false and amiable at the same time.

Since we cannot promise ourselves constant health, let us endeavour at such a temper as may be our best support in the decay of it. Uranius† has arrived at that composure of soul, and wrought himself up to such a neglect of every thing with which the generality of mankind is enchanted, that nothing but acute pains can give him disturbance, and against those too he will tell his intimate friends he has a secret which gives him present ease. Uranius is so thoroughly persuaded of another life, and endeavours so sincerely to secure an interest in it, that he looks upon pain but as a quickening of his pace to an home, where he shall be better provided for than in his present apartment. Instead of the melancholy views which others are apt to give themselves, he will tell you that he has forgot he is mortal, nor will he think of himself as such. He thinks at the time of his birth he entered into an eternal being; and the short article of death he will not allow an interruption of life; since that moment is not of half the duration as is his ordinary sleep. Thus in his being one uniform and consistent series of cheerful diversions and moderate cares, without fear or hope of futurity. Health to him is more than pleasure to another man, and sickness less affecting to him than indisposition is to others.

I must confess, if one does not regard life after this manner, none but idiots can pass it away with any tolerable patience. Take a fine lady who is of a delicate frame, and you may observe, from the hour she rises, a certain weariness of all that passes about her. I know more than one who is much too nice to be quite alive. They are sick of such strange frightful people that they meet; one is so awkward, and another so disagreeable, that it looks like a penance to breathe the same air with them. You see this is so very true, that a great part of ceremony and good-breeding among the ladies turns upon their uneasiness; and I will undertake, if the how-do-ye servants of our women were to make a weekly bill of sickness, as the parish-clerks do of mortality, you would not find, in an account of seven days, one in thirty that was not

dowright sick or indisposed, or but a very little better than she was, and so forth.

It is certain, that to enjoy life and health as a constant feast, we should not think pleasure necessary, but, if possible, to arrive at an equality of mind. It is as mean to be overjoyed upon occasions of good fortune, as to be dejected in circumstances of distress. Laughter in one condition, is as unmanly as weeping in the other. We should not form our minds to expect transport on every occasion, but know how to make it enjoyment to be out of pain. Ambition, envy, vagrant desire, or impertinent mirth, will take up our minds, without we can possess ourselves in that sobriety of heart which is above all pleasures, and can be felt much better than described. But the ready way, I believe, to the right enjoyment of life, is by a prospect towards another, to have but a very mean opinion of it. A great author of our time*, has set this in an excellent light, when with a philosophic pity of human life he spoke of it in his 'Theory of the Earth,' in the following manner:

'For what is this life but a circulation of little, mean actions? We lie down and rise again, dress and undress, feed and wax hungry, work or play, and are weary, and then we lie down again, and the circle returns. We spend the day in trifles, and when the night comes we throw ourselves into the bed of folly, amongst dreams, and broken thoughts, and wild imaginations. Our reason lies asleep by us, and we are for the time as arrant brutes as those that sleep in the stalls, or in the field. Are not the capacities of man higher than these? And ought not his ambition and expectations to be greater? Let us be adventurers for another world. It is at least a fair and noble chance; and there is nothing in this worth our thoughts or our passions. If we should be disappointed, we are still no worse than the rest of our fellow-mortals; and if we succeed in our expectations, we are eternally happy.'

STEELE.

T.

Nº 144. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1711.

— *Noris quam elegans formarum Spectator siem.*

Ter. Eun. act. iii. sc. 5.

You shall see how nice a judge of beauty I am.

BEAUTY has been the delight and torment of the world ever since it began. The philosophers have felt its influence so sensibly, that almost every one of them has left us some saying or other, which intimated that he too well knew the power of it. One † has told us, that a graceful person is a more powerful recommendation than the best letter that can be writ in your favour. Another ‡ desires the possessor of it to consider it as a mere gift of nature, and not any perfection of his own. A third § calls it a 'short-lived tyranny;' a fourth || a 'silent fraud,' because it imposes upon us without the help of language; but I think Carneades spoke as much like a philosopher as any of them, though more like a lover, when he calls it 'royalty without force.' It is not indeed to be denied, but there is something irresistible in a beauteous form; the most severe will not pretend, that they do not feel an immediate prepossession in favour of the handsome. No one denies them the privilege of being first heard, and being regarded before others in matters of ordinary consideration. At the same

* Probably Mr. Hen. Martyn, who resided at Blackheath, and of whom some account will be found in Ward's Lives of the Gresham Professors. See Nos. 181 and 335.

† Supposed to be Mr. Hughes.

• Dr. Burnet, master of the Charter-house. See Nº 146.

† Aristotle. ‡ Plato. § Socrates. || Theophrastus.

time the handsome should consider that it is a possession, as it were, foreign to them. No one can give it himself, or preserve it when they have it. Yet so it is, that people can bear any quality in the world better than beauty. It is the consolation of all who are naturally too much affected with the force of it, that a little attention, if a man can attend with judgment, will cure them. Handsome people usually are so fantastically pleased with themselves, that if they do not kill at first sight, as the phrase is, a second interview disarms them of all their power. But I shall make this paper rather a warning-piece to give notice where the danger is, than to propose instructions how to avoid it when you have fallen in the way of it. Handsome men shall be the subject of another chapter, the women shall take up the present discourse.

Amaryllis, who has been in town but one winter, is extremely improved with the arts of good-breeding, without leaving nature. She has not lost the native simplicity of her aspect, to substitute that patience of being stared at, which is the usual triumph and distinction of a town lady. In public assemblies you meet her careless eye diverting itself with the objects around her, insensible that she herself is one of the brightest in the place.

Dulcina is quite of another make, she is almost a beauty by nature, but more than one by art. If it were possible for her to let her fan or any limb about her rest, she would do some part of the execution she meditates; but though she designs herself a prey, she will not stay to be taken. No painter can give you words for the different aspects of Dulcina in half a moment, wherever she appears: so little does she accomplish what she takes so much pains for, to be gay and careless.

Merab is attended with all the charms of woman and accomplishments of man. It is not to be doubted but she has a great deal of wit, if she were not such a beauty; and she would have more beauty had she not so much wit. Affectation prevents her excellences from walking together. If she has a mind to speak such a thing, it must be done with such an air of her body; and if she has an inclination to look very careless, there is such a smart thing to be said at the same time, that the design of being admired destroys itself. Thus the unhappy Merab, though a wit and beauty, is allowed to be neither, because she will always be both.

Albacinda has the skill as well as power of pleasing. Her form is majestic, but her aspect humble. All good men should beware of the destroyer. She will speak to you like your sister, till she has you sure; but is the most vexatious of tyrants when you are so. Her familiarity of behaviour, her indifferent questions, and general conversation, make the silly part of her votaries full of hopes, while the wise fly from her power. She well knows she is too beautiful and too witty to be indifferent to any who converse with her, and therefore knows she does not lessen herself by familiarity, but gains occasions of admiration by seeming ignorance of her perfections.

Eudisia adds to the height of her stature a nobility of spirit which still distinguishes her above the rest of her sex. Beauty in others is lovely, in others agreeable, in others attractive; but in Eudisia it is commanding. Love towards Eudisia is a sentiment like the love of glory. The lovers of other women are softened into fondness, the admirers of Eudisia are exalted into ambition.

Eucratia presents herself to the imagination with

a more kindly pleasure, and as she is woman, her praise is wholly feminine. If we were to form an image of dignity in a man, we should give him wisdom and valour, as being essential to the character of manhood. In like manner, if you describe a right woman in a laudable sense, she should have gentle softness, tender fear, and all those parts of life, which distinguish her from the other sex; with some subordination to it, but such an inferiority that makes her still more lovely. Eucratia is that creature, she is all over woman, kindness is all her art, and beauty all her arms. Her look, her voice, her gesture, and whole behaviour is truly feminine. A goodness mixed with fear, give a tincture to all her behaviour. It would be savage to offend her, and cruelty to use art to gain her. Others are beautiful, but Eucratia thou art beauty!

Omnamante is made for deceit, she has an aspect as innocent as the famed Lucrece, but a mind as wild as the more famed Cleopatra. Her face speaks a vestal, but her heart a Messalina. Who that beheld Omnamante's negligent unobserving air, would believe that she hid under that regardless manner the witty prostitute, the rapacious wench, the prodigal courtesan? She can, when she pleases, adorn those eyes with tears like an infant that is chid: she can cast down that pretty face in confusion, while you rage with jealousy, and storm at her perfiduousness; she can wipe her eyes, tremble and look frightened, till you think yourself a brute for your rage, own yourself an offender, beg pardon, and make her new presents.

But I go too far in reporting only the dangers in beholding the beauteous, which I design for the instruction of the fair as well as their beholders; and shall end this rhapsody with mentioning what I thought was well enough said of an ancient sage to a beautiful youth, whom he saw admiring his own figure in brass. What, said the philosopher, could that image of your's say for itself if it could speak? It might say, (answered the youth) 'that it is very beautiful.'—'And are not you ashamed,' replied the cynic, 'to value yourself upon that only of which a piece of brass is capable?'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 145. THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1711.

Multitum patientur opes

HOE. I Ep. xviii. l. 1. ver. 29.

Their folly pleads the privilege of wealth.

If the following enormities are not amended upon the first mention, I desire farther notice from our correspondents:

MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM obliged to you for your discourse the other day upon frivolous disputants, who with great warmth and enumeration of many circumstances and authorities, undertake to prove matters which no body living denies. You cannot employ yourself more usefully than in adjusting the laws of disputation in coffee-houses and accidental companies as well as in more formal debates. Among many other things which your own experience may suggest to you, it will be very obliging if you please to take notice of wagers. I will not here repeat what Hadibras says of such disputants which is so true, that it is almost proverbial: †

* Antisthenes.

† See Nº 138.

‡ "Quoth she, I've heard old cunning stagers say, fools for arguments use wagers."

HUD. p. 2. c. i. ver. 29. d.

shall only acquaint you with a set of young fellows of the inns of court, whose fathers have provided for them so plentifully, that they need not be very anxious to get law into their heads for the service of their country at the bar; but are of those who are sent (as the phrase of parents is) to the Temple to know 'how to keep their own.' One of these gentlemen is very loud and capacious at a coffee-house which I frequent, and being in his nature troubled with a humour of contradiction, though withal excessive ignorant, he has found a way to indulge this temper, go on in idleness and ignorance, and yet still give himself the air of a very learned and knowing man, by the strength of his pocket. The misfortune of the thing is, I have, as it happens sometimes, a greater stock of learning than of money. The gentleman I am speaking of, takes advantage of the narrowness of my circumstances in such a manner, that he has read all that I can pretend to, and runs me down with such a positive air, and with such powerful arguments, that from a very learned person I am thought a mere pretender. Not long ago I was relating that I had read such a passage in Tacitus, up starts my young gentleman in a full company, and pulling out his purse, offered to lay me ten guineas, to be staked immediately in that gentleman's hands (pointing to one smoking at another table) that I was utterly mistaken. I was dumb for want of ten guineas; he went on unmercifully to triumph over my ignorance how to take him up, and told the whole room he had read Tacitus twenty times over, and such a remarkable incident as that could not escape him. He has at this time three considerable wagers depending between him and some of his companions, who are rich enough to hold an argument with him. He has five guineas upon questions in geography, two that the Isle of Wight is a peninsula, and three guineas to one that the world is round. We have a gentleman comes to our coffee-house, who deals mightily in antique scandal; my disputant has laid him twenty pieces upon a point of history, to wit, that Cæsar never lay with Cato's sister, as is scandalously reported by some people. There are several of this sort of fellows in town, who wager themselves into statesmen, historians, geographers, mathematicians, and every other art, when the persons with whom they talk have not wealth equal to their learning. I beg of you to prevent in these youngsters, this compendious way to wisdom, which costs other people so much time and pains; and you will oblige

'Your humble servant.'

'Coffee-house, near the Temple, Aug. 12, 1711.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Hear's a young gentleman that sings opera tunes or whistles in a full house. Pray let him know that he has no right to act here as if he were in an empty room. Be pleased to divide the spaces of a public room, and certify whistlers, singers, and common orators, that are heard further than their portion of the room comes to, that the law is open, and that there is an equity which will relieve us from such as interrupt us in our lawful discourse, as much as against such who stop us on the road. I take these persons, Mr. Spectator, to be such trespassers as the officer in your stage-coach, and am of the same sentiment with Counsellor Ephraim *. It is true the young man is rich, and, as the vulgar say, needs not care for any body;

* See N^o 132.

but sure that is no authority for him to go whistle where he pleases.

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant.

'P. S. I have chambers in the Temple, and here are students that learn upon the hautboy; pray desire the Benchers, that all lawyers who are proficient in wind-music may lodge to the Thames.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'We are a company of young women who pass our time very much together, and obliged by the mercenary humour of the men to be as mercenarily inclined as they are. There visits among us an old bachelor whom each of us has a mind to. The fellow is rich, and knows he may have any of us, therefore is particular to none, but excessively ill-bred. His pleasantry consists in romping, he snatches kisses by surprise, puts his hands in our necks, tears our fans, robs us of ribands, forces letters out of our hands, looks into any of our papers, and a thousand other rudenesses. Now what I will desire of you is, to acquaint him, by printing this, that if he does not marry one of us very suddenly, we have all agreed, the next time he pretends to be merry, to affront him, and use him like a clown as he is. In the name of the sisterhood I take my leave of you, and am, as they all are,

'Your constant reader and well-wisher.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AND several others of your female readers, have conformed ourselves to your rules, even to our very dress. There is not one of us but has reduced our outward petticoat to its ancient sizeable circumference, though indeed we retain still a quilted one underneath; which makes us not altogether uncomformable to the fashion; but it is on condition, Mr. Spectator extends not his censure so far. But we find you men secretly approve our practice, by imitating our pyramidal form. The skirt of your fashionable coats forms as large a circumference as our petticoats; as these are set out with whalebone, so are those with wire, to increase and sustain the bunch of fold that hangs down on each side; and the hat, I perceive, is decreased in just proportion to our head-dresses. We make a regular figure, but I defy your mathematics to give name to the form you appear in. Your architecture is mere gothic, and betrays a worse genius than ours; therefore if you are partial to your own sex, I shall be less than I am now

'Your humble servant.'

STEEL.

T.

N^o 146. FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1711.

Nemo vir magnus sine aliquo afflatu divino unquam fuit.
TULL.

All great men are in some degree inspired.

We know the highest pleasure our minds are capable of enjoying with composure, when we read sublime thoughts communicated to us by men of great genius and eloquence. Such is the entertainment we meet with in the philosophic parts of Cicero's writings. Truth and good sense have there so charming a dress, that they could hardly be more agreeably represented with the addition of poetical fiction, and the power of numbers. This ancient author, and a modern one, have fallen into

my hands within these few days; and the impressions they have left upon me, have at the present quite spoiled me for a merry fellow. The modern is that admirable writer the author of *The Theory of the Earth*. The subjects with which I have lately been entertained in them both bear a near affinity; they are upon inquiries into hereafter, and the thoughts of the latter seem to me to be raised above those of the former, in proportion to his advantages of scripture and revelation. If I had a mind to it, I could not at present talk of anything else; therefore I shall translate a passage in the one, and transcribe a paragraph out of the other, for the speculation of this day. Cicero tells us*, that Plato reports Socrates, upon receiving his sentence, to have spoken to his judges in the following manner:

‘I have great hopes, O my judges, that it is infinitely to my advantage that I am sent to death: for it must of necessity be, that one of these two things must be the consequence. Death must take away all these senses, or convey me to another life. If all sense is to be taken away, and death is no more than that profound sleep without dreams, in which we are sometimes buried, oh, heavens! how desirable is it to die! How many days do we know in life preferable to such a state? But if it be true that death is but a passage to places which they who lived before us do now inhabit, how much still happier is it to go from those who call themselves judges to appear before those that really are such; before Minos, Rhadamanthus, Æacus, and Triptolemus, and to meet men who have lived with justice and truth? Is this, do you think, no happy journey? Do you think it nothing to speak with Orpheus, Musæus, Homer, and Hesiod? I would, indeed, suffer many deaths to enjoy these things. With what particular delight should I talk to Palamedes, Ajax, and others, who like me have suffered by the iniquity of their judges. I should examine the wisdom of that great prince, who carried such mighty forces against Troy; and argue with Ulysses and Sisyphus, upon difficult points, as I have in conversation here, without being in danger of being condemned. But let not those among you who have pronounced me an innocent man be afraid of death. No harm can arrive at a good man, whether dead or living; his affairs are always under the direction of the gods; nor will I believe the fate which is allotted to me myself this day to have arrived by chance; nor have I aught to say either against my judges or accusers, but that they thought they did me an injury. But I detain you too long, it is time that I retire to death, and you to your affairs of life; which of us has the better is known to the gods, but to no mortal man.’

The divine Socrates is here represented in a figure worthy his great wisdom and philosophy, worthy the greatest mere man that ever breathed. But the modern discourse is written upon a subject no less than the dissolution of nature itself. Oh how glorious is the old age of that great man, who has spent his time in such contemplations as has made this being, what only it should be, an education for heaven! He has, according to the lights of reason and revelation, which seemed to him clearest, traced the steps of Omnipotence. He has, with a celestial ambition, as far as it is consistent with humility and devotion, examined the ways of Providence, from the creation to the dissolution of the visible world. How pleasing must have been the speculation, to observe Nature and

Providence move together, the physical and moral world march the same pace: to observe paradise and eternal spring the seat of innocence, troubled seasons and angry skies the portion of wickedness and vice. When this admirable author has reviewed all that is past, or is to come, which relates to the habitable world, and run through the whole fate of it, how could a guardian angel, that had attended it through all its courses or changes, speak more emphatically at the end of his charge than does our author when he makes, as it were a funeral oration over this globe, looking to the point where it once stood?

‘Let us only, if you please, to take leave of this subject, reflect upon this occasion on the vanity and transient glory of this habitable world. How by the force of one element breaking loose upon the rest, all the vanities of nature, all the works of art all the labours of men, are reduced to nothing. All that we admired and adored before as great and magnificent, is obliterated or vanished; and another form and face of things, plain, simple, and every where the same, overpreads the whole earth. Where are now the great empires of the world, and their great imperial cities? Their pillars, trophies and monuments of glory? show me where they stood, read the inscription, tell me the victor’s name. What remains, what impressions, what difference, or distinction, do you see in this mass of fire? Rome itself, eternal Rome, the great City, the empress of the world, whose domination and superstition, ancient and modern, make a great part of the history of this earth, what is become of her now? She laid her foundations deep, and her places were strong and sumptuous: “she glorified herself, and lived deliciously, and said in her heart, I sit a queen, and shall see no sorrow:” but her hour is come, she is wiped away from the face of the earth, and buried in everlasting oblivion. But is not cities only, and works of men’s hands, but the everlasting hills, the mountains and rocks of the earth are melted as wax before the sun, and “their place is no where found.” Here stood the Alps, the load of the earth, that covered many countries, and reached their arms from the ocean to the Black Sea; this huge mass of stone is softened and dissolved as a tender cloud into rain. Here stood the African mountains, and Atlas with his top above the clouds; there was frozen Caucasus and Taurus, and Imaus, and the mountains of Asia and yonder towards the north stood the Riphean hills, clothed in ice and snow. All these are vanished, dropped away as the snow upon their head “Great and marvellous are thy works, just are thy ways, thou King of Saints! Hallelujah.”

STEEL.

T.

Nº 147. SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1711.

Pronunciatio est vocis, et valet ut gestus moderatio et circumspectio.

TULL.

Delivery is a graceful management of the voice, circumstance, and gesture.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘THE well reading of the Common-Prayer is of great importance, and so much neglected, that I take the liberty to offer to your consideration some particulars on that subject. And what more worth

your observation than this? A thing so public, and of so high consequence. It is indeed wonderful, that the frequent exercise of it, should not make the performers of that duty more expert in it. This inability, as I conceive, proceeds from the little care that is taken of their reading, while boys, and at school, where, when they are got into Latin, they are looked upon as above English, the reading of which is wholly neglected, or at least read to very little purpose, without any due observation made to them of the proper accent and manner of reading; by this means they have acquired such ill habits as will not easily be removed. The only way that I know of to remedy this, is to propose some person of great ability that way as a pattern for them; example being most effectual to convince the learned, as well as instruct the ignorant.

You must know, sir, I have been a constant frequenter of the service of the church of England for above these four years last past, and till Sunday was seven-night never discovered, to so great a degree, the excellency of the Common-Prayer: when, being at St. James's Garlick-Hill church, I heard the service read so distinctly, so emphatically, and so fervently, that it was next to an impossibility to be unattentive. My eyes and my thoughts could not wander as usual, but were con-
 nected to my prayers: I then considered I addressed myself to the Almighty, and not to a beautiful face. And when I reflected on my former performances of that duty, I found I had run it over as a matter of form, in comparison to the manner in which I then discharged it. My mind was really affected, and fervent wishes accompanied my words. The Confession was read with such resigned humility, the Absolution with such a comfortable authority, the Thanksgivings with such a religious joy, as made me feel those affections of the mind in a manner I never did before. To remedy therefore the grievance above complained of, I humbly propose, that this excellent reader*, upon the next and every annual assembly of the clergy of St. Andrew's, and all other conventions, should read prayers before them. For then those that are afraid of stretching their mouths, and spoiling their soft voices, will learn to read with clearness, loudness, and strength. Others that affect a rakish negligent air, by folding their arms and loling on their back, will be taught a decent behaviour, and ready erection of body. Those that read so fast as if impatient of their work, may learn to speak deliberately. There is another sort of persons whom I call Pindaric readers, as being confined to no set measure; these pronounce five or six words with great deliberation, and the five or six subsequent ones with as great celerity: the first part of a sentence with a very exalted voice, and the latter part with a submissive one; sometimes again with one sort of a tone, and immediately after with a very different one. These gentlemen will learn of my admired reader an evenness of voice and delivery, and all who are innocent of these affectations, but read with such an indifferency as if they did not understand the language, may then be informed of the art of reading movingly and fervently, how to place the emphasis, and give the proper accent to each word, and how to vary the voice according to the nature of the sentence. There is certainly a very great difference between the reading of a prayer and a gazette, which I beg of you to inform a set of readers, who affect, forsooth, a

certain gentleman-like familiarity of tone, and mend the language as they go on, crying, instead of "pardoneth and absolveth," "pardens and absolva." These are often pretty classical scholars, and would think it an unpardonable sin to read Virgil or Martial with so little taste as they do divine service.

This indifferency seems to me to arise from the endeavour of avoiding the imputation of cant, and the false notion of it. It will be proper therefore to trace the original and signification of this word. "Cant" is, by some people, derived from one Andrew Cant, who, they say, was a presbyterian minister in some illiterate part of Scotland, who by exercise and use had obtained the faculty, alias gift, of talking in the pulpit in such a dialect, that it is said he was understood by none but his own congregation, and not by all of them. Since Master Cant's time, it has been understood in a larger sense, and signifies all sudden exclamations, whinnings, unusual tones, and, in fine, all praying and preaching, like the unlearned of the presbyterians. But I hope a proper elevation of voice, a due emphasis and accent are not to come within this description. So that our readers may still be as unlike the presbyterians as they please. The dissenters (I mean such as I have heard) do indeed elevate their voices, but it is with sudden jumps from the lower to the higher part of them; and that with so little sense or skill, that their elevation and cadence is bawling and muttering. They make use of an emphasis, but so improperly, that it is often placed on some very insignificant particle, as upon "if" or "and." Now if these improprieties have so great an effect on the people, as we see they have, how great an influence would the service of our church, containing the best prayers that ever were composed, and that in terms most affecting, most humble, and most expressive of our wants, and dependence on the object of our worship, disposed in most proper order, and void of all confusion; what influence, I say, would these prayers have, were they delivered with a due emphasis, and apposite rising and variation of voice, the sentence concluded with a gentle cadence, and, in a word, with such an accent and turn of speech as is peculiar to prayer?

As the matter of worship is now managed, in dissenting congregations, you find insignificant words and phrases raised by a lively vehemence; in our own churches, the most exalted sense depreciated, by a dispassionate indolence. I remember to have heard Dr. S——e* say in his pulpit, of the Common-Prayer, that, at least, it was as perfect as any thing of human institution. If the gentlemen who err in this kind would please to recollect the many pleasanties they have read upon those who recite good things with an ill grace, they would go on to think that what in that case is only ridiculous, in themselves is impious. But leaving this to their own reflections, I shall conclude this trouble with what Caesar said upon the irregularity of tone in one who read before him, "Do you read or sing? If you sing, you sing very ill."

Your most humble servant.

STEEL.

T.

* Perhaps Dr. Smalridge.

* M. Philip Stubbs, afterwards Archdeacon of St. Alban's.

N^o 148. MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1711.

— *Exempta juvat opinio e pluribus una.*
HOR. 2 Ep. ii. 512.

Better one thorn pluck'd out, than all remain.

My correspondents assure me that the enormities which they lately complained of, and I published an account of, are so far from being amended, that new evils arise every day to interrupt their conversation, in contempt of my reproofs. My friend who writes from the coffee-house near the Temple, informs me that the gentleman who constantly sings a voluntary in spite of the whole company, was more musical than ordinary after reading my paper *; and has not been contented with that, but has danced up to the glass in the middle of the room, and practised minuet-steps to his own humming. The incorrigible creature has gone still further, and in the open coffee-house, with one hand extended as leading a lady in it, he has danced both French and country dances, and admonished his supposed partner, by smiles and nods, to hold up her head and fall back, according to the respective facings and evolutions of the dance. Before this gentleman began this his exercise, he was pleased to clear his throat by coughing and spitting a full half hour; and as soon as he struck up, he appealed to an attorney's clerk in the room, whether he hit as he ought, 'Since you from death have saved me?' and then asked the young fellow (pointing to a chancery-bill under his arm) whether that was an opera-score he carried or not? Without staying for an answer, he fell into the exercise above-mentioned, and practised his airs to the full house who were turned upon him, without the least shame or repentance for his former transgressions.

I am to the last degree at a loss what to do with this young fellow, except I declare him an outlaw, and pronounce it penal for any one to speak to him in the said house which he frequents, and direct that he be obliged to drink his tea and coffee without sugar, and not receive from any person whatsoever any thing above mere necessities.

As we in England are a sober people, and generally inclined rather to a certain bashfulness of behaviour in public, it is amazing whence some fellows come whom one meets with in this town; they do not at all seem to be the growth of our island; the pert, the talkative, all such as have no sense of the observation of others, are certainly of foreign extraction. As for my part, I am as much surprised when I see a talkative Englishman, as I should be to see the Indian pine growing on one of our quickest hedges. Where these creatures get on enough, to make them such lively animals and dull men, is above my philosophy.

There are another kind of impertinents which a man is perplexed with in mixed company, and those are your loud speakers. These treat mankind as if we were all deaf; they do not express, but declare themselves. Many of these are guilty of this outrage out of vanity, because they think all they say is well; or that they have their own persons in such veneration, that they believe nothing which concerns them can be insignificant to any body else. For these people's sake, I have often lamented that we cannot close our ears with as much

ease as we can our eyes. It is very uneasy that we must necessarily be under persecution. Next to these bawlers, is a troublesome creature who comes with the air of your friend and your intimate, and that is your whisperer. There is one of them at a coffee-house which I myself frequently observe me to be a man pretty well made for secrets, gets by me, and with a whisper tells me things which all the town knows. It is no very hard matter to guess at the source of this impertinence, which is nothing else but a method or mechanical art of being wise. You never see any frequent in it, whom you can suppose to have any thing in the world to do. These persons are worse than bawlers, as much as a secret enemy is more dangerous than a declared one. I wish this coffee-house friend would take this for an intimation, that I have not heard one word he has told me for these several years; whereas he now tells me the most trusty repository of his secrets. These whisperers have a pleasant way of ending the close conversation, with saying aloud, 'Do not you think so?' Then whisper again, and then aloud 'but you know that person'; then whisper again. The thing would be well enough, if they whispered to keep the folly of what they say among friends; but alas, they do it to preserve the importance of their thoughts. I am sure I could name you more than one person whom no man living ever heard talk upon any subject in nature, or ever saw him his whole life with a book in his hand, that, I know not how, can whisper something like knowledge of what has and does pass in the world which you would think he learned from some familiar spirit, that did not think him worthy to receive the whole story. But in truth, whisperers deal only in half accounts of what they entertain you with. A great help to their discourse is 'That the town says, and people begin to talk very freely, and they had it from persons too considerable to be named what they will tell you when things are riper.' My friend has winked upon me any day since I came to town last, as has communicated to me as a secret, that he designed in a very short time to tell me a secret but I shall know what he means, he now assures me, in less than a fortnight's time.

But I must not omit the dearer part of mankind I mean the ladies, to take up a whole paper upon grievances which concern the men only; but she humbly propose, that we change fools for an experiment only. A certain set of ladies complain they are frequently perplexed with a visitant, who affects to be wiser than they are; which character he hopes to preserve by an obstinate gravity, as great guard against discovering his opinion upon any occasion whatsoever. A painful silence has hitherto gained him no further advantage, than that as he might, if he had behaved himself with freedom, been excepted against but as to this and the particular, he now offends in the whole. To relieve these ladies, my good friends and correspondents, I shall exchange my dancing outlaws for their dumb visitant, and assign the silent gentleman all the haunts of the dancer; in order to which, I have sent them by the penny-post, the following letters for their conduct in their next conversations.

'SIR,

'I HAVE, you may be sure, heard of your irregularities without regard to my observations upon you; but shall not treat you with so much rigour you deserve. If you will give yourself the trouble

* See the second letter in N^o 143.

to repair to the place mentioned in the postscript * to this letter at seven this evening, you will be conducted into a spacious room well lighted, where there are ladies and music. You will see a young lady laughing next the window to the street; you may take her out, for she loves you as well as she does any man, though she never saw you before. She never thought in her life, any more than yourself. She will not be surprised when you accost her, nor concerned when you leave her. Hasten from a place where you are laughed at, to one where you will be admired. You are of no consequence, therefore go where you will be welcome for being so.

‘Your humble servant.’

‘SIR,

‘Tax ladies whom you visit, think a wise man the most impertinent creature living, therefore you cannot be offended that they are displeased with me. Why will you take pains to appear wise, where you would not be the more esteemed for being really so? Come to us; forget the gigglers; and let your inclination go along with you whether you speak or are silent; and let all such women as are in a clan or sisterhood go their own way; there is no room for you in that company who are of the common taste of the sex.

‘For women (born to be controll’d)
Stoop to the forward and the bold;
Affect the haughty and the proud,
The gay, the frolic, and the loud.’

STEELE.

T.

N^o 149. TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1711.

*Cui in manus sit quem esse dementem vellet,
Quem sapere, quem senari, quem in morbum injici,
Quem contris amari, quem accersiri, quem expelli.*
CÆCIL. apud TULL.

Who has it in her power to make any man mad, or in his wens; sick, or in health; and who can choose the object of her affections at pleasure.

The following letter, and my answer, shall take up the present speculation.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

I AM the young widow of a country gentleman, who has left me entire mistress of a large fortune, which he agreed to as an equivalent for the difference in our years. In these circumstances it is not extraordinary to have a crowd of admirers; which I have abridged in my own thoughts, and reduced to a couple of candidates only, both young, and neither of them disagreeable in their persons: according to the common way of computing, in one the estate more than deserves my fortune, in the other my fortune more than deserves the estate. When I consider the first, I own I am so far a woman I cannot avoid being delighted with the thoughts of living great; but then he seems to receive such a degree of courage from the knowledge of what he has, he looks as if he was going to confer an obligation on me; and the readiness he accounts me with, makes me jealous I am only hearing a repetition of the same things he has said to a hundred women before. When I consider the other, I see myself approached with so much

modesty and respect, and such a doubt of himself, as betrays, methinks, an affection within, and a belief at the same time that he himself would be the only gainer by my consent. What an unexceptionable husband could I make out of both! but since that is impossible, I beg to be concluded by your opinion. It is absolutely in your power to dispose of,

‘Your most obedient servant,

‘SYLVIA.’

‘MADAM,

‘You do me great honour in your application to me on this important occasion; I shall therefore talk to you with the tenderness of a father, in gratitude for your giving me the authority of one. You do not seem to make any great distinction between these gentlemen as to their persons; the whole question lies upon their circumstances and behaviour. If the one is less respectful because he is rich, and the other more obsequious because he is not so, they are in that point moved by the same principle, the consideration of fortune, and you must place them in each other’s circumstances before you can judge of their inclination. To avoid confusion in discussing this point, I will call the richer man Strephon, and the other Florio. If you believe Florio with Strephon’s estate would behave himself as he does now, Florio is certainly your man; but if you think Strephon, were he in Florio’s condition, would be as obsequious as Florio is now, you ought for your own sake to choose Strephon; for where the men are equal, there is no doubt riches ought to be a reason for preference. After this manner, my dear child, I would have you abstract them from their circumstances; for you are to take it for granted, that he who is very humble only because he is poor, is the very same man in nature, with him who is haughty because he is rich.

‘When you have gone thus far, as to consider the figure they make towards you; you will please, my dear, next to consider the appearance you make towards them. If they are men of discerning, they can observe the motives of your heart; and Florio can see when he is disregarded only upon account of fortune, which makes you to him a mercenary creature; and you are still the same thing to Strephon, in taking him for his wealth only: you are therefore to consider whether you had rather oblige, than receive an obligation.

‘The marriage-life is always an insipid, a vexatious, or a happy condition. The first is, when two people of no genius or taste for themselves meet together, upon such a settlement as has been thought reasonable by parents and conveyancers from an exact valuation of the land and cash of both parties. In this case the young lady’s person is no more regarded, than the house and improvements in purchase of an estate; but she goes with her fortune, rather than her fortune with her. These make up the crowd or vulgar of the rich, and fill up the lumber of human race, without beneficence towards those below them, or respect towards those above them; and lead a despicable, independent, and useless life, without sense of the laws of kindness, good-nature, mutual offices, and the elegant satisfactions which flow from reason and virtue.

‘The vexatious life arises from a conjunction of two people of quick taste and resentment, put together for reasons well known to their friends, in which especial care is taken to avoid (what they think the chief of evils) poverty, and insure to

* No postscript was printed with this letter; it may, therefore, be supposed to have contained matter merely of a private nature or personal application.

† Waller, on Love.

them riches, with every evil besides. These good people live in a constant constraint before company, and too great familiarity alone. When they are within observation they fret at each other's carriage and behaviour: when alone they revile each other's person and conduct. In company they are in a purgatory, when only together in a hell.

'The happy marriage is, where two persons meet and voluntarily make choice of each other, without principally regarding or neglecting the circumstances of fortune or beauty. These may still love in spite of adversity or sickness: the former we may in some measure defend ourselves from, the other is the portion of our very make. When you have a true notion of this sort of passion, your humour of living great will vanish out of your imagination, and you will find love has nothing to do with state. Solitude, with the person beloved, has a pleasure, even in a woman's mind, beyond show or pomp. You are therefore to consider which of your lovers will like you best undressed, which will bear with you most when out of humour; and your way to this is to ask of yourself, which of them you value most for his own sake? And by that judge which gives the greater instances of his valuing you for yourself only.

'After you have expressed some sense of the humble approach of Florio, and a little disdain at Strephon's assurance in his address, you cry out, "What an unexceptionable husband could I make out of both?" It would therefore, methinks, be a good way to determine yourself. Take him in whom what you like is not transferable to another; for if you choose otherwise, there is no hopes your husband will ever have what you liked in his rival; but intrinsic qualities in one man may very probably purchase every thing that is adventitious in another. In plainer terms: he whom you take for his personal perfections will sooner arrive at the gifts of fortune, than he whom you take for the sake of his fortune attain to personal perfections. If Strephon is not as accomplished and agreeable as Florio, marriage to you will never make him so; but marriage to you may make Florio as rich as Strephon. Therefore to make a sure purchase, employ fortune upon certainties, but do not sacrifice certainties to fortune.

'I am, your most obedient,
'humble servant,'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 150. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1711.

*Nili habet infelix paupertas durius in se,
Quam quod ridiculus homines facit.*

JUV. Sat. iii. 152.

What is the scorn of ev'ry wealthy fool,
And wit in rags is turn'd to ridicule.

DRYDEN.

As I was walking in my chamber the morning before I went last into the country, I heard the hawkers with great vehemence crying about a paper, entitled, The ninety-nine plagues of an empty purse. I had indeed some time before observed, that the orators of Grub-street had dealt very much in plagues. They have already published in the same mouth, The plagues of matrimony, The plagues of a single life, The nineteen plagues of a chambermaid, The plagues of a coachman, The plagues of a footman, and 'The plague of plagues.' The success these several

plagues met with, probably gave occasion to the above-mentioned poem on an empty purse. However that be, the same noise so frequently repeated under my window, drew me insensibly to think of some of those inconveniences and mortifications which usually attend on poverty, and, in short gave birth to the present speculation: for after a fancy had run over the most obvious and common calamities which men of mean fortunes are liable to, it descended to those little insults and contempts, which, though they may seem to dwindle into nothing when a man offers to describe them, are perhaps in themselves more cutting and immoveable than the former. Juvenal, with a great deal of humour and reason tells us, that nothing bore harder upon a poor man in his time, than the continual ridicule which his habit and dress afforded to the beaux of Rome:

*' Quid, quod materiam præbet causasque iocorum
Omnibus hic idem: si fuda et scæna laccræ,
Si toga sordidula est, et rupta calceus alter
Pelle patet, vel in conspectu vulnere crassum
Alque recens linum ostendit non una cicatrix.'*

JUV. Sat. iii. ver. 157.

'Add that the rich have still a gibe in store,
And will be monstrous witty on the poor;
For the torn surcoat, and the tatter'd vest,
The wretch and all his wardrobe are a jest;
The greasy gown, sully'd with often turning,
Gives a good hint to say the man's in mourning;
Or if the shoe beript, or patch is put,
He's wounded, see the plaster on his foot.'

DRYDEN.

It is on this occasion that he afterwards adds the reflection which I have chosen for my motto:

'What is the scorn of ev'ry wealthy fool
And wit in rags is turn'd to ridicule.'

DRYDEN.

It must be confessed, that few things make a man appear more despicable, or more prejudicial to his hearers against what he is going to offer, than an awkward or pitiful dress; inasmuch that I fancy had Tully himself pronounced one of his orations with a blanket about his shoulders, more people would have laughed at his dress than have admired his eloquence. This last reflection made me wonder at a set of men, who, without being subjected to it by the unkindness of their fortunes, are contented to draw upon themselves the ridicule of the world in this particular. I mean such as take into their heads, that the first regular step to befalling wit is to commence a sloven. It is certain nothing has so much debased that, which must have been otherwise so great a character; and I know not how to account for it, unless it may possibly be a complaisance to those narrow minds who can have no notion of the same person's possessing different accomplishments; or that it is a sort of sacrifice which some men are contented to make to a clumsy, by allowing it to fasten on one part of their character, while they are endeavouring to establish another. Yet however unaccountable this foolish custom is, I am afraid it could play a long prescription; and probably gave too much occasion for the vulgar definition still remaining among us of an beaaten philosopher.

I have seen the speech of a *terra-filius*, spoken in King Charles the Second's reign; in which he describes two very eminent men, who were perhaps the greatest scholars of their age; and after having mentioned the entire friendship between them, concludes that 'they had but one mind, one purse, one chamber, and one hat.' The merry business were also infected with a sort of singularity little better than this. I have heard my

morning after profound sleep or indolent slumbers. He is not to be at ease any longer than he can keep reason and good sense without his curtains; otherwise he will be haunted with the reflection, that he could not believe such a one the woman that upon trial he found her. What has he got by his conquest, but to think meanly of her for whom a day or two before he had the highest honour? And of himself, for perhaps wronging the man whom of all men living he himself would least willingly have injured.

Pleasure seizes the whole man who addicts himself to it, and will not give him leisure for any good office in life which contradicts the gaiety of the present hour. You may indeed observe in people of pleasure a certain complacency and absence of all severity, which the habit of a loose unconcerned life gives them; but tell the man of pleasure your secret wants, cares, or sorrows, and you will find that he has given up the delicacy of his passions to the cravings of his appetites. He little knows the perfect joy he loses, for the disappointing gratifications which he pursues. He looks at pleasure as she approaches, and comes to him with the recommendation of warm wishes, gay looks, and graceful motion; but he does not observe how she leaves his presence with disorder, impotence, down-cast shame, and conscious imperfection. She makes our youth inglorious, our age shameful.

Will Honeycomb gives us twenty intimations in an evening of several hags whose bloom was given up to his arms, and would raise a value to himself for having had, as the phrase is, 'very good women.' Will's good women are the comfort of his heart, and support him, I warrant, by the memory of past interviews with persons of their condition. No, there is not in the world an occasion wherein vice makes so fantastical a figure, as at the meeting of two old people who have been partners in unwarrantable pleasure. To tell a toothless old lady that she once had a good set, or a defunct wench that he once was the admired thing of the town, are satires instead of apologies; but, on the other side, consider the old age of those who have passed their days in labour, industry, and virtue, their decays make them but appear the more venerable, and the imperfections of their bodies are beheld as a misfortune to human society that their make is so little durable.

But to return more directly to my man of wit and pleasure. In all orders of men, wherever this is the chief character, the person who wears it is a negligent friend, father, and husband, and entails poverty on his unhappy descendants. Mortgages, discons, and settlements, are the legacies a man of wit and pleasure leaves to his family. All the poor rogues that make such lamentable speeches after every sessions at Tyburn, were in their way, men of wit and pleasure before they fell into the adventures which brought them thither.

Irresolution and procrastination in all a man's affairs, are the natural effects of being addicted to pleasure. Dishonour to the gentleman and bankruptcy to the trader, are the portion of either whose chief purpose of life is delight. The chief cause that this pursuit has been in all ages received with so much quarter from the soberer part of mankind, has been that some men of great talents have sacrificed themselves to it. The shining qualities of such people have given a beauty to whatever they were engaged in, and a mixture of wit

has recommended madness. For let any man who knows what it is to have passed much time in a series of jollity, mirth, wit, or humourous entertainments, look back at what he was all that while doing, and he will find that he has been at an instant sharp to some man he is sorry to have offended, impertinent to some one it was cruelty to treat with such freedom, ungracefully noisy at such a time, unskillfully open at such a time, unmercifully calumnious at such a time; and from the whole course of his applauded satisfaction unable in the end to recollect any circumstance which can add to the enjoyment of his own mind alone, or which he would put his character up with other men. Thus it is with those who are best made for becoming pleasures; but how monstrous is it in the generality of mankind who pretend this way, without genius or inclination towards it! The scene then is wild to an extravagance; this is, as if fools should mimic madmen. Pleasure of this kind is the intemperate meals and loud jollity of the common rate of country gentlemen, who practice and way of enjoyment is to put an end fast as they can to that little particle of reason they have when they are sober. These men of wit and pleasure dispatch their senses as fast as possible by drinking till they cannot taste, smoking till they cannot see, and roaring till they cannot hear.

STABLE.

T.

Nº 152. FRIDAY, AUGUST 34, 1711.

Οὐκ ὡς φύλλον γίνεαι, τοῦδε καὶ ἀνθρώπου.

HOM. II. vii. 157.

Like leaves on trees the race of man is found.

POPE.

THERE is no sort of people whose conversation is pleasant as that of military men, who derive the courage and magnanimity from thought and reflection. The many adventures which attend their way of life makes their conversation so full of incidents and gives them so frank an air in speaking of what they have been witnesses of, that no company can be more amiable than that of men of sense who are soldiers. There is a certain irregular way in their narrations or discourse, which has something more warm and pleasing than we meet with among men who are used to adjust and methodize their thoughts.

I was this evening walking in the fields with my friend Captain Sentry, and I could not from many relations which I drew him into of what passed when he was in the service, forbear expressing my wonder, that the 'fear of death,' which we, the rest of mankind, arm ourselves against with so much contemplation, reason, and philosophy, should appear so little in camps, that common men march into open breaches, meet opposing battalions, not only without reluctance but with alacrity. My friend answered what I said in the following manner: 'What you wonder at may very naturally be the subject of admiration to a who are not conversant in camps; but when a man has spent some time in that way of life, he acquires a certain mechanic courage which the ordinary race of men become masters of from action always in a crowd. They see indeed many die; but then they see many more alive; they observe themselves escape very narrowly, and they do not know why they should not again. Besides this general way of loose thinking, they usually spend the other part of their time in pleasures up

which their minds are so entirely bent, that short labours or dangers are but a cheap purchase of jollity, triumph, victory, fresh quarters, new scenes, and uncommon adventures. Such are the thoughts of the executive part of an army, and indeed of the gross of mankind in general; but none of these men of mechanical courage have ever made any great figure in the profession of arms. Those who are formed for command, are such as have reasoned themselves, out of a consideration of greater good than length of days, into such a negligence of their being, as to make it their first position, That it is one day to be resigned; and since it is in the prosecution of worthy actions and service of mankind, they can put it to habitual hazard. The event of our designs they say, as it relates to others, is uncertain; but as it relates to ourselves it must be prosperous, while we are in the pursuit of our duty, and within the terms upon which providence has insured our happiness, whether we die or live. All that nature has prescribed must be good; and a death is natural to us, it is an absurdity to fear it. Fear loses its purpose when we are sure it cannot preserve us, and we should draw resolution to meet it from the impossibility to escape it. Without a resignation to the necessity of dying, there can be no capacity in man to attempt any thing that is glorious: but when they have once attained to that perfection, the pleasures of a life spent in martial adventures, are as great as any of which the human mind is capable. The force of reason gives a certain beauty, mixed with the conscience of well-doing and thirst of glory, to all which before was terrible and ghastly to the imagination. Add to this, that the fellowship of danger, the common good of mankind, the general cause, and the manifest virtue you may observe in many men, who made no figure till that day, are so many incentives to destroy the little consideration of their own persons. Such are the heroic part of soldiers who are qualified for leaders. As to the rest whom I before spoke of, I know not how it is, but they arrive at a certain habit of being void of thought, inasmuch that on occasion of the most imminent danger they are still in the same indifference. Nay, I remember an instance of a *Frenchman**, who was led on in battle by a superior officer, (whose conduct it was his custom to speak of always with contempt and raillery) and in the beginning of the action received a wound he was sensible was mortal; his reflection on this occasion was, 'I wish I could live another hour, to see how this blundering coxcomb will get clear of this business.'

'I remember two young fellows who rid in the same squadron of a troop of horse, who were ever together; they eat, they drank, they intrigued; in a word, all their passions and affections seemed to tend the same way, and they appeared serviceable to each other in them. We were in the dusk of the evening to march over a river, and the troop these gentlemen belonged to were to be transported in a ferry-boat, as fast as they could. One of the friends was now in the boat, while the other was tugging up with others by the water-side, waiting the return of the boat. A disorder happened in the passage by an unruly horse; and a gentleman who had the reins of his horse negligently under his arm, was forced into the water by his horse's jump-
over. The friend on the shore cried out, "Who

is that is drowned, trow?" He was immediately answered, "Your friend Harry Thompson." He very gravely replied, "Ay, he had a mad horse." This short epitaph from such a familiar; without more words, gave me, at that time, under twenty, a very moderate opinion of the friendship of companions. Thus is affection and every other motive of life in the generality rooted out by the present busy scene about them: they lament no man whose capacity can be supplied by another; and where men converse without delicacy, the next man you meet will serve as well as he whom you have lived with half your life. To such the devastation of countries, the misery of inhabitants, the cries of the pillaged, and the silent sorrow of the great unfortunate, are ordinary objects; their minds are bent upon the little gratifications of their own senses and appetites, forgetful of compassion, insensible of glory, avoiding only shame; their whole hearts taken up with the trivial hope of meeting and being merry. These are the people who make up the gross of the soldiery. But the fine gentleman in that band of men is such a one as I have now in my eye, who is foremost in all danger to which he is ordered. His officers are his friends and companions, as they are men of honour and gentlemen; the private men his brethren, as they are of his species. He is beloved of all that behold him. They wish him in danger as he views their ranks, that they may have occasions to save him at their own hazard. Mutual love is the order of the files where he commands; every man afraid for himself and his neighbour, not lest their commander should punish them, but lest he should be offended. Such is his regiment who knows mankind, and feels their distresses so far as to prevent them. Just in distributing what is their due, he would think himself below their tailor to wear a snip of their clothes in lace upon his own; and below the most rapacious agent, should he enjoy a farthing above his own pay. Go on, brave man, immortal glory is thy fortune, and immortal happiness thy reward*.

STEEL.

T.

N° 153. SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1711.

Habet natura ut altissimum omnium rerum sic videndi modum; senectus autem peractio estis ut tanquam fabula. Cujus defatigationem fugere debemus praesertim adjuncta satietate.

TULL de Senect.

Life, as well as all other things, has its bounds assigned by nature; and its conclusion, like the last act of a play, is old age, the fatigue of which we ought to shun, especially when our appetites are fully satisfied.

Of all the impertinent wishes which we hear expressed in conversation, there is not one more unworthy a gentleman, or a man of liberal education, than that of wishing one's self younger. I have observed this wish is usually made upon sight of some object which gives the idea of a past action, that it is no dishonour to us that we cannot now repeat; or else on what was in itself shameful when we performed it. It is a certain sign of a foolish or a dissolute mind, if we want our youth again only for the strength of bones and sinews which we once were masters of. It is (as my author has it) as absurd in an old man to wish for the strength of a

* This was the Chevalier de Flourilles, or Lieutenant-general under the Prince of Condé, at the drawn battle of Senet, a *balais*, 1674.

* This character has been supposed to allude to Lieutenant-general Cornelius Wood, mentioned by Prior, in his 'Letter to Monsieur Boileau Despreaux, occasioned by the victory of Blenheim, 1704,' with the epithet, 'honest Wood.'

youth, as it would be in a young man to wish for the strength of a bull or a horse. These wishes are both equally out of nature, which should direct in all things that are not contradictory to justice, law, and reason. But though every old man has been young, and every young one hopes to be old, there seems to be a most unnatural misunderstanding between those two stages of life. This unhappy want of commerce arises from the insolent arrogance or exultation in youth, and the irrational despondence or self-pity in age. A young man whose passion and ambition is to be good and wise, and an old one who has no inclination to be lewd or debauched, are quite unconcerned in this speculation; but the cocking young fellow who treads upon the toes of his elders, and the old fool who envies the saucy pride he sees him in, are the objects of our present contempt and derision. Contempt and derision are harsh words; but in what manner can one give advice to a youth in the pursuit and possession of sensual pleasures, or afford pity to an old man in the impotence and desire of enjoying them? When young men in public places betray in their deportment an abandoned resignation to their appetites, they give to sober minds a prospect of a despicable age, which, if not interrupted by death in the midst of their follies, must certainly come. When an old man bewails the loss of such gratifications which are passed, he discovers a monstrous inclination to that which it is not in the course of Providence to recal. The state of an old man, who is dissatisfied merely for his being such, is the most out of all measures of reason and good sense of any being we have any account of from the highest angel to the lowest worm. How miserable is the contemplation to consider a libidinous old man (while all created beings, besides himself and devils, are following the order of Providence) fretting at the course of things, and being almost the sole malecontent in the creation. But let us a little reflect upon what he has lost by the number of years. The passions which he had in youth are not to be obeyed as they were then, but reason is more powerful now without the disturbance of them. An old gentleman the other day, in discourse with a friend of his (reflecting upon some adventures they had in youth together) cried out, 'Oh Jack, those were happy days!'—That is true, replied his friend, 'but methinks we go about our business more quietly than we did then.' One would think it should be no small satisfaction to have gone so far in our journey that the heat of the day is over with us. When life itself is a fever, as it is in licentious youth, the pleasures of it are no other than the dreams of a man in that distemper; and it is as absurd to wish the return of that season of life, as for a man in health to be sorry for the loss of gilded palaces, fairy walks, and flowery pastures, with which he remembers he was entertained in the troubled slumbers of a fit of sickness.

As to all the rational and worthy pleasures of our being, the conscience of a good fame, the contemplation of another life, the respect and commerce of honest men, our capacities for such enjoyments are enlarged by years. While health endures, the latter part of life, in the eye of reason, is certainly the more eligible. The memory of a well-spent youth gives a peaceable, unmixed, and elegant pleasure to the mind; and to such who are so unfortunate as not to be able to look back on youth with satisfaction, they may give themselves no little consolation that they are under no temptation to repeat their follies, and that they at present despise them. It was prettily said, 'He

that would be long an old man, must begin early to be one.' It is too late to resign a thing after man is robbed of it; therefore it is necessary to before the arrival of age, we bid adieu to the pursuits of youth, otherwise sensual habits will live on our imaginations, when our limbs cannot be so servient to them. The poor fellow who lost his last siege, will tell you, he feels the fingers of age buried in Flanders ache every cold morning Chelsea.

The fond humour of appearing in the gay and fashionable world, and being applauded for trivial excellencies, is what makes youth have age in contempt, and makes age resign with so ill a grace the qualifications of youth: but this in both sexes inverting all things, and turning the natural course of our minds, which should build their appetitions and dislikes upon what nature and reason dictate, into chimera and confusion.

Age in a virtuous person, of either sex, carries in it an authority which makes it preferable to the pleasures of youth. If to be saluted, attended and consulted with deference, are instances of pleasure, they are such as never fail a virtuous old age. In the enumeration of the imperfections and advantages of the younger and later years of man they are so near in their condition, that, methinks it should be incredible we see so little commercial kindness between them. If we consider youth as age with Tully, regarding the affinity to death, youth has many more chances to be near it than age; what youth can say more than an old man 'he shall live till night?' Youth catches distempers more easily, its sickness is more violent, and recovery more doubtful. The youth indeed lives for many more days, so cannot the old man. Youth's hopes are ill-grounded; for what is so foolish than to place any confidence upon an uncertainty? But the old man has not room so much as for hope; he is still happier than the youth, who has already enjoyed what the other does but hopes for. One wishes to live long, the other has lived long. But alas! is there any thing in human life the duration of which can be called long? There is nothing which must end, to be valued for continuance. If hours, days, months, and years pass away, it is no matter what hour, what day, what month, or what year we die. The applause of a good actor is due to him at whatever scene the play he makes his art. It is thus in the life of a man of sense, a short life is sufficient to manifest himself a man of honour and virtue; while he ceases to be such, he has lived too long; and while he is such, it is of no consequence to him how long he shall be so, provided he is so to the end of his life.

STEEL.

N° 154. MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 1711.

Nemo repente fuit turpissimus.

JUV. Sat. li. ver. 11.

No man e'er reach'd the heights of vice at first.

TATE.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'You are frequent in the mention of matters which concern the feminine world, and take upon you to be very severe against men upon all those occasions; but all this while I am afraid you have been very little conversant with women, or you would know the generality of them are not so angry as you imagine at the general vices and

me. I am apt to believe (begging your pardon) that you are still what I myself was once, a queer modest fellow; and therefore, for your information, shall give you a short account of myself, and the reasons why I was forced to wench, drink, play, and do every thing which are necessary to the character of a man of wit and pleasure*, to be well with the ladies.

'You are to know then that I was bred a gentleman, and had the finishing part of my education under a man of great probity, wit, and learning, in one of our universities. I will not deny but this made my behaviour and mien bear in it a figure of thought rather than action; and a man of a quite contrary character, who never thought in his life, rallied me one day upon it, and said, "he believed I was still a virgin." There was a young lady of virtue present, and I was not displeased to favour the insinuation; but it had a quite contrary effect from what I expected. I was ever after treated with great coldness, both by that lady and all the rest of my acquaintance. In a very little time I never came into a room but I could hear a whisper, "Here comes the maid." A girl of humour would on some occasion say, "Why, how do you know more than any of us?" An expression of that kind was generally followed by a loud laugh. In a word, for no other fault in the world than that they really thought me as innocent as themselves, I became of no consequence among them, and was received always upon the foot of a jest. This made so strong an impression upon me, that I resolved to be as agreeable as the best of the men who laughed at me; but I observed it was nonsense for me to be impudent at first among those who knew me. My character for modesty was so notorious wherever I had hitherto appeared, that I resolved to show my new face in new quarters of the world. My first step I chose with judgment; for I went to Astrop†, and came down among a crowd of academics, at one dash, the impudent fellow they had ever seen in their lives. Flushed with this success, I made love and was happy. Upon this conquest I thought it would be unlike a gentleman to stay long with my mistress, and crossed the country to Bury‡. I could give you a very good account of myself at that place also. At these two ended my first summer of gallantry. The winter following, you would wonder at it, but I relapsed into modesty upon coming among people of figure in London, yet not so much but that the ladies who had formerly laughed at me, said, 'Bless us! how wonderfully that gentleman is improved!' Some familiarities about the play-houses towards the end of the ensuing winter, made me conceive new hopes of adventures. And instead of returning the next summer to Astrop or Bury, I thought myself qualified to go to Epsom, and followed a young woman, whose relations were jealous of my place in her favour, to Scarborough. I carried my point, and in my third year aspired to go to Tunbridge, and in the autumn of the same year made my appearance at Bath. I was now got into the way of talk proper for ladies, and was run into a vast acquaintance among them, which I always improved to the best ad-

vantage. In all this course of time, and some years following, I found a sober modest man was always looked upon by both sexes as a precise unfashioned fellow of no life or spirit. It was ordinary for a man who had been drunk in good company, or passed a night with a wench, to speak of it next day before women for whom he had the greatest respect. He was reproved, perhaps, with a blow of the fan, or an "Oh fy!" but the angry lady still preserved an apparent approbation in her countenance. He was called a strange wicked fellow, a sad wretch; he shrugs his shoulders, swears, receives another blow, swears again he did not know he swore, and all was well. You might often see men game in the presence of women, and throw at once for more than they were worth, to recommend themselves as men of spirit. I found by long experience, that the loosest principles and most abandoned behaviour carried all before them in pretensions to women of fortune. The encouragement given to people of this stamp, made me soon throw off the remaining impressions of a sober education. In the above-mentioned places, as well as in towns, I always kept company with those who lived most at large; and in due process of time I was a pretty rake among the men, and a very pretty fellow among the women. I must confess, I had some melancholy hours upon the account of the narrowness of my fortune, but my conscience at the same time gave me the comfort that I had qualified myself for marrying a fortune.

'When I had lived in this manner for some time, and became thus accomplished, I was now in the twenty-seventh year of my age, about the forty-seventh of my constitution, my health and estate wasting very fast; when I happened to fall into the company of a very pretty young lady in her own disposal. I entertained the company, as we men of gallantry generally do, with the many haps and disasters, watchings under windows, escapes from jealous husbands, and several other perils. The young thing was wonderfully charmed with one that knew the world so well, and talked so fine; with Deademona, all her lover said affected her; "it was strange, it was wondrous strange." In a word, I saw the impression I had made upon her, and with a very little application the pretty thing has married me. There is so much charm in her innocence and beauty, that I do now as much detest the course I have been in for many years, as I ever did before I entered into it.

'What I intend, Mr. Spectator, by writing all this to you, is that you would, before you go any further with your panegyrics on the fair sex, give them some lectures upon their silly approbations. It is that I am weary of vice, and that it was not my natural way, that I am now so far recovered as not to bring this believing dear creature to contempt and poverty for her generosity to me. At the same time, tell the youth of good education of our sex, that they take too little care of improving themselves in little things. A good air at entering into a room, a proper audacity in expressing himself with gaiety and gracefulness, would make a young gentleman of virtue and sense capable of discountenancing the shallow impudent rogues that shine among the women.

'Mr. Spectator, I do not doubt but you are a very sagacious person, but you are so great with Tully of late, that I fear you will condemn these things as matters of no consequence: but believe

* See No 151.

† Astrop-wells, in the parish of King's Sutton, in Oxfordshire.

‡ Bury-fair: a place at that time, and long before, resorted to by persons of fashion and pleasure. It gives the title to one of Shadwell's comedies, of which the scene is laid there.

me, sir, they are of the highest importance to human life; and if you can do any thing towards opening fair eyes, you will lay an obligation upon all your contemporaries who are fathers, husbands, or brothers to females.

'Your most affectionate humble servant,
'SIMON HONEYCOMB.'

STEELE.

T.

N^o 155. TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1711.

— *He ruga ocria ducunt*
In mala—

HOR. Ars-Poet. ver. 451.

These things, which now seem frivolous and slight,
Will prove of serious consequence.
ROSCOMMON.

I HAVE more than once taken notice of an indecent licence taken in discourse, wherein the conversation on one part is involuntary, and the effect of some necessary circumstance. This happens in travelling together in the same hired coach, sitting near each other in any public assembly, or the like. I have, upon making observations of this sort, received innumerable messages from that part of the fair sex whose lot in life is to be of any trade or public way of life. They are all, to a woman, urgent with me to lay before the world the unhappy circumstances they are under, from the unreasonable liberty which is taken in their presence, to talk on what subject it is thought fit by every coxcomb who wants understanding or breeding. One or two of these complaints I shall set down.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I KEEP a coffee-house, and am one of those whom you have thought fit to mention as an Idol some time ago'. I suffered a good deal of raillery upon that occasion; but shall heartily forgive you, who are the cause of it, if you will do me justice in another point. What I ask of you is, to acquaint my customers (who are otherwise very good ones) that I am unavoidably harped in my bar, and cannot help hearing the improper discourses they are pleased to entertain me with. They strive who shall say the most immodest things in my hearing. At the same time half a dozen of them loiter at the bar staring just in my face, ready to interpret my looks and gestures according to their own imaginations. In this passive condition I know not where to cast my eyes, place my hands, or what to employ myself in. But this confusion is to be a jest, and I hear them say in the end, with an insipid air of mirth and subtlety, "Let her alone, she knows as well as we, for all she looks so." Good Mr. Spectator, persuade gentlemen that it is out of all decency. Say it is possible a woman may be modest and yet keep a public-house. Be pleased to argue, that in truth the affront is the more unpardonable because I am obliged to suffer it, and cannot fly from it. I do assure you, sir, the cheerfulness of life, which would arise from the honest gain I have, is utterly lost to me, from the endless, flat, impertinent pleasantries which I hear from morning to night. In a word, it is too much for me to bear; and I desire you to acquaint them, that I will keep pen and ink at the bar, and write down all they say to me, and send it to you for the press. It is possible when they see how empty

what they speak, without the advantage of an impudent countenance and gesture, will appear, they may come to some sense of themselves, and the insults they are guilty of towards me.

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant,
'THE IDOL.'

This representation is so just, that it is hard to speak of it without an indignation which perhaps would appear too elevated to such as can be guilty of this inhuman treatment, where they see the affront a modest, plain, and ingenious behaviour. This correspondent is not the only sufferer in this kind, for I have long letters both from the Royal and New-Exchange on the same subject. They tell me that a young fop cannot buy a pair of gloves, but he is at the same time straining for some ingenious ribaldry to say to the young woman who helps them on. It is no small addition to the calamity, that the rogues buy as hard as the plaines and modest customers they have; besides which they loiter upon their counters half an hour longer than they need, to drive away other customers who are to share their impertinencies with the milliner, or go to another shop. Letters from 'Change alley are full of the same evil; and the girls tell me, except I can chase some eminent merchant from their shops they shall in a short time fail. It is very unaccountable, that men can have so little deference to all mankind who pass by them, as to bear being seen toying by twos and threes at a time, with no other purpose but to appear gay enough to keep up a light conversation of common place jests, to the injury of her who's credit is certainly hurt by it, though their own may be strong enough to bear it. When we come to have exact accounts of these conversations, it is not to be doubted but that their discourses will raise the usual style of buying and selling. Instead of the plain downright lying, and asking and bidding so unequally to what they will really give and take, we may hope to have from these fine folks an exchange of compliments. There must certainly be a great deal of pleasant difference between the commerce of lovers, and that of all other dealers who are, in a kind, adversaries. A sealed bond or a bank-note, would be a pretty gallantry to convey unseen into the hands of one whom a director is charmed with; otherwise the city-loiterers are still more unreasonable than those at the other end of the town. At the New-Exchange they are eloquent for want of cash, but in the city they ought with cash to supply their want of eloquence.

If one might be serious on this prevailing folly one might observe, that it is a melancholy thing when the world is mercenary even to the buying and selling our very persons; that young women though they have never so great attractions from nature, are never the nearer being happily disposed of in marriage; I say, it is very hard under this necessity, it shall not be possible for them to go into a way of trade for their maintenance, but their very excellencies and personal perfection shall be a disadvantage to them, and subject them to be treated as if they stood there to sell their persons to prostitution. There cannot be a more melancholy circumstance to one who has made an observation in the world, than one of those erring creatures exposed to bankruptcy. When that happens, none of these toying fools will do any more than any other man they meet, to preserve her from infamy, insult, and disgrace. A woman is

* See the second letter in N^o 87.

naturally more helpless than the other sex; and a man of honour and sense should have this in his view in all manner of commerce with her. Were this well weighed, inconsideration, ribaldry, and nonsense, would not be more natural to entertain women with than men; and it would be as much impudence to go into a shop of one of these young women without buying, as into that of any other trader. I shall end this speculation with a letter I have received from a pretty milliner in the city.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I HAVE read your account of beauties*, and was not a little surprised to find no character of myself in it. I do assure you I have little else to do but to give audience as I am such. Here are merchants of no small consideration, who call in as certainly as they go to 'Change, to say something of my rough eye. And here is one who makes me once or twice a week tumble over all my goods, and then owns it was only a gallantry to see me act with these pretty hands; then lays out three-pence in a little riband for his wristbands, and thinks he is a man of great vivacity. There is an ugly thing not far off me, whose shop is frequented only by people of business, that is all day long as busy as possible. Must I that am a beauty be treated with for nothing but my beauty? Be pleased to assign rates to my kind glances, or make all pay who come to see me, or I shall be undone by my admirers for want of customers. Albacinda, Eudocia, and all the rest, would be used just as we are, if they were in our condition; therefore pray consider the distress of us the lower order of beauties, and I shall be

* Your obliged humble servant.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 156. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1711.

*Sed tu simul obligasti,
Perfidum votis caput, antro
Pulchrior multo*

HOR. Od. viii. l. 2. ver. 5.

—But thou

Since perjur'd, dost more charming grow.

DUKE.

I do not think any thing could make a pleasanter entertainment, than the history of the reigning favourites among the women from time to time about this town. In such an account we ought to have a faithful confession of each lady for what she liked such and such a man, and he ought to tell us by what particular action or dress he believed he should be most successful. As for my part, I have always made as easy a judgment when a man dresses for the ladies, as when he is equipped for hunting or coursing. The woman's man is a person in his air and behaviour quite different from the rest of our species. His garb is more loose and negligent, his manner more soft and indolent; that is to say, in both these cases there is an apparent endeavour to appear unconcerned and careless. In catching birds the fowlers have a method of imitating their voices, to bring them to the snare; and your women's men have always a similitude of the creature they hope to betray, in their own conversation. A woman's man is very knowing in all that passes from one family to another, has little pretty officiousnesses, is not at a loss what is

good for a cold, and it is not amiss if he has a bottle of spirits in his pocket in case of any sudden indisposition.

Curiosity having been my prevailing passion, and indeed the sole entertainment of my life, I have sometimes made it my business to examine the course of intrigues as well as the manners and accomplishments of such as have been most successful that way. In all my observation, I never knew a man of good understanding a general favourite; some singularity in his behaviour, some whim in his way of life, and what would have made him ridiculous among the men, has recommended him to the other sex. I should be very sorry to offend a people so fortunate as these of whom I am speaking; but let any one look over the old beaux, and he will find the man of success was remarkable for quarrelling impertinently for their sakes, for dressing unlike the rest of the world, or passing his days in an insipid assiduity about the fair sex to gain the figure he made amongst them. Add to this that he must have the reputation of being well with other women, to please any one woman of gallantry; for you are to know, that there is a mighty ambition among the light part of the sex to gain slaves from the dominion of others. My friend Will Honeycomb says, it was a common bite* with him, to lay suspicions that he was favoured by a lady's enemy, that is, some rival beauty, to be well with herself. A little spite is natural to a great beauty: and it is ordinary to snap up a disagreeable fellow lest another should have him. That impudent toad Bareface fares well among all the ladies he converses with, for no other reason in the world but that he has the skill to keep them from explanation with one another. Did they know there is not one who likes him in her heart, each would declare her scorn of him the next moment; but he is well received by them because it is the fashion, and opposition to each other brings them insensibly into an imitation of each other. What adds to him the greatest grace is, that the pleasant thief, as they call him, is the most-inconstant creature living, has a wonderful deal of wit and humour, and never wants something to say; besides all which, he has a most spiteful dangerous tongue if you should provoke him.

To make a woman's man, he must not be a man of sense, or a fool; the business is to entertain, and it is much better to have a faculty of arguing, than a capacity of judging right. But the pleasantest of all the women's equipage are your regular visitants: these are volunteers in their service, without hopes of pay or preferment. It is enough that they can lead out from a public place, that they are admitted on a public day, and can be allowed to pass away part of that heavy load, their time, in the company of the fair. But commend me above all others to those who are known for your ruiners of ladies; these are the choicest spirits which our age produces. We have several of these irresistible gentlemen among us when the company is in town. These fellows are accomplished with the knowledge of the ordinary occurrences about court and town, have that sort of good-breeding which is exclusive of all morality, and consists only in being publicly decent, privately dissolute.

It is wonderful how far a fond opinion of herself can carry a woman, to make her have the least regard to a professed known woman's man; but as scarce one of all the women who are in the tour of

gallantries ever bears any thing of what is the common sense of sober minds, but are entertained with a continual round of flatteries, they cannot be mistresses of themselves enough to make arguments for their own conduct from the behaviour of these men to others. It is so far otherwise, that a general fame of falsehood in this kind, is a recommendation; and the coxcomb, loaded with the favours of many others, is received like a victor that disdains his trophies, to be a victim to the present charmer.

If you see a man more full of gesture than ordinary in a public assembly, if loud upon no occasion, if negligent of the company round him, and yet laying wait for destroying by that negligence, you may take it for granted that he has ruined many a fair one. The woman's man expresses himself wholly in that motion which we call strutting. An elevated chest, a pinched hat, a measurable step, and a sly surveying eye, are the marks of him. Now and then you see a gentleman with all these accomplishments; but, alas, any one of them is enough to undo thousands: when a gentleman with such perfections adds to it suitable learning, there should be public warning of his residence in town, that we may remove our wives and daughters. It happens sometimes that such a fine man has read all the miscellany poems, a few of our comedies, and has the translation of Ovid's epistles by heart. 'Oh, if it were possible that such a one could be as true as he is charming! but that is too much; the women will share such a dear false man: a little gallantry to hear him talk one would indulge one's self in, let him reckon the sticks of one's fan, say something of the Cupids in it; and then call one so many soft names which a man of his learning has at his fingers' ends. There sure is some excuse for frailty, when attacked by such force against a weak woman.' Such is the soliloquy of many a lady one might name, at the sight of one of these, who makes it no iniquity to go on from day to day in the sin of woman-daughter.

It is certain that people are got into a way of affectation, with a manner of overlooking the most solid virtues, and admiring the most trivial excellencies. The woman is so far from expecting to be contemned for being a very injudicious silly animal, that while she can preserve her features and her mien, she knows she is still the object of desire; and there is a sort of secret ambition, from reading frivolous books, and keeping as frivolous company, each side to be amiable in imperfection, and arrive at the characters of the Dear Deceiver and the Perjured Fair.

STEELE.

T.

* In the folio edition the following note is appended to this paper: Mr. Spectator gives his most humble service to Mr. R. M. of Chippenham, in Wilts, and hath received the partridge.

N° 157. THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1711.

*Genius, natale comes qui temperat aurum,
Natura Deus humane, mortalis in unum.
Quodque caput*

HOR 2 Ep. li. 197.

IMITATED.

— That directing pow'r,
Who forms the genius in the natal hour:
That God of nature, who, within us still,
Inclines our action, not constrains our will.

POPE.

I AM very much at a loss to express by any word that occurs to me in our language that which is

understood by *Indoles* in Latin. The natural disposition to any particular art, science, profession, or trade, is very much to be consulted in the care of youth, and studied by men for their own conduct when they form to themselves any scheme of life. It is wonderfully hard indeed for a man to judge of his own capacity impartially. That may look great to me which may appear little to another; and I may be carried by fondness towards myself so far, as to attempt things too high for my talents and accomplishments. But it is not, methinks, so very difficult a matter to make a judgment of the abilities of others, especially of those who are in their infancy. My common-place book directs me on this occasion to mention the dawning of greatness in Alexander, who being asked in his youth to contend for a prize in the Olympic games, answered he would, if he had kings to run against him. Cæsius, who was one of the conspirators against Cæsar, gave as great a proof of his temper, when in his childhood he struck a play-fellow, the son of Sylla, for saying his father was master of the Roman people. Scipio is reported to have answered (when some flatterers at supper were asking him what the Romans should do for a general after his death) 'Take Marius.' Marius was then a very boy, and had given no instances of his valour; but it was visible to Scipio, from the manners of the youth, that he had a soul formed for the attempt and execution of great undertakings. I must confess I have very often with much sorrow bewailed the misfortune of the children of Great-Britain, when I consider the ignorance and undiscerning of the generality of schoolmasters. The boasted liberty we talk of is but a mean reward for the long servitude, the many heart-ache and terror, to which our childhood is exposed in going through a grammar-school. Many of these stupid tyrants exercise their cruelty without any manner of distinction of the capacities of children or the intention of parents in their behalf. There are many excellent tempers which are worthy to be nourished and cultivated with all possible diligence and care, that were never designed to be acquainted with Aristotle, Tully, or Virgil; and there are as many who have capacities for understanding every word those great persons have writ and yet were not born to have any relish of their writings. For want of this common and obvious discerning in those who have the care of youth we have so many hundred unaccountable creature every age whipped up into great scholars, that are for ever near a right understanding, and will never arrive at it. These are the scandal of letters and these are generally the men who are to teach others. The sense of shame and honour is enough to keep the world itself in order without corporal punishment, much more to train the minds of us corrupted and innocent children. It happens, doubt not, more than once in a year, that a lad is chastised for a blockhead, when it is good apprehension that makes him incapable of knowing what his teacher means. A brisk imagination very often may suggest an error; which a lad could not have fallen into, if he had been as heavy in conjecturing as his master in explaining. But there is no mercy even towards a wrong interpretation of his meaning, the sufferings of the scholar's body as to rectify the mistakes of his mind.

I am confident that no boy who will not be a lured to letters without blows, will ever be brought to any thing with them. A great or good man must necessarily be the worse for such indignities; and it is a sad change to lose of its virtue for th

to make Zoilus excuse himself for being fond of her; and to make every man in good commerce with his own reflections, you had done something worthy our applause; but, indeed, sir, we shall not commend you for disapproving us. I have a great deal more to say to you, but I shall sum it up all in this one remark. In short, sir, you do not write like a gentleman.

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THE other day we were several of us at a tea-table, and, according to custom, and your own advice, had the Spectator read among us. It was that paper wherein you are pleased to treat with great freedom that character which you call a woman's man *. We gave up all the kinds you have mentioned, except those who, you say, are our constant visitants. I was upon the occasion commissioned by the company to write to you and tell you, 'that we shall not part with the men we have at present, until the men of sense think fit to relieve them, and give us their company in their stead.' You cannot imagine but that we love to hear reason and good sense better than the ribaldry we are at present entertained with; but we must have company, and among us very inconsiderable is better than none at all. We are made for the cements of society, and came into the world to create relations amongst mankind; and solitude is an unnatural being to us. If the men of good understanding would forget a little of their severity, they would find their account in it; and their wisdom would have a pleasure in it, to which they are now strangers. It is natural among us when men have a true relish of our company and our value, to say every thing with a better grace; and there is without designing it something ornamental in what men utter before women, which is lost or neglected in conversations of men only. Give me leave to tell you, sir, it would do you no great harm if you yourself came a little more into our company: it would certainly cure you of a certain positive and determining manner in which you talk sometimes. In hopes of your amendment,

'I am, sir,
'Your gentle reader.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'YOUR professed regard to the fair sex, may perhaps make them value your admonitions when they will not those of other men. I desire you, sir, to repeat some lectures upon subjects which you have now and then in a curious manner only just touched. I would have a Spectator wholly writ upon good-breeding; and after you have asserted that time and place are to be very much considered in all our actions, it will be proper to dwell upon behaviour at church. On Sunday last a grave and reverend man preached at our church. There was something particular in his accent, but without any manner of affectation. This particularity a set of gigglers thought the most necessary thing to be taken notice of in his whole discourse, and made it an occasion of mirth during the whole time of sermon. You should see one of them ready to burst behind a fan, another pointing to a companion in another seat, and a fourth with an arch composure, as if she would if possible stifle her laughter. There were many gentlemen who looked at them stedfastly, but this they

* No 156.

took for ogling and admiring them. There was one of the merry ones in particular, that found out but just then that she had but five fingers, for she fell a reckoning the pretty piques of ivory over and over again, to find herself employment, and a laugh out. Would it not be expedient, Mr. Spectator, that the churchwarden should hold up a wand on these occasions, and keep the decency the place, as a magistrate does the peace in a tumult elsewhere?

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a woman's man, and read with a very & lady your paper *, wherein you fall upon us who you envy: what do you think I did? Yes, you know she was dressing, I read the Spectator her, and she laughed at the places where I thought I was touched; I threw away your mon and taking up her girdle, cried out,

'Give me but what this riband bound,
Take all the rest the sun goes round &.'

'She smiled, sir, and said you were a pedant so say of me what you please, read Seneca, and quote him against me if you think fit.

'I am, sir,
'Your humble servant.'

STEEL

T.

Nº 150. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1711

— *Omnes, quæ nunc obducta tuerent
Mortales hebetat visu; tibi, et humida circum
Caligat, nubem eripiam* —

VIRG. ÆN. II. ver. 664.

The cloud, which, intercepting the clear light,
Hangs o'er thy eyes, and blunts thy mortal sight,
I will remove —

WHEN I WAS at Grand Cairo †, I picked up several oriental manuscripts, which I have still in me. Among others I met with one entitled, *The Visions of Mirza*, which I have read over with great pleasure. I intend to give it to the public when I have no other entertainment for them; I shall begin with the first vision, which I have translated word for word as follows:

'On the fifth day of the moon, which according to the custom of my forefathers I always kept holy, after having washed myself, and offered my morning devotions, I ascended the high hills of Bagdat, in order to pass the rest of the day in meditation and prayer. As I was here airing myself on the tops of the mountains, I fell into a profound contemplation on the vanity of human life and passing from one thought to another, "Silly," said I, "man is but a shadow, and life a dream." Whilst I was thus musing, I cast my eye towards the summit of a rock that was not far from me, where I discovered one in the habit of shepherd, with a little musical instrument in his hand. As I looked upon him he applied it to his lips, and began to play upon it. The sound of was exceeding sweet, and wrought into a variety of tunes that were inexpressibly melodious, altogether different from any thing I had ever heard. They put me in mind of those heavenly airs that are played to the departed souls of good men upon their first arrival in Paradise, to we

* No 156.
† Waller's verses on a Girdle
‡ See No 1.

out the impressions of the last agonies, and qualify them for the pleasures of that happy place. My heart melted away in secret raptures.

"I had been often told that the rock before me was the haunt of a Genius; and that several had been entertained with music who had passed by it, but never heard that the musician had before made himself visible. When he had raised my thoughts by those transporting airs which he played, to taste the pleasures of his conversation, as I looked upon him like one astonished, he beckoned to me, and by the waving of his hand directed me to approach the place where he sat. I drew near with that reverence which is due to a superior nature; and as my heart was entirely subdued by the captivating strains I had heard, I fell down at his feet and wept. The Genius smiled upon me with a look of compassion and affability that familiarized him to my imagination, and at once dispelled all the fears and apprehensions with which I approached him. He lifted me from the ground, and taking me by the hand, "Mirza," said he, "I have heard thee in thy soliloquies; follow me."

"He then led me to the highest pinnacle of the rock, and placing me on the top of it, "Cast thy eyes eastward," said he, "and tell me what thou seest."—"I see," said I, "a huge valley, and a prodigious tide of water rolling through it."—"The valley that thou seest," said he, "is the Vale of Weary, and the tide of water that thou seest is part of the great tide of Eternity."—"What is the reason," said I, "that the tide I see rises out of a thick mist at one end, and again loses itself in a thick mist at the other?"—"What thou seest," said he, "is that portion of eternity which is called time, measured out by the sun, and reaching from the beginning of the world to its consummation. Examine now," said he, "this sea that is bounded with darkness at both ends, and tell me what thou discoverest in it."—"I see a bridge," said I, "standing in the midst of the tide."—"The bridge thou seest," said he, "is Human Life: consider it attentively." Upon a more narrowly survey of it, I found that it consisted of three score and ten entire arches, with several broken arches, which, added to those that were entire, made up the number about an hundred. As I was counting the arches, the Genius told me that the bridge consisted at first of a thousand arches; but that a great flood swept away the rest, and left the bridge in the ruinous condition I now beheld it. "But tell me further," said he, "what thou discoverest on it."—"I see multitudes of people passing over it," said I, "and a black cloud hanging on each end of it." As I looked more attentively, I saw several of the passengers dropping through the bridge into the great tide that flowed underneath it; and upon further examination, perceived there were innumerable trap-doors that lay concealed in the bridge, which the passengers no sooner trod upon, but they fell through them into the tide, and immediately disappeared. These hidden pitfalls were set very thick at the entrance of the bridge, so that throngs of people no sooner broke through the cloud, but many of them fell into them. They grew thinner towards the middle, but multiplied and lay closer together towards the end of the arches that were entire.

There were indeed some persons, but their number was very small, that continued a kind of hobbling march on the broken arches, but fell through one after another, being quite tired and spent with so long a walk.

"I passed some time in the contemplation of this wonderful structure, and the great variety of objects which it presented. My heart was filled with a deep melancholy to see several dropping unexpectedly in the midst of mirth and jollity, and catching at every thing that stood by them to save themselves. Some were looking up towards heaven in a thoughtful posture, and in the midst of a speculation stumbled and fell out of sight. Multitudes were very busy in the pursuit of bubbles, that glittered in their eyes and danced before them: but often when they thought themselves within the reach of them, their footing failed, and down they sunk. In this confusion of objects, I observed some with scimitars in their hands, and others with urns, who ran to and fro upon the bridge, thrusting several persons on trap-doors which did not seem to lie in their way, and which they might have escaped, had they not been thus forced upon them.

"The Genius, seeing me indulge myself on this melancholy prospect, told me I had dwelt long enough upon it. "Take thine eyes off the bridge," said he, "and tell me if thou yet seest any thing thou dost not comprehend." Upon looking up, "What mean," said I, "those great flights of birds that are perpetually hovering about the bridge, and settling upon it from time to time? I see vultures, harpies, ravens, cormorants, and among many other feathered creatures, several little winged boys, that perch in great numbers upon the middle arches."—"These," said the Genius, "are Envy, Avarice, Superstition, Despair, Love, with the like cares and passions that infest human life."

"I here fetched a deep sigh. "Alas," said I, "man was made in vain! how is he given away to misery and mortality! tortured in life, and swallowed up in death!" The Genius, being moved with compassion towards me, bid me quit so uncomfortable a prospect. "Look no more," said he, "on man in the first stage of his existence, in his setting out for eternity; but cast thine eye on that thick mist into which the tide bears the several generations of mortals that fall into it." I directed my sight as I was ordered, and (whether or no the good Genius strengthened it with any supernatural force, or dissipated part of the mist that was before too thick for the eye to penetrate) I saw the valley opening at the further end, and spreading forth into an immense ocean, that had a huge rock of adamant running through the midst of it, and dividing it into two equal parts. The clouds still rested on one half of it, inasmuch that I could discover nothing in it; but the other appeared to me a vast ocean planted with innumerable islands, that were covered with fruits and flowers, and interwoven with a thousand little shining seas that ran among them. I could see persons dressed in glorious habits with garlands upon their heads, passing among the trees, lying down by the sides of fountains, or resting on beds of flowers; and could hear a confused harmony of singing birds, falling waters, human voices, and musical instruments. Gladness grew in me upon the discovery of so delightful a scene. I wished for the wings of an eagle, that I might fly away to those happy seats; but the Genius told me there was no passage to them, except through the gates of death that I saw opening every moment upon the bridge. "The islands," said he, "that lie so fresh and green before thee, and with which the whole face of the ocean appears spotted as far as thou canst see, are more in number than the sands on the sea-shore; there are myriads of islands behind those which

thou here discoverest, reaching farther than thine eye, or even thine imagination, can extend itself. These are the mansions of good men after death, who, according to the degree and kinds of virtue in which they excelled, are distributed among these several islands, which abound with pleasures of different kinds and degrees, suitable to the reliques and perfections of those who are settled in them; every island is a paradise accommodated to its respective inhabitants. Are not these, O Mirza, habitations worth contending for? Does life appear miserable, that gives thee opportunities of earning such a reward? Is death to be feared, that will convey thee to so happy an existence? Think not man was made in vain, who has such an eternity reserved for him." I gazed with inexpressible pleasure on these happy islands. "At length," said I, "show me now, I beseech thee, the secrets that lie hid under those dark clouds which cover the ocean on the other side of the rock of adamant." The Genius making me no answer, I turned about to address myself to him a second time, but I found that he had left me; I then turned again to the vision which I had been so long contemplating; but instead of the rolling tide, the arched bridge, and the happy islands, I saw nothing but the long hollow valley of Bagdat, with oxen, sheep, and camels, grazing upon the sides of it.

The end of the first Vision of Mirza.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 160. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1711.

*Cui mens dionior, atque in
Magna somaturum, des nominis huius honorum.*
HOR. Sat. 4. l. 1. ver. 43.

— He alone can claim this name, who writes
With fancy high, and bold and daring flights.
CREECH.

There is no character more frequently given to a writer, than that of being a genius. I have heard many a little sonneteer called a fine genius. There is not an heroic scribbler in the nation, that has not his admirers who think him a great genius: and as for your smatterers in tragedy, there is scarce a man among them who is not cried up by one or other for a prodigious genius.

My design in this paper is, to consider what is properly a great genius, and to throw some thoughts together on so uncommon a subject.

Among great geniuses those few draw the admiration of all the world upon them, and stand up as the prodigies of mankind, who by the mere strength of natural parts, and without any assistance of art or learning, have produced works that were the delight of their own times, and the wonder of posterity. There appears something nobly wild and extravagant in these great natural geniuses that is infinitely more beautiful than all the turn and polishing of what the French call a *bel esprit*, by which they would express a genius refined by conversation, reflection, and the reading of the most polite authors. The greatest genius which runs through the arts and sciences, takes a kind of tincture from them, and falls unavoidably into imitation.

Many of these great natural geniuses that were never disciplined and broken by rules of art, are to be found among the ancients, and in particular among those of the more eastern parts of the world. Homer has innumerable flights that Virgil was not

able to reach, and in the Old Testament we find several passages more elevated and sublime than any in Homer. At the same time that we allow greater and more daring genius to the ancients, we must own that the greatest of them very much failed in, or, if you will, that they were much above the nicety and correctness of the moderns. In their similitudes and allusions, provided there was likeness, they did not much trouble themselves about the decency of the comparison: thus Solomon resembles the nose of his beloved to the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus; the coming of a thief in the night, is a similitude of the same kind in the New Testament*. It would be endless to make collections of this nature; Homer illustrates one of his heroes encompassed with the enemy, by an ass in a field of corn, that his sides belaboured by all the boys of the village without stirring a foot for it: and another of them tossing to and fro in his bed and burning with resentment, to a piece of flesh broiled on the coal. This particular failure in the ancients, opens a large field of railery to the little wits, who can laugh at an indecency, but not relish the sublime in these sorts of writings. The present Emperor of Persia, conformable to this eastern way of thinking, amidst a great many pompous titles, designates himself 'the son of glory,' and 'the source of delight.' In short, to cut off all cavilling against the ancients, and particularly those of the warmer climates, who had most heat and fire in their imagination, we are to consider that the rule of observing what the French call the *bienséance* in an allusion, has been found out of late years, and in the colder regions of the world where we would make some amends for our want of force and spirit, by a scrupulous nicety and exactness in our compositions. Our countryman Shakspeare was a remarkable instance of this fine kind of great geniuses.

I cannot quit this head without observing that Pindar was a great genius of the first class, who was hurried on by a natural fire and impetuosity to vast conceptions of things and noble sallies of imagination. At the same time, can any thing be more ridiculous, than for men of a sober and moderate fancy to imitate this poet's way of writing in those monstrous compositions which go among under the name or Pindarics? When I see people copying works, which, as Horace has represented them, are singular in their kind, and inimitable when I see men following irregularities by rule and by the little tricks of art straining after the most unbounded flights of nature, I cannot but apply to them that passage in Terence:

*Incerta hæc et tu postules
Ratione certa facere, nihil plus agas,
Quam et das operam, ut cum ratione insanias.*
EUN. Act. 1. Sc. 1.

* You may as well pretend to be mad and in your own way at the same time, as to think of reducing these uncertain things to any certainty by reason.

In short, a modern Pindaric writer, compared with Pindar, is like a sister among the Cambrans† compared with Virgil's Sibyl: there is the

* Song of Solomon, vii. 4. Matt. xxiv. 43, &c. 1 Thes. v.

† A set of French enthusiasts, who came into England about the year 1707. They called themselves French prophets, pretended to inspiration and the gift of miracles, and deluded many people out of their money as well as their reason; but they were soon detected as impostors; and, on the 18th of November, Elias Maron, John Aude, and Nicholas Facio, were convicted as impostors and disturbers of the public peace; and the rest of them soon quitted the kingdom. They were generally considered as Jesuits in disguise.

distortion, grimace, and outward figure, but nothing of that divine impulse which raises the mind above itself, and makes the sounds more than human.

There is another kind of great geniuses which I shall place in a second class, not as I think them inferior to the first, but only for distinction's sake, as they are of a different kind. This second class of great geniuses are those that have formed themselves by rules, and submitted the greatness of their natural talents to the corrections and restraints of art. Such among the Greeks were Plato and Aristotle; among the Romans, Virgil and Tully; among the English, Milton and Sir Francis Bacon.

The genius in both these classes of authors may be equally great, but shows itself after a different manner. In the first, it is like a rich soil in a happy climate, that produces a whole wilderness of noble plants rising in a thousand beautiful landscapes, without any certain order or regularity. In the other, it is the same rich soil under the same happy climate, that has been laid out in walks and parterres, and cut into shape and beauty by the skill of the gardener.

The great danger in these latter kind of geniuses, is, lest they cramp their own abilities too much by imitation, and form themselves altogether upon models, without giving the full play to their own natural parts. An imitation of the best authors is not to compare with a good original; and I believe we may observe, that very few writers make an extraordinary figure in the world, who have not something in their way of thinking or expressing themselves, that is peculiar to them, and entirely their own.

It is odd to consider what great geniuses are sometimes thrown away upon trifles.

I once saw a shepherd, says a famous Italian author, 'who used to divert himself in his solitudes with tossing up eggs, and catching them again without breaking them: in which he had arrived to so great a degree of perfection, that he would keep up four at a time for several minutes together playing in the air, and falling into his hand by turns. I think,' says the author, 'I never saw a greater severity than in this man's face; for by his wonderful perseverance and application, he had contracted the seriousness and gravity of a privy-counsellor; and I could not but reflect with myself, that the same assiduity and attention, had they been rightly applied, might have made him a greater mathematician than Archimedes.'

ADDRESS.

C.

N^o 161. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1711.

*Ipsæ diæ agitat festos: furusque per herbam,
Ipsæ ubi in medio et socii cratera coronant,
It libans, Lenæ, vocat: pecoribusque magistra
Vulci jaculi certamina ponit in ulmo,
Corporaque agresti nudat prædura palaestra.
Hanc olim veteres vitam coluere Sabini,
Hanc Remus et frater: sic fortis Etruria crevit,
Sicilis et rerum facta est pulcherrima Roma.*

VIRG. Georg. ii. ver. 537.

Himself, in rustic pomp, on holy-days,
To rural powers a just oblation pays;
And on the green his careless limbs displays;
The hearth is in the midst; the herdsman, round
The cheerful fire, provoke his health in goblets crown'd.
He calls on Bacchus, and propounds the prize,
The groom his fellow-groom at butts depies,
And bends his bow, and levels with his eyes:
Or stript for wrestling, smears his limbs with oil,
And watches with a trip his foe to foil.

Such was the life the frugal Sabines led;
So Remus and his brother god were bred:
From whom th' austere Etrurian virtue rose;
And this rude life our homely fathers chose;
Old Rome from such a race deriv'd her birth,
The seat of empire, and the conquer'd earth.
DRYDEN.

I AM glad that my late going into the country has increased the number of my correspondents, one of whom sends me the following letter:

SIR,

'THOUGH you are pleased to retire from us so soon into the city, I hope you will not think the affairs of the country altogether unworthy of your inspection for the future. I had the honour of seeing your short face at Sir Roger de Coverley's, and have ever since thought your person and writings both extraordinary. Had you staid there a few days longer, you would have seen a country wake, which you know in most parts of England is the eve-feast of the dedication of our churches. I was last week at one of these assemblies, which was held in a neighbouring parish; where I found their Green covered with a promiscuous multitude of all ages and both sexes, who esteem one another more or less the following part of the year, according as they distinguish themselves at this time. The whole company were in their holiday clothes, and divided into several parties, all of them endeavouring to show themselves in those exercises wherein they excelled, and to gain the approbation of the lookers-on.

'I found a ring of cudgel-players, who were breaking one another's heads, in order to make some impression on their mistresses' hearts. I observed a lusty young fellow, who had the misfortune of a broken pate; but what considerably added to the anguish of the wound was, his overhearing an old man, who shook his head and said, "That he questioned now if Black Kate would marry him these three years." I was diverted from a further observation of these combatants by a football match, which was on the other side of the Green: where Tom Short behaved himself so well, that most people seemed to agree, "it was impossible that he should remain a bachelor until the next wake." Having played many a match myself, I could have looked longer on this sport, had I not observed a country girl, who was posted on an eminence at some distance from me, and was making so many odd grimaces, and writhing and distorting her whole body in so strange a manner, as made me very desirous to know the meaning of it. Upon my coming up to her, I found that she was overlooking a ring of wrestlers, and that her sweetheart, a person of small stature, was contending with a huge brawny fellow, who twirled him about, and shook the little man so violently, that, by a secret sympathy of hearts, it produced all those agitations in the person of his mistress, who, I dare say, like Celia in Shakspeare, on the same occasion, could have wished herself "invisible to catch the strong fellow by the leg." The squire of the parish treats the whole company every year with a boghead of ale; and proposes a beaver hat as a recompense to him who gives most falls. This has raised such a spirit of emulation in the youth of the place, that some of them have rendered themselves very expert at this exercise; and I was often surprised to see a fellow's heels fly up, by a trip which was given him so smartly that I could scarce discern it. I found that the old

* As You Like it, Act. i. Sc. 2.

wrestlers seldom entered the ring until some one was grown formidable by having thrown two or three of his opponents; but kept themselves, as it were, in a reserved body to defend the hat, which is always hung up by the person who gets it in one of the most conspicuous parts of the house, and looked upon by the whole family as something redounding much more to their honour than a coat of arms. There was a fellow who was so busy in regulating all the ceremonies, and seemed to carry such an air of importance in his looks, that I could not help inquiring who he was, and was immediately answered, "That he did not value himself upon nothing, for that he and his ancestors had won so many hats, that his parlour looked like a haberdasher's shop." However, this thirst of glory in them all, was the reason that no one man stood "lord of the ring" for above three falls while I was among them.

'The young maids, who were not lookers-on at these exercises, were themselves engaged in some diversion; and upon my asking a farmer's son of my own parish what he was gazing at with so much attention, he told me, "That he was seeing Betty Welch," whom I knew to be his sweetheart, "pitch a bar."

'In short, I found the men endeavoured to show the women they were no cowards, and that the whole company strived to recommend themselves to each other, by making it appear that they were all in a perfect state of health, and fit to undergo any fatigues of bodily labour.

Your judgment upon this method of love and gallantry, as it is at present practised among us in the country, will very much oblige,

'SIR, your's, &c.'

If I would here put on the scholar and politician, I might inform my readers how these bodily exercises or games were formerly encouraged in all the commonwealths of Greece; from whence the Romans afterwards borrowed their *pentathlon*, which was composed of running, wrestling, leaping, throwing, and boxing, though the prizes were generally nothing but a crown of cypress or parsley, hats not being in fashion in those days: that there is an old statute, which obliges every man in England, having such an estate, to keep and exercise the long-bow; by which means our ancestors excelled all other nations in the use of that weapon, and we had all the real advantages, without the inconvenience of a standing army: and that I once met with a book of projects, in which the author, considering to what noble ends that spirit of emulation, which so remarkably shows itself among our common people in these wakes, might be directed, proposes that for the improvement of all our handicraft trades there should be annual prizes set up for such persons as were most excellent in their several arts. But laying aside all these political considerations, which might tempt me to pass the limits of my paper, I confess the greatest benefit and convenience that I can observe in these country festivals, is the bringing young people together, and giving them an opportunity of showing themselves in the most advantageous light. A country fellow that throws his rival upon his back, has generally as good success with their common mistress; as nothing is more usual than for a nimble-footed wench to get a husband at the same time she wins a smock. Love and marriages are the natural effects of these anniversary assemblies. I must therefore very much approve the method by which my correspondent

tells me each sex endeavours to recommend itself to the other, since nothing seems more likely to promise a healthy offspring, or a happy cohabitation.—And I believe I may assure my country friend, that there has been many a court lady who would be contented to exchange her crazy young husband for Tom Short, and several men of quality who would have parted with a tender yoke-fellow for Black Kate.

I am the more pleased with having love made the principal end and design of these meetings, as it seems to be most agreeable to the intent for which they were at first instituted, as we are informed by the learned Dr. Kennet*, with whose words I shall conclude my present paper.

'These wakes,' says he, 'were in imitation of the ancient *ayawai*, or love-feasts; and were first established in England by Pope Gregory the Great, who, in an epistle to Melitus the abbot, gave order that they should be kept in sheds or arbores made up with branches and boughs of trees round the church.'

He adds, 'that this laudable custom of wakes prevailed for many ages, until the nice puritans began to exclaim against it as a remnant of popery; and by degrees the precise humour grew so popular, that at an Exeterminster the Lord Chief Baron Walter made an order for the suppression of all wakes; but on Bishop Laud's complaining of this innovating humour, the king commanded the order to be reversed.'

BUDGEKILL.

X.

Nº 162. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1711.

*Structor ad limen,
Qualis ab incepto procedit, et sibi consistit.*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 126.

Preserve consistency throughout the whole.

Nothing that is not a real crime makes a man appear so contemptible and little in the eyes of the world as inconstancy, especially when it regards religion or party. In either of these cases, though a man perhaps does but his duty in changing his side, he not only makes himself hated by those he left, but is seldom heartily esteemed by those he comes over to.

In these great articles of life, therefore, a man's conviction ought to be very strong; and if possible so well timed, that worldly advantages may seem to have no share in it, or mankind will be ill-natured enough to think he does not change sides out of principle, but either out of levity of temper, or prospect of interest. Converts and renegades of all kinds should take particular care to let the world see they act upon honourable motives; or whatever approbations they may receive from themselves, and applauses from those they converse with, they may be very well assured that they are the scorn of all good men, and the public marks of infamy and derision.

Irresolution on the schemes of life which offer themselves to our choice, and inconstancy in pursuing them, are the greatest and most universal causes of all our disquiet and unhappiness. When ambition pulls one way, interest another, inclination a third, and perhaps reason contrary to all, a man is likely to pass his time but ill who has so many different parties to please. When the

* 'Parochial Antiquities,' by Dr. White Kennet, &c. 1695.

mind hovers among such a variety of allurements, one had better settle on a way of life that is not the very best we might have chosen, than grow old without determining our choice, and go out of the world as the greatest part of mankind do, before we have resolved how to live in it. There is but one method of settling ourselves at rest in this particular, and that is by adhering stedfastly to one great end as the chief and ultimate aim of all our pursuits. If we are firmly resolved to live up to the dictates of reason, without any regard to wealth, reputation, or the like considerations, any more than as they fall in with our principal design, we may go through life with steadiness and pleasure; but if we act by several broken views, and will not only be virtuous, but wealthy, popular, and every thing that has a value set upon it by the world, we shall live and die in misery and repentance.

One would take more than ordinary care to guard one's self against this particular imperfection, because it is that which our nature very strongly inclines us to; for if we examine ourselves thoroughly, we shall find that we are the most changeable beings in the universe. In respect of our understanding, we often embrace and reject the very same opinions; whereas beings above and beneath us have probably no opinions at all, or at least no wavering and uncertainties in those they have. Our superiors are guided by intuition, and our inferiors by instinct. In respect of our wills, we fall into crimes and recover out of them, are amiable or odious in the eyes of our great Judge, and pass our whole life in offending and asking pardon. On the contrary, the beings underneath us are not capable of sinning, nor those above us of repenting. The one is out of the possibilities of duty, and the other fixed in an eternal course of sin, or an eternal course of virtue.

There is scarce a state of life or stage in it which does not produce changes and revolutions in the mind of man. Our schemes of thought in infancy are lost in those of youth; these too take a different turn in manhood, until old age often leads us back into our former infancy. A new title or an unexpected success throws us out of ourselves, and in a manner destroys our identity. A cloudy day, or a little sun-shine, have as great an influence on many constitutions, as the most real blessings or misfortunes. A dream varies our being, and changes our condition while it lasts; and every passion, not to mention health and sickness, and the greater alterations in body and mind, makes us appear almost different creatures. If a man is so distinguished among other beings by this infirmity, what can we think of such as make themselves remarkable for it even among their own species? It is a very trifling character to be one of the most variable beings of the most variable kind, especially if we consider that He who is the great standard of perfection has in him no shadow of change, but 'is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.'

As this mutability of temper and inconsistency with ourselves is the greatest weakness of human nature, so it makes the person who is remarkable for it in a very particular manner more ridiculous than any other infirmity whatsoever, as it sets him in a greater variety of foolish lights, and distinguishes him from himself by an opposition of party-coloured characters. The most humorous character in Horace is founded upon this unevenness of temper and irregularity of conduct:

*Sardus habebat
ille Tigellinus hoc: Casus, qui cogere posset,
& petra per amicitiam patris, atque manus, non*

*Quidquam proficeret: si collidisset, ab ovo
Usque ad mala citaret, Io Bacche, modo nemina
Voces, modo hac, resonat quæ chordis quatuor ima.
Nil æquale homini fuit illi: sæpe velut qui
Curtebat fugiens hostem: per sæpe velut qui
Junonis sacra ferret: habebat sæpe ducentos.
Sæpe decem seruos: modo reges atque tetrarchas,
Omnia magna loquens; modo, Sit mihi mensa tripes, et
Concha salis puri, et toga, quæ defendere frigus,
Quamvis crassa, queat. Decies centena dedisses
Huius parco paucis contento, quinque diebus
Nil erat in loculis. Noctes vigiliis ad ipsum
Manc: diem totum stertebat. Nil fuit unquam
Sic impar sibi——'*

HOR. l Sat. III.

Instead of translating this passage in Horace, I shall entertain my English reader with the description of a parallel character, that is wonderfully well finished by Mr. Dryden *, and raised upon the same foundation:

' In the first rank of these did Zimri stand;
A man so various that he seem'd to be
Not one, but all mankind's epitome.
Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong;
Was every thing by starts, and nothing long;
But, in the course of one revolving moon,
Was chemist, sidler, statesman, and buffoon:
Then all for women, painting, rhyming, drinking,
Besides ten thousand freaks that died in thinking.
Blest madman, who could every hour employ,
With something new to wish or to enjoy!

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 163. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1711.

*Si quid ego adiuvato, curante leasso,
Quæ nunc te coquit, et versat sub pectore Asa,
Æquid erit pretii?*

ENN. apud TULLIUM.

Say, will you thank me if I bring you rest,
And ease the torture of your lab'ring breast?

INQUIRIES after happiness, and rules for attaining it, are not so necessary and useful to mankind as the arts of consolation, and supporting one's self under affliction. The utmost we can hope for in this world is contentment; if we aim at any thing higher, we shall meet with nothing but grief and disappointment. A man should direct all his studies and endeavours at making himself easy now, and happy hereafter.

The truth of it is, if all the happiness that is dispersed through the whole race of mankind in this world were drawn together, and put into the possession of any single man, it would not make a very happy being. Though, on the contrary, if the miseries of the whole species were fixed in a single person, they would make a very miserable one.

I am engaged in this subject by the following letter, which, though subscribed by a fictitious name, I have reason to believe is not imaginary.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

' I AM one of your disciples, and endeavour to live up to your rules, which I hope will incline you to pity my condition. I shall open it to you in a very few words. About three years since a gentleman, whom, I am sure, you yourself would have approved, made his addresses to me. He had every thing to recommend him but an estate; so that my friends, who all of them applauded his person, would not for the sake of both of us favour his passion. For my own part, I resigned

* In his 'Abealom and Achitophel.'

+ This character was designed for George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.

myself up entirely to the direction of those who knew the world much better than myself, but still lived in hopes that some juncture or other would make me happy in the man, whom, in my heart, I preferred to all the world; being determined, if I could not have him, to have nobody else. About three months ago I received a letter from him, acquainting me, that by the death of an uncle he had a considerable estate left him, which he said was welcome to him upon no other account, but as he hoped it would remove all difficulties that lay in the way to our mutual happiness. You may well suppose, sir, with how much joy I received this letter, which was followed by several others filled with those expressions of love and joy, which I verily believe nobody felt more sincerely, nor knew better how to describe, than the gentleman I am speaking of. But, sir, how shall I be able to tell it you! by the last week's post I received a letter from an intimate friend of this unhappy gentleman, acquainting me, that as he had just settled his affairs, and was preparing for his journey, he fell sick of a fever and died. It is impossible to express to you the distress I am in upon this occasion. I can only have recourse to my devotions; and to the reading of good books for my consolation; and as I always take a particular delight in those frequent advices and admonitions which you give the public, it would be a very great piece of charity in you to lend me your assistance in this conjuncture. If after the reading of this letter you find yourself in a humour, rather to rally and ridicule, than to comfort me, I desire you would throw it into the fire, and think no more of it; but if you are touched with my misfortune, which is greater than I know how to bear, your counsels may very much support, and will infinitely oblige the afflicted

'LEONORA *.'

A disappointment in love is more hard to get over than any other; the passion itself so softens and subdues the heart, that it disables it from struggling or bearing up against the woes and distresses which befall it. The mind meets with other misfortunes in her whole strength; she stands collected within herself, and sustains the shock with all the force which is natural to her; but a heart in love has its foundation tapped, and immediately sinks under the weight of accidents that are disagreeable to its favourite passion.

In afflictions men generally draw their consolations out of books of morality, which indeed are of great use to fortify and strengthen the mind against the impressions of sorrow. Monsieur St. Evremont, who does not approve of this method, recommends authors who are apt to stir up mirth in the mind of the readers, and fancies Don Quixote can give more relief to a heavy heart than Plutarch or Seneca, as it is much easier to divert grief than to conquer it. This doubtless may have its effects on some tempers. I should rather have recourse to authors of a quite contrary kind, that give us instances of calamities and misfortunes, and show human nature in its greatest distresses.

If the afflictions we groan under be very heavy, we shall find some consolation in the society of as great sufferers as ourselves, especially when we find our companions men of virtue and merit. If our afflictions are light, we shall be comforted by the comparison we make between ourselves and our fellow-sufferers. A low - t sea, a fit of sick-

ness, or the death of a friend, are such trials when we consider whole kingdoms laid in ashes, families put to the sword, wretches shut up in dungeons, and the like calamities of mankind, that we are out of countenance for our own weakness, if we sink under such little strokes of fortune.

Let the disconsolate Leonora consider, that at the very time in which she languishes for the loss of her deceased lover, there are persons in several parts of the world just perishing in shipwreck; others crying out for mercy in the terrors of a death-bed repentance; others lying under the tortures of an infamous execution, or the like dreadful calamities; and she will find her sorrows vanish at the appearance of those which are so much greater and more astonishing.

I would further propose to the consideration of my afflicted disciple, that possibly what she now looks upon as the greatest misfortune, is not really such in itself. For my own part, I question not but our souls in a separate state will look back on their lives in quite another view, than what they had of them in the body; and that what they now consider as misfortunes and disappointments, will very often appear to have been escapes and blessings.

The mind that hath any cast towards devotion, naturally flies to it in its afflictions.

When I was in France I heard a very remarkable story of two lovers, which I shall relate at length in my to-morrow's paper, not only because the circumstances of it are extraordinary, but because it may serve as an illustration to all that can be said on this last head, and show the power of religion in abating that particular anguish which seems to lie so heavy on Leonora. The story was told me by a priest, as I travelled with him in a stage-coach. I shall give it my reader, as well as I can remember, in his own words, after having promised, that if consolations may be drawn from a wrong religion and a misguided devotion, they cannot but flow much more naturally from those which are founded upon reason, and established in good sense.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 164. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1711.

Ille, quis et me, inquit, miseram, et te perdidit, Orpheus?
Jamque vale: ferror ingenti circumdata morte,
Invalidaeque tibi tendens, hoc! non tua, palmas.
VIRG. Georg. lv. ver. 404.

Then thus the bride: What fury seiz'd on thee,
Unhappy man! to lose thyself and me?
And now, farewell! involv'd in shades of night,
For ever I am ravish'd from thy sight:
In vain I reach my feeble hands to join
In sweet embraces, ah! no longer thine.
DRYDEN.

CONSTANTIA was a woman of extraordinary wit and beauty, but very unhappy in a father, who, having arrived at great riches by his own industry, took delight in nothing but his money. Theodosius * was the younger son of a decayed family, of great parts and learning, improved by a generous and virtuous education. When he was in the twentieth year of his age he became acquainted with Constantia, who had not then passed her fifteenth. As he lived but a few miles distant from her father's house, he had frequent opportunities of see-

* The Correspondence of Theodosius and Constantia, by Dr. Langhorne, was avowedly founded on this paper in the Spectator.

* Miss Shephard.

contrition to acquaint him with that vow of virginity in which she was going to engage herself as the proper atonement for her sins, and the only sacrifice she could make to the memory of Theodosius. The father, who by this time had pretty well composed himself, burst out again in tears upon hearing that name to which he had been so long disused, and upon receiving this instance of an unparalleled fidelity from one who he thought had several years since given herself up to the possession of another. Amidst the interruptions of his sorrow, seeing his penitent overwhelmed with grief, he was only able to bid her from time to time be comforted—to tell her that her sins were forgiven her—that her guilt was not so great as she apprehended—that she should not suffer herself to be afflicted above measure. After which he recovered himself enough to give her the absolution in form; directing her at the same time to repair to him again the next day, that he might encourage her in the pious resolutions she had taken, and give her suitable exhortations for her behaviour in it. Constantia retired, and the next morning renewed her applications. Theodosius, having manned his soul with proper thoughts and reflections, exerted himself on this occasion in the best manner he could to animate his penitent in the course of life she was entering upon, and wear out of her mind those groundless fears and apprehensions which had taken possession of it; concluding with a promise to her, that he would from time to time continue his admonitions when she should have taken upon her the holy veil. ‘The rules of our respective orders,’ says he, ‘will not permit that I should see you, but you may assure yourself not only of having a place in my prayers, but of receiving such frequent instructions as I can convey to you by letters. Go on cheerfully in the glorious course you have undertaken; and you will quickly find such a peace and satisfaction in your mind, which it is not in the power of the world to give.’

Constantia's heart was so elevated with the discourse of father Francis, that the very next day she entered upon her vow. As soon as the solemnities of her reception were over, she retired, as it is usual, with the abbess into her own apartment.

The abbess had been informed the night before of all that had passed between her novice and father Francis: from whom she now delivered to her the following letter:

‘As the first fruits of those joys and consolations which you may expect from the life you are now engaged in, I must acquaint you that Theodosius, whose death sits so heavy upon your thoughts, is still alive; and that the father, to whom you have confessed yourself, was once that Theodosius whom you so much lament. The love which we have had for one another will make us more happy in its disappointment than it could have done in its success. Providence has disposed of us for our advantage, though not according to our wishes. Consider your Theodosius still as dead, but assure yourself of one who will not cease to pray for you in father

‘FRANCIS.’

Constantia saw that the hand-writing agreed with the contents of the letter, and upon reflecting on the voice of the person, the behaviour, and above all the extreme sorrow of the father during her confession, she discovered Theodosius in every

particular. After having wept with tears of joy ‘It is enough,’ says she, ‘Theodosius is still in being: I shall live with comfort, and die in peace.’

The letters which the father sent her afterward are yet extant in the nunnery where she resided and are often read to the young religious, in order to inspire them with good resolutions and sentiments of virtue. It so happened, that after Constantia had lived about ten years in the cloister a violent fever broke out in the place, which swept away great multitudes, and among others Theodosius. Upon his death-bed he sent his benediction in a very moving manner to Constantia, who at that time was herself so far gone in the same fatal distemper, that she lay delirious. Upon the interval which generally precedes death in sickness, of this nature, the abbess, finding that the physician had given her over, told her that Theodosius was just gone before her, and that he had sent her his benediction in his last moments. Constantia received it with pleasure. ‘And now,’ says she, ‘I do not ask any thing improper, let me be buried by Theodosius. My vow reaches no further than the grave. What I ask is, I hope, no violation of it.’ She died soon after, and was interred according to her request.

Their tombs are still to be seen, with a short Latin inscription over them to the following purpose:

‘Here lie the bodies of Father Francis and Sister Constantia. They were lovely in their life and in their deaths they were not divided.’

ADDITION.

C.

Nº 165. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1711

*Si forte necesse est,
Fingere cinctus non exaudita Crebrosque
Contingat: dabiturque licentia sumpta pudenter.*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 48

— If you would unheard-of things express,
Invent new words; we can indulge a muse,
Until the licence rise to an abuse.

CRÉCH.

I HAVE often wished, that as in our constitution there are several persons whose business is to watch over our laws, our liberties, and commerce, certain men might be set apart as superintendants of our language, to hinder any words of a foreign coin from passing among us; and in particular to prohibit any French phrases from becoming current in this kingdom, when those of our own stamp are altogether as valuable. The present war has so adulterated our tongue with strange words, that it would be impossible for one of our great grandfathers to know what his posterity have been doing, were he to read their exploits in a modern newspaper. Our warriors are very industrious in propagating the French language, at the same time that they are so gloriously successful in beating down their power. Our soldiers as men of strong heads for action, and perform feats as they are not able to express. They say words in their own tongue to tell us what it is they achieve, and therefore send us over accounts of their performances in a jargon of phrases, which they learn among their conquered enemies. They ought however to be provided with secretaries, and assisted by our foreign ministers, to tell the story for them in plain English, and to let us know in our mother-tongue what it is our brave countrymen are about. The French would indeed be

is the right to publish the news of the present war in English phrases, and make their campaigns unintelligible. Their people might flatter themselves that things are not so bad as they really are, were they thus palliated with foreign terms, and thrown into shades and obscurity; but the English cannot be too clear in their narrative of those actions, which have raised their country to a higher pitch of glory than it ever yet arrived at, and which will be still the more admired the better they are explained.

For my part, by that time a siege is carried on two or three days, I am altogether lost and bewildered in it, and meet with so many inexplicable difficulties, that I scarce know what side has the better of it, until I am informed by the Tower guns that the place has surrendered. I do indeed make some allowances for this part of the war, fortifications having been foreign inventions, and upon that account abounding in foreign terms. But when we have won battles which may be described in our own language, why are our papers filled with so many unintelligible exploits, and the French obliged to lend us a part of their tongue before we can know how they are conquered? They must be made accessory to their own disgrace, as the Britons were formerly so artificially wrought in the curtain of the Roman theatre, that they seemed to draw it up in order to give the spectators an opportunity of seeing their own defeat celebrated upon the stage: for so Mr. Dryden has translated that verse in Virgil:

'Purpureis intexti tollunt auleas Britanni.'

Georg. iii. 25.

*'Which interwoven Britons seem to raise,
And show the triumph that their shame displays.'*

The histories of all our former wars are transmitted to us in our vernacular idiom, to use the phrase of a great modern critic *. I do not find in any of our chronicles that Edward the Third ever reconnoitred the enemy, though he often discovered the posture of the French, and as often vanquished them in battle. The Black Prince passed many a river without the help of pontoons, and filled a ditch with faggots as successfully as the generals of our times do it with fascines. Our commanders lose half their praise, and our people half their joy, by means of those hard words and dark expressions in which our newspapers do so much abound. I have seen many a prudent citizen, after having read every article, inquire of his next neighbour what news the mail had brought?

I remember, in that remarkable year when our country was delivered from the greatest fears and apprehensions, and raised to the greatest height of gladness it had ever felt since it was a nation, I mean the year of Blenheim†, I had the copy of a letter sent me out of the country, which was written from a young gentleman in the army to his father, a man of good estate and plain sense. As the letter was very modestly chequered with this modern military eloquence, I shall present my reader with a copy of it.

* MR.

† Upon the junction of the French and Bavarian armies they took post behind a great morass which

* The Rev. Dr. Richard Bentley.

† The battle of Hochstet, or Blenheim, fought August 2, 1704, between the Confederates, under Prince Eugene and the Duke of Marlborough, and the French and Bavarians, under the Elector of Bavaria and Marshal Tallard. The Marshal, with 13,000 men, were made prisoners, and near 20,000 killed, wounded, or drowned in the Danube. The Allies lost 15,000 men.

they thought impracticable. Our general the next day sent a party of horse to "reconnoitre" them from a little "hauteur," at about a quarter of an hour's distance from the army, who returned again to the camp unobserved through several "dèfilés," in one of which they met with a party of French that had been "marauding," and made them all prisoners at discretion. The day after a Drum arrived at our camp, with a message which he would communicate to none but the general; he was followed by a Trumpet, who they say behaved himself very saucily, with a message from the Duke of Bavaria. The next morning our army being divided into two "corps," made a movement towards the enemy. You will hear in the public prints how we treated them, with the other circumstances of that glorious day. I had the good fortune to be in that regiment that pushed the "gens d'armes." Several French battalions, who some say were a "corps de reserve," made a show of resistance; but it only proved a "gasconade," for upon our preparing to fill up a little "fosse," in order to attack them, they beat the "chamade," and sent us "carte blanche." Their "commandant," with a great many other general officers, and troops without number, are made prisoners of war, and will I believe give you a visit in England, the "cartel" not being yet settled. Not questioning but these particulars will be very welcome to you, I congratulate you upon them, and am your most dutiful son, &c."

The father of the young gentleman upon the perusal of the letter found it contained great news, but could not guess what it was. He immediately communicated it to the curate of the parish, who upon the reading of it, being vexed to see any thing he could not understand, fell into a kind of a passion, and told him, that his son had sent him a letter that was neither fish, flesh, nor good red-herring. 'I wish,' says he, 'the captain may be *'compos mentis,'* he talks of a saucy Trumpet, and a Drum that carries messages; then who is this "carte blanche?" He must either banter us, or he is out of his senses.' The father, who always looked upon the curate as a learned man, began to fret inwardly at his son's usage, and producing a letter which he had written to him about three posts before, 'You see here,' says he, 'when he writes for money he knows how to speak intelligibly enough; there is no man in England can express himself clearer, when he wants a new furniture for his horse.' In short, the old man was so puzzled upon the point, that it might have fared ill with his son, had he not seen all the prints about three days after filled with the same terms of art, and that Charles only writ like other men.

ADDISON.

L.

N° 166. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1711.

— *Quod nec Jovis ira, nec ignis,
Nec poterit ferrum, nec edax abolere vetustas.*
OVID. Met. xv. ver. 871.

— Which nor dreads the rage
Of tempests, fire, or war, or wasting age.
WELSTED.

ARISTOTLE tells us, that the world is a copy or transcript of those ideas which are in the mind of the first Being, and that those ideas which are in the mind of man, are a transcript of the world. To this we may add, that words are the transcript of those ideas which are in the mind of man, and that writing or printing are the transcript of words.

As the Supreme Being has expressed, and as it were printed his ideas in the creation, men express their ideas in books, which by this great invention of these latter ages may last as long as the sun and moon, and perish only in the general wreck of nature. Thus Cowley in his poem on the Resurrection, mentioning the destruction of the universe, has those admirable lines:

'Now all the wide-extended sky,
And all th' harmonious worlds on high,
And Virgil's sacred work shall die.'

There is no other method of fixing those thoughts which arise and disappear in the mind of man, and transmitting them to the last periods of time; no other method of giving a permanency to our ideas, and preserving the knowledge of any particular person, when his body is mixed with the common mass of matter, and his soul retired into the world of spirits. Books are the legacies that a great genius leaves to mankind, which are delivered down from generation to generation, as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn.

All other arts of perpetuating our ideas continue but a short time. Statues can last but a few thousands of years, edifices fewer, and colours still fewer than edifices. Michael Angelo, Fontana, and Raphael, will hereafter be what Phidias, Vitruvius, and Apelles are at present; the names of great statuaries, architects, and painters, whose works are lost. The several arts are expressed in mouldering materials. Nature sinks under them, and is not able to support the ideas which are impressed upon it.

The circumstance which gives authors an advantage above all these great masters, is this, that they can multiply their originals; or rather can make copies of their works, to what number they please, which shall be as valuable as the originals themselves. This gives a great author something like a prospect of eternity, but at the same time deprives him of those other advantages which artists meet with. The artist finds greater returns in profit, as the author in fame. What an inestimable price would a Virgil or a Homer, a Cicero or an Aristotle bear, were their works, like a statue, a building, or a picture, to be confined only in one place, and made the property of a single person!

If writings are thus durable, and may pass from age to age throughout the whole course of time, how careful should an author be of committing any thing to print that may corrupt posterity, and poison the minds of men with vice and error! Writers of great talents, who employ their parts in propagating immorality, and seasoning vicious sentiments with wit and humour, are to be looked upon as the pests of society, and the enemies of mankind. They leave books behind them (as it is said of those who die in distempers which breed an ill-will towards their own species) to scatter infection, and destroy their posterity. They act the counterparts of a Confucius or a Socrates; and seem to have been sent into the world to deprave human nature, and sink it into the condition of brutality.

I have seen some Roman-catholic authors, who tell us that vicious writers continue in purgatory so long as the influence of their writings continues upon posterity: 'for purgatory,' say they, 'is nothing else but a cleansing us of our sins, which cannot be said to be done away, so long as they continue to operate, and corrupt mankind. The

vicious author,' say they, 'sins after death; and so long as he continues to sin, so long must he expect to be punished.' Though the Roman-catholic notion of purgatory be indeed very ridiculous, one cannot but think that if the soul after death has any knowledge of what passes in this world, that of an immoral writer would receive much more regret from the sense of corrupting, than satisfaction from the thought of pleasing the surviving admirers.

To take off from the severity of this speculation, I shall conclude this paper with a story of an atheistical author*; who at a time when he lay dangerously sick, and had desired the assistance of a neighbouring curate, confessed to him with great contrition, that nothing sat more heavy at his heart than the sense of his having seduced the age by his writings, and that their evil influence was likely to continue even after his death. The curate upon further examination finding the penitent in the utmost agonies of despair, and being himself a man of learning, told him, that he hoped his case was not so desperate as he apprehended, since he found that he was so very sensible of his fault, and so sincerely repented of it. The penitent still urged the evil tendency of his book to subvert all religion, and the little ground of hope there could be for one whose writings would continue to do mischief when his body was laid in ashes. The curate, finding no other way to comfort him, told him that he did well in being afflicted for the evil design with which he published his book; but that he ought to be very thankful that there was no danger of its doing any hurt: that his cause was so very bad, and his arguments so weak, that he did not apprehend any ill effects of it: in short, that he might rest satisfied his book could do no more mischief after his death, than it had done whilst he was living. To which he added, for his further satisfaction, that he did not believe any besides his particular friends and acquaintance had ever been at the pains of reading it, or that any body after his death would ever inquire after it. The dying man had still so much the frailty of an author in him, as to be cut to the heart with these consolations; and without answering the good man, asked his friends about him (with a peevishness that is natural to a sick person) where they had picked up such a blockhead? And whether they thought him a proper person to attend one in his condition? The curate finding that the author did not expect to be dealt with as a real and sincere penitent, but as a penitent of importance, after a short admonition withdrew; not questioning but he should be again sent for if the sickness grew desperate. The author however recovered, and has since written two or three other tracts with the same spirit, and, very luckily for his poor soul, with the same success.

ADDISON.

C.

* Supposed to be Mr. John Toland, a man of uncommon abilities, and perhaps the most learned of all the irreligious writers.

loquy not contain the praises of my dear self, but of the Spectator, who shall, by complying with this, make me

‘His obliged, humble servant,

‘VITROVIUS.’

STERILE.

T.

Nº 188. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1711.

— *Pectus preceptis format amicus.*

HOR. Ep. l. 1. 2. ver. 128.

Forms the soft bosom with the gentlest art.
POPE.

It would be arrogance to neglect the application of my correspondents so far, as not sometimes to insert their animadversions upon my paper; that of this day shall be therefore wholly composed of the hints which they have sent me.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I SEND you this to congratulate your late choice of a subject, for treating on which you deserve public thanks; I mean that on those licensed tyrants the schoolmasters. If you can disarm them of their rods, you will certainly have your old age revered by all the young gentlemen of Great Britain, who are now between seven and seventeen years. You may boast that the incomparably wise Quintilian and you are of one mind in this particular. “*Si cui est (says he) mens tam illiberalis ut objurcatione non corrigatur, is atiam ad plagas, ut pessima quoque mancipia durabitur;*” i. e. “If any child be of so disengenuous a nature, as not to stand corrected by reproof, as well as the very worst of slaves, will be hardened even against blows themselves.” And afterwards, “*Pudet dicere in que probra nefandi homines isto cædendi jure abutuntur;*” i. e. “I blush to say how shamefully those wicked men abuse the power of correction.”

‘I was bred myself, sir, in a very great school, of which the master was a Welshman, but certainly descended from a Spanish family, as plainly appeared from his temper, as well as his name *. I leave you to judge what sort of a schoolmaster a Welshman ingrafted on a Spaniard would make. So very dreadful had he made himself to me, that although it is above twenty years since I felt his heavy hand, yet still once a month at least I dream of him, so strong an impression did he make on my mind. It is a sign he has fully terrified me waking, who still continues to haunt me sleeping.

‘And yet I may say without vanity, that the business of the school was what I did without great difficulty; and I was not remarkably unlucky; and yet such was the master’s severity, that once a month, or oftener, I suffered as much as would have satisfied the law of the land for a petty larceny.

‘Many a white and tender hand, which the fond mother had passionately kissed a thousand and a thousand times, have I seen whipped till it was covered with blood; perhaps for smiling, or for going a yard and a half out of a gate, or for writing an o for an a, or an a for an o. These were our great faults! Many a brave and noble spirit has been there broken; others have run from thence and were never heard of afterwards. It is a worthy attempt to undertake the cause of distressed youth; and it is a noble piece of knight-errantry to enter the lists against so many armed peda-

gogues. It is pity but we had a set of men, polite in their behaviour and method of teaching, who should be put into a condition of being above flattery or fearing the parents of those they instruct. We might then possibly see learning become a pleasure, and children delighting themselves in that which now they abhor for coming upon such hard terms to them. What would be still a greater happiness arising from the care of such instruction, would be, that we should have no more pedants, nor any bred to learning who had not grain for it.

‘I am, with the utmost sincerity,

‘SIR,

‘Your most affectionate, humble servant.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

Richmond, Sept. 5, 1711.

‘I AM a boy of fourteen years of age, and have for this last year been under the tuition of a doctor of divinity, who has taken the school of this place under his care *. From the gentleman’s great tenderness to me and friendship to my father, I am very happy in learning my book with pleasure. We never leave off our diversions any further than to salute him at hours of play when he pleases to look on. It is impossible for any of us to love our own parents better than we do him. He never gives any of us a harsh word, and we think it the greatest punishment in the world when he will not speak to any of us. My brother and I are both together inditing this letter. He is a year older than I am, but is now ready to break his heart that the doctor has not taken any notice of him these three days. If you please to print this he will see it, and, we hope, taking it for my brother’s earnest desire to be restored to his favour, he will again smile upon him.

‘Your most obedient servant,

‘T. S.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘You have represented several sorts of impertinents singly, I wish you would now proceed, and describe some of them in sets. It often happens in public assemblies, that a party who came thither together, or whose impertinences are of an equal pitch, act in concert, and are so full of themselves as to give disturbance to all that are about them. Sometimes you have a set of whisperers, who lay their heads together in order to sacrifice every body within their observation; sometimes a set of laughers, that keep up an insipid mirth in the own corner, and by their noise and gestures show they have no respect for the rest of the company. You frequently meet with these sets at the opera, the play, the water-works, and other public meetings, where their whole business is to draw off the attention of the spectators from the entertainment and to fix it upon themselves; and it is to be observed, that the impertinence is ever loudest, when the set happens to be made up of three or four females who have got what you call a woman among them.

‘I am at a loss to know from whom people of fortune should learn this behaviour, unless it be from the footmen who keep their places at a play, and are often seen passing away their time in sets at all-fours, in the face of a full house, with a perfect disregard to the people of quality sitting on each side of them.

‘For preserving therefore the decency of public

* Dr. Charles Roderick, provost of Eton school.

* Dr. Nicholas Brady, co-adjutor with Tate in the version of the Psalms.

assemblies, methinks it would be but reasonable that those who disturb others should pay at least a double price for their places; or rather, women of birth and distinction should be informed, that a levity of behaviour in the eyes of people of understanding degrades them below their meanest attendants; and gentlemen should know that a fine coat is a livery, when the person who wears it discovers no higher sense than that of a footman.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble servant.'

'MR. SPECTATOR, Bedfordshire, Sept. 1, 1711:

'I AM one of those whom every body calls a poucher, and sometimes go out to course with a brace of greyhounds, a mastiff, and a spaniel or two; and when I am weary with coursing, and have killed hares enough, go to an alehouse to refresh myself. I beg the favour of you (as you set up for a reformer) to send us word how many dogs you will allow us to go with, how many full pots of ale to drink, and how many hares to kill in a day, and you will do a great piece of service to all the sportsmen. Be quick then, for the time of coursing is come on.

'Yours in haste,

'ISAAC HEDGECOTE.'

STEELE.

T.

N^o 169. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1711.

*Sic vita erat: facile omnes perferre ac pati:
Cum quibus erat cunctis una, his sese dederet,
Eorum obsequi studiis: adversus nemini;
Nunquam præponens ac aliis: ita facillime
Sine invidia invidias laudem*

TER. Andr. act. i. sc. 1.

His manner of life was this: to bear with every body's humours; to comply with the inclinations and pursuits of those he conversed with; to contradict no body; never to assume a superiority over others. This is the ready way to gain applause, without exciting envy.

Man is subject to innumerable pains and sorrows by the very condition of humanity, and yet, as if nature had not sown evils enough in life, we are continually adding grief to grief, and aggravating the common calamity by our cruel treatment of one another. Every man's natural weight of afflictions is still made more heavy by the envy, malice, treachery, or injustice of his neighbour. At the same time that the storm beats upon the whole species, we are falling foul upon one another.

Half the misery of human life might be extinguished, would men alleviate the general curse they lie under, by mutual offices of compassion, benevolence, and humanity. There is nothing, therefore, which we ought more to encourage in ourselves and others, than that disposition of mind which in our language goes under the title of good-nature, and which I shall choose for the subject of this day's speculation.

Good-nature is more agreeable in conversation than wit, and gives a certain air to the countenance which is more amiable than beauty. It shows virtue in the fairest light, takes off in some measure from the deformity of vice, and makes even folly and impertinence supportable.

There is no society or conversation to be kept up in the world without good-nature, or something which must bear its appearance, and supply its place. For this reason mankind have been forced to invent a kind of artificial humanity, which is

what we express by the word good-breeding. For if we examine thoroughly the idea of what we call so, we shall find it to be nothing else but an imitation and mimicry of good-nature, or in other terms, affability, complaisance, and easiness of temper, reduced into an art.

These exterior shows and appearances of humanity render a man wonderfully popular and beloved, when they are founded upon a real good-nature; but without it are like hypocrisy in religion, or a bare form of holiness, which, when it is discovered, makes a man more detestable than professed impiety.

Good-nature is generally born with us: health, prosperity, and kind treatment from the world, are great cherishers of it where they find it; but nothing is capable of forcing it up, where it does not grow of itself. It is one of the blessings of a happy constitution, which education may improve but not produce.

Xenophon in the life of his imaginary prince*, whom he describes as a pattern for real ones, is always celebrating the philanthropy or good-nature of his hero, which he tells us he brought into the world with him, and gives many remarkable instances of it in his childhood, as well as in all the several parts of his life. Nay, on his death-bed, he describes him as being pleased, that while his soul returned to him who made it, his body should incorporate with the great mother of all things, and by that means become beneficial to mankind. For which reason, he gives his sons a positive order not to inshrine it in gold or silver, but to lay it in the earth as soon as the life was gone out of it.

An instance of such an overflowing of humanity, such an exuberant love to mankind, could not have entered into the imagination of a writer, who had not a soul filled with great ideas, and a general benevolence to mankind.

In that celebrated passage of Sallust†, where Cæsar and Cato are placed in such beautiful, but opposite lights; Cæsar's character is chiefly made up of good-nature, as it showed itself in all its forms towards his friends or his enemies, his servants or dependants, the guilty or the distressed. As for Cato's character, it is rather awful than amiable. Justice seems most agreeable to the nature of God, and mercy to that of man. A being who has nothing to pardon in himself, may reward every man according to his works; but he whose very best actions must be seen with grains of allowance, cannot be too mild, moderate, and forgiving. For this reason, among all the monstrous characters in human nature, there is none so odious, nor indeed so exquisitely ridiculous, as that of a rigid severe temper in a worthless man.

This part of good-nature, however, which consists in the pardoning and overlooking of faults, is to be exercised only in doing ourselves justice, and that too in the ordinary commerce and occurrences of life; for in the public administrations of justice, mercy to one may be cruelty to others.

It is grown almost into a maxim, that good-natured men are not always men of the most wit. This observation, in my opinion, has no foundation in nature. The greatest wits I have conversed with are men eminent for their humanity. I take therefore this remark to have been occasioned by two reasons. First, because ill-nature among ordinary observers passes for wit. A spiteful saying grati-

* Xenoph. Cyropædia.

† In his history of the Catilinarian war.

des so many little passions in those who hear it, that it generally meets with a good reception. The laugh rises upon it, and the man who utters it is looked upon as a shrewd satirist. This may be one reason, why a great many pleasant companions appear so surprisingly dull, when they have endeavoured to be merry in print; the public being more just than private clubs or assemblies, in distinguishing between what is wit, and what is ill-nature.

Another reason why the good-natured man may sometimes bring his wit in question, is, perhaps, because he is apt to be moved with compassion for those misfortunes or infirmities, which another would turn into ridicule, and by that means gain

the reputation of a wit. The ill-natured man, though but of equal parts, gives himself a larger field to expatiate in; he exposes those failings in human nature which the other would cast a veil over, laughs at vices which the other either excuses or conceals, gives utterance to reflections which the other stifles, falls indifferently upon friends or enemies, exposes the person who has obliged him, and, in short, sticks at nothing that may establish his character of a wit. It is no wonder therefore he succeeds in it better than the man of humanity, as a person who makes use of indirect methods is more likely to grow rich than the fair trader.

ADDISON.

L.

THE SPECTATOR.

VOL. III.



TO THE

RIGHT HON. HENRY BOYLE*.

SIR,

As the professed design of this work is to entertain its readers in general, without giving offence to any particular person, it would be difficult to find out so proper a patron for it as yourself, there being none whose merit is more universally acknowledged by all parties, and who has made himself more friends, and fewer enemies. Your great abilities and unquestioned integrity, in those high employments which you have passed through, would not have been able to have raised you this general approbation, had they not been accompanied with that moderation in an high fortune, and that affability of manners, which are so conspicuous through all parts of your life. Your aversion to any ostentatious arts of setting to show those great services which you have done the public, has not likewise a little contributed to that universal acknowledgment which is paid you by your country.

The consideration of this part of your character, and that which hinders me from enlarging on those extraordinary talents, which have given you so great a figure in the British senate, as well as in that elegance and politeness which appear in your more retired conversation. I should be unpardonable if, after what I have said, I should longer detain you with an address of this nature: I cannot, however, conclude it, without acknowledging those great obligations which you have laid upon,

SIR,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

THE SPECTATOR.

* This gentleman, to whose kindness Addison partly owed his introduction to Lord Godolphin, was the youngest son of Charles Lord Clifford. He was appointed by King William Chancellor of the exchequer, in March 1701; in which post he continued till Feb. 1707-8, when he was made one of the principal secretaries of state, and so remained till Sept. 1710. George I. on his accession, created Mr. Boyle Lord Carleton, and soon after made him president of the council. He died a bachelor, March, 1724-5.

Nº 170. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1711.

*In amore hæc omnia insunt vitia : injuria,
Suspiciones, inimicitie, inductæ,
Bellum, pax rursum*

TER. Eun. Act. 1. Sc. 1.

All these inconveniences are incident to love : reproaches, jealousies, quarrels, reconcilements, war, and then peace.

UPON looking over the letters of my female correspondents, I find several from women complaining of jealous husbands, and at the same time protesting their own innocence ; and desiring my advice on this occasion. I shall therefore take this subject into my consideration ; and the more willingly, because I find that the Marquis of Halifax, who, in his Advice to a Daughter, has instructed a wife how to behave herself towards a false, an intemperate, a choleric, a sullen, a covetous, or a silly husband, has not spoken one word of a jealous husband.

' Jealousy is that pain which a man feels from the apprehension that he is not equally beloved by the person whom he entirely loves.' Now because our inward passions and inclinations can never make themselves visible, it is impossible for a jealous man to be thoroughly cured of his suspicions. His thoughts hang at best in a state of doubtfulness and uncertainty ; and are never capable of receiving any satisfaction on the advantageous side ; so that his inquiries are most successful when they discover nothing. His pleasure arises from his disappointments, and his life is spent in pursuit of a secret that destroys his happiness if he chance to find it.

An ardent love is always a strong ingredient in this passion ; for the same affection which stirs up the jealous man's desires, and gives the party beloved so beautiful a figure in his imagination, makes him believe she kindles the same passion in others, and appears as amiable to all beholders. And as jealousy thus arises from an extraordinary love, it is of so delicate a nature, that it seems to take up with any thing less than an equal return of love. Not the warmest expressions of affection, the softest and most tender hypocrisy, are able to give any satisfaction, where we are not persuaded that the affection is real, and the satisfaction mutual. For the jealous man wishes himself, a kind of deity to the person he loves. He would be the only pleasure of her senses, the employment of her thoughts ; and is angry at every thing she admires, or takes delight in, besides himself.

Phædria's request to his mistress, upon his leaving her for three days, is inimitably beautiful and natural :

*' Cum milite isto præsens, absens ut sis :
Dies noctesque me amas : me desideras :
Me somnitas : me expectas : de me cogitas :
Me speras : me te oblectas : mecum tota sis :
Aleas fac sis postremo animas, quando ego sum tuus.'*

TER. Eun. Act. 1. Sc. 2.

'When you are in company with that soldier, behave as if you were absent: but continue to love me by day and by night: want me; dream of me; expect me; think of me; wish for me; delight in me; be wholly with me: in short, be my very soul, as I am yours.'

The jealous man's disease is of so malignant a nature, that it converts all it takes into its own nourishment. A cool behaviour sets him on the rack, and is interpreted as an instance of aversion or indifference; a fond one raises his suspicions, and looks too much like dissimulation and artifice. If the person he loves be cheerful, her thoughts must be employed on another; and if sad, she is certainly thinking on himself. In short, there is no word or gesture so insignificant, but it gives him new hints, feeds his suspicions, and furnishes him with fresh matters of discovery; so that if we consider the effects of this passion, one would rather think it proceeded from an inveterate hatred, than an excessive love; for certainly none can meet with more disquietude and uneasiness than a suspected wife, if we except the jealous husband.

But the great unhappiness of this passion is, that it naturally tends to alienate the affection which it is so solicitous to ingross; and that for these two reasons, because it lays too great a constraint on the words and actions of the suspected person, and at the same time shows you have no honourable opinion of her; both of which are strong motives to aversion.

Nor is this the worst effect of jealousy; for it often draws after it a more fatal train of consequences, and makes the person you suspect guilty of the very crimes you are so much afraid of. It is very natural for such who are treated ill and upbraided falsely, to find out an intimate friend that will hear their complaints, condole their sufferings, and endeavour to soothe and assuage their secret resentments. Besides, jealousy puts a woman often in mind of an ill thing, that she would not otherwise perhaps have thought of, and fills her imagination with such an unlucky idea, as in time grows familiar, excites desire, and loses all the shame and horror which might at first attend it. Nor is it a wonder if she who suffers wrongfully in a man's opinion of her, and has therefore nothing to forfeit in his esteem, resolves to give him reason for his suspicions, and to enjoy the pleasure of the crime, since she must undergo the ignominy. Such probably were the considerations that directed the wise man in his advice to husbands; 'Be not jealous over the wife of thy bosom, and teach her not an evil lesson against herself.'

And here, among the other torments which this passion produces, we may usually observe that none are greater mourners than jealous men, when the person who provoked their jealousy is taken from them. Then it is that their love breaks out furiously, and throws off all the mixtures of suspicion which cloaked and smothered it before. The beautiful parts of the character rise uppermost in the jealous husband's memory, and upbraid him with the ill usage of so divine a creature as was once in his possession; whilst all the little imperfections, that were before so uneasy to him, wear off from his remembrance, and show themselves no more.

We may see by what has been said, that jealousy takes the deepest root in men of amorous dispositions; and of these we may find three kinds who are most over-run with it,

* Eccles. ix. 1.

The first are those who are conscious to themselves of an infirmity, whether it be weakness, old age, deformity, ignorance, or the like. These men are so well acquainted with the unamiable part of themselves, that they have not the confidence to think they are really beloved; and are so distrustful of their own merits, that all fondness towards them puts them out of countenance, and looks like a jest upon their persons. They grow suspicious on their first looking in a glass, and are stung with jealousy at the sight of a wrinkle. A handsome fellow immediately alarms them, and every thing that looks young, or gay, turns their thoughts upon their wives.

A second sort of men, who are most liable to this passion, are those of cunning, wary, and distrustful tempers. It is a fault very justly found in histories composed by politicians, that they leave nothing to chance or humour, but are still for deriving every action from some plot and contrivance, for drawing up a perpetual scheme of causes and events, and preserving a constant correspondence between the camp and the council-table. And thus it happens in the affairs of love with men of too refined a thought. They put a construction on a look, and find out a design in a smile; they give new senses and significations to words and actions; and are ever tormenting themselves with fancies of their own raising. They generally act in a disguise themselves, and therefore mistake all outward shows and appearances for hypocrisy in others; so that I believe no men see less of the truth and reality of things, than these great refiners upon incidents, who are so wonderfully subtle and over-wise in their conceptions.

Now what these men fancy they know of women by reflection, your lewd and vicious men believe they have learned by experience. They have seen the poor husband so misled by tricks and artifices, and in the midst of his inquiries so lost and bewildered in a crooked intrigue, that they still suspect an under-plot in every female action; and especially where they see any resemblance in the behaviour of two persons, are apt to fancy it proceeds from the same design in both. These men therefore bear hard upon the suspected party, pursue her close through all her turnings and windings, and are too well acquainted with the chase, to be flung off by any false steps or doubles. Besides, their acquaintance and conversation has lain wholly among the vicious part of womankind, and therefore it is no wonder they censure all alike, and look upon the whole sex as a species of impostors. But if, notwithstanding their private experience, they can get over these prejudices, and entertain a favourable opinion of some women; yet their own loose desires will stir up new suspicions from another side, and make them believe all men subject to the same inclinations with themselves.

Whether these or other motives are most predominant, we learn from the modern histories of America, as well as from our own experience in this part of the world, that jealousy is no northern passion, but rages most in those nations that lie nearest the influence of the sun. It is a misfortune for a woman to be born between the tropics; for there lie the hottest regions of jealousy, which, as you come northward, cools all along with the climate, till you scarce meet with any thing like it in the polar circle. Our own nation is very temperately situated in this respect; and if we were with some few disordered with the violence of this passion, they are not the proper growth of our

country, but are many degrees nearer the sun in their constitutions than in their climate.

After this frightful account of jealousy, and the persons who are most subject to it, it will be but fair to show by what means the passion may be best allayed, and those who are possessed with it set at ease. Other faults indeed are not under the wife's jurisdiction, and should, if possible, escape her observation; but jealousy calls upon her particularly for its cure, and deserves all her art and application in the attempt. Besides, she has this for her encouragement, that her endeavours will be always pleasing, and that she will still find the affection of her husband rising towards her in proportion as his doubts and suspicions vanish; for, as we have seen all along, there is so great a mixture of love and jealousy as is well worth the separating. But this shall be the subject of another paper *.

ADISON.

L.

Nº 171. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1711.

Credula res amor est.

— OVID. Met. vii. 826.

The man who loves is easy of belief.

HAVING in my yesterday's paper discovered the nature of jealousy, and pointed out the persons who are most subject to it, I must here apply myself to my fair correspondents, who desire to live well with a jealous husband, and to ease his mind of its unjust suspicions.

The first rule I shall propose to be observed is, that you never seem to dislike in another what the jealous man is himself guilty of, or to admire any thing in which he himself does not excel. A jealous man is very quick in his applications; he knows how to find a double edge in an invective, and to draw a satire on himself out of a panegyric on another. He does not trouble himself to consider the person, but to direct the character; and is secretly pleased or confounded, as he finds more or less of himself in it. The commendation of any thing in another stirs up his jealousy, as it shows you have a value for others besides himself; but the commendation of that, which he himself wants, inflames him more, as it shows that in some respects you prefer others before him. Jealousy is admirably described in this view by Horace in his ode to Lydia:

*Quam tu, Lydia, Telephi
Cervicem roseam, et ceres Telephi
Lendus brachia, ve meum
Fervens difficili bile tumet jecur:
Tunc nec meus mihi, nec color
Certa sede manet; humor et in genas
Furtim labitur, arguens
Quam lentis penitus macerer ignibus.**

1 Od. xiii. 1.

* When Telephus his youthful charms,
His rosy neck and winding arms,
With endless rapture you recite,
And in the pleasing name delight;
My heart, inflam'd by jealous heats,
With numberless resentments beats;
From my pale cheek the colour flies,
And all the man within me dies:
By turns my hidden grief appears
In rising sighs and falling tears,
That show too well the warm desires,
The silent, slow, consuming fires,
Which on my inmost vitals prey,
And melt my very soul away.

* See Nº 178.

The jealous man is not indeed angry if you dislike another: but if you find those faults which are to be found in his own character, you discover not only your dislike of another, but of himself. In short, he is so desirous of ingrossing all your love, that he is grieved at the want of any charm, which he believes has power to raise it: and if he finds by your censures on others, that he is not so agreeable in your opinion as he might be, he naturally concludes you could love him better if he had other qualifications, and that by consequence your affection does not rise so high as he thinks it ought. If therefore his temper be grave or sullen, you must not be too much pleased with a jest, or transported with any thing that is gay and diverting. If his beauty be none of the best, you must be a professed admirer of prudence, or any other quality he is master of, or at least vain enough to think he is.

In the next place, you must be sure to be free and open in your conversation with him, and to let in light upon your actions, to unravel all your designs, and discover every secret, however trifling or indifferent. A jealous husband has a particular aversion to winks and whispers; and if he does not see to the bottom of every thing, will be sure to go beyond it in his fears and suspicions. He will always expect to be your chief confidant; and where he finds himself kept out of a secret, will believe there is more in it than there should be. And here it is of great concern, that you preserve the character of your sincerity uniform and of a piece; for if he once finds a false gloss put upon any single action, he quickly suspects all the rest: his working imagination immediately takes a false hint, and runs off with it into several remote consequences, till he has proved very ingenious in working out his own misery.

If both these methods fail, the best way will be to let him see you are much cast down and afflicted for the ill opinion he entertains of you, and the inquietudes he himself suffers for your sake. There are many who take a kind of barbarous pleasure in the jealousy of those who love them, that insult over an aching heart, and triumph in their charms which are able to excite so much uneasiness:

'Ardeat ipsa licet, tormentis gaudet amanti.'

JUV. Sat. vi. 208.

'Tho' equal pains her peace of mind destroy,
A lover's torments give her spiteful joy.'

But these often carry the humour so far, till their affected coldness and indifference quite kills all the fondness of a lover, and are then sure to meet in their turn with all the contempt and scorn that is due to so insolent a behaviour. On the contrary, it is very probable a melancholy, dejected carriage, the usual effects of injured innocence, may soften the jealous husband into pity, make him sensible of the wrong he does you, and work out of his mind all those fears and suspicions that make you both unhappy. At least it will have this good effect, that he will keep his jealousy to himself, and repine in private, either because he is sensible it is a weakness, and will therefore hide it from your knowledge, or because he will be apt to fear some ill effect it may produce in cooling your love towards him, or diverting it to another.

There is still another secret that can never fail, if you can once get it believed, and which is often practised by women of greater cunning than virtue. This is to change sides for a while with the jealous man, and to turn his own passion upon himself; to take some occasion of showing jealousy of him, and

to follow the example he himself hath set you. This counterfeited jealousy will bring him a great deal of pleasure, if he thinks it real; for he knows experimentally how much love goes along with this passion, and will besides feel something like the satisfaction of a revenge, in seeing you undergo all his own tortures. But this, indeed, is an artifice so difficult, and at the same time so disingenuous, that it ought never to be put in practice, but by such as have skill enough to cover the deceit, and innocence to render it excusable.

I shall conclude this essay with the story of Herod and Mariamne, as I have collected it out of Josephus*; which may serve almost as an example to whatever can be said on this subject.

Mariamne had all the charms that beauty, birth, wit, and youth could give a woman, and Herod all the love that such charms are able to raise in a warm and amorous disposition. In the midst of this his fondness for Mariamne, he put her brother to death, as he did her father not many years after. The barbarity of the action was represented to Mark Antony, who immediately summoned Herod into Egypt, to answer for the crime that was there laid to his charge. Herod attributed the summons to Antony's desire of Mariamne, whom therefore, before his departure, he gave into the custody of his uncle Joseph, with private orders to put her to death, if any such violence was offered to himself. This Joseph was much delighted with Mariamne's conversation, and endeavoured, with all his art and rhetoric, to set out the excess of Herod's passion for her; but when he still found her cold and incredulous, he inconsiderately told her, as a certain instance of her lord's affection, the private orders he had left behind him, which plainly showed, according to Joseph's interpretation, that he could neither live nor die without her. This barbarous instance of a wild unreasonable passion quite put out, for a time, those little remains of affection she still had for her lord. Her thoughts were so wholly taken up with the cruelty of his orders, that she could not consider the kindness that produced them, and therefore represented him in her imagination, rather under the frightful idea of a murderer than a lover. Herod was at length acquitted and dismissed by Mark Antony, when his soul was all in flames for his Mariamne; but before their meeting, he was not a little alarmed at the report he had heard of his uncle's conversation and familiarity with her in his absence. This therefore was the first discourse he entertained her with, in which she found it no easy matter to quiet his suspicions. But at last he appeared so well satisfied of her innocence, that from reproaches and wranglings he fell to tears and embraces. Both of them wept very tenderly at their reconciliation, and Herod poured out his whole soul to her in the warmest protestations of love and constancy; when amidst all his sighs and languishings she asked him, whether the private orders he left with his uncle Joseph were an instance of such an inflamed affection. The jealous king was immediately roused at so unexpected a question, and concluded his uncle must have been too familiar with her, before he would have discovered such a secret. In short, he put his uncle to death, and very difficultly prevailed upon himself to spare Mariamne.

After this he was forced on a second journey into Egypt, when he committed his lady to the care of Sohemus, with the same private orders he had before given his uncle, if any mischief befel

him. In the meanwhile Mariamne so won upon Sohemus by her presents and obliging conversation, that she drew all the secret from him, with which Herod had entrusted him; so that after his return, when he flew to her with all the transports of joy and love, she received him coldly with sighs and tears, and all the marks of indifference and aversion. This reception so stirred up his indignation, that he had certainly slain her with his own hands, had not he feared he himself should have become the greatest sufferer by it. It was not long after this, when he had another violent return of love upon him: Mariamne was therefore sent for to him, whom he endeavoured to soften and reconcile with all possible conjugal caresses and endearments; but she declined his embraces, and answered all his fondness with bitter invectives for the death of her father and her brother. This behaviour so incensed Herod, that he very hardly refrained from striking her; when in the heat of their quarrel there came in a witness, suborned by some of Mariamne's enemies, who accused her to the king of a design to poison him. Herod was now prepared to hear any thing in her prejudice, and immediately ordered her servant to be stretched upon the rack; who in the extremity of his torture confessed that his mistress's aversion to the king arose from something Sohemus had told her; but as for any design of poisoning, he utterly disowned the least knowledge of it. This confession quickly proved fatal to Sohemus, who now lay under the same suspicions and sentence that Joseph had before him, on the like occasion. Nor would Herod rest here; but accused her with great vehemence of a design upon his life, and by his authority with the judges had her publicly condemned and executed. Herod soon after her death grew melancholy and dejected, retiring from the public administration of affairs into a solitary forest, and there abandoning himself to all the black considerations, which naturally arise from a passion made up of love, remorse, pity, and despair. He used to rave for his Mariamne, and to call upon her in his distracted fits; and in all probability would soon have followed her, had not his thoughts been seasonably called off from so sad an object by public storms, which at that time very nearly threatened him.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 172. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1711.

Non solum scientia, quæ est remota à justitia, calliditas potius quam sapientia est appellanda; verum etiam animus paratus ad periculum, si non cupiditate, non utilitate communi, impellitur, audacia potius nomen habet, quam fortitudinis.

PLATO apud TULL.

As knowledge, without justice, ought to be called cunning, rather than wisdom; so a mind prepared to meet danger, if excited by its own eagerness, and not the public good, deserves the name of audacity, rather than of courage.

THERE can be no greater injury to human society than that good talents among men should be held honourable to those who are endowed with them without any regard how they are applied. The gifts of nature and accomplishments of art are valuable, but as they are exerted in the interests of virtue, or governed by the rules of honour. We ought to abstract our minds from the observation of an excellence in those we converse with, till we have taken some notice, or received some good information of the disposition of their minds; other-

* Jewish Antiquities, book xv.

use the beauty of their persons, or the charms of their wit, may make us fond of those whom our reason and judgment will tell us we ought to abhor.

When we suffer ourselves to be thus carried away by mere beauty, or mere wit, Omniamante, with all her vice, will bear away as much of our goodwill as the most innocent virgin, or discreet matron; and there cannot be a more abject slavery in this world, than to doat upon what we think we ought to condemn. Yet this must be our condition in all the parts of life, if we suffer ourselves to approve any thing but what tends to the promotion of what is good and honourable. If we would take true pains with ourselves to consider all things by the light of reason and justice, though a man were in the height of youth and amorous inclinations, he would look upon a coquette with the same contempt, or indifference, as he would upon a coxcomb. The wanton carriage in a woman, would disappoint her of the admiration which she aims at; and the vain dress, or discourse, of a man would destroy the comeliness of his shape, or goodness of his understanding. I say the goodness of his understanding, for it is no less common to see men of sense commence coxcombs, than beautiful women become immodest. When this happens in either, the favour we are naturally inclined to give to the good qualities they have from nature, should abate in proportion. But however just it is to measure the value of men by the application of their talents, and not by the eminence of those qualities abstracted from their use; I say, however just such a way of judging is, in all ages as well as this, the contrary has prevailed upon the generality of mankind. How many lewd devices have been preserved from one age to another, which had perished as soon as they were made, if painters and sculptors had been esteemed as much for the purpose, as the execution of their designs? Modest and well-governed imaginations have by this means lost the representations of ten thousand charming portraiture, filled with images of innate truth, generous zeal, courageous faith, and tender humanity; instead of which, satyrs, furies, and monsters, are recommended by those arts to a shameful eternity.

The unjust application of laudable talents is tolerated in the general opinion of men, not only in such cases as are here mentioned, but also in matters which concern ordinary life. If a lawyer were to be esteemed only as he uses his parts in contending for justice, and were immediately despicable when he appeared in a cause which he could not but know was an unjust one, how honourable would his character be? And how honourable is it in such among us, who follow the profession no otherwise, than as labouring to protect the injured, to subdue the oppressor, to imprison the careless debtor, and do right to the painful artificer? But many of this excellent character are overlooked by the greater number; who first covering a weak place in a client's title, converting the course of an inquiry, or finding a sinful refuge to palliate a falsehood: yet it is still called eloquence in the latter, though thus unjustly employed: but resolution in an assassin is according to reason quite as laudable, as knowledge and wisdom exercised in the defence of an ill cause.

Were the intention steadfastly considered as the measure of approbation, all falsehood would soon be out of countenance: and an address in imposing upon mankind, would be as contemptible in one state of life as another. A couple of courtiers

making professions of esteem, would make the same figure after breach of promise, as two knights of the post convicted of perjury. But conversation is fallen so low in point of morality, that, as they say in a bargain, 'let the buyer look to it;' so in friendship he is the man in danger who is most apt to believe. He is the more likely to suffer in the commerce, who begins with the obligation of being the more ready to enter into it.

But those men only are truly great, who place their ambition rather in acquiring to themselves the conscience of worthy enterprises, than in the prospect of glory which attends them. These exalted spirits would rather be secretly the authors of events which are serviceable to mankind, than, without being such, to have the public fame of it. Where therefore an eminent merit is robbed by artifice or detraction, it does but increase by such endeavours of its enemies. The impotent pains which are taken to sully it, or diffuse it among a crowd to the injury of a single person, will naturally produce the contrary effect; the fire will blaze out, and burn up all that attempt to smother what they cannot extinguish.

There is but one thing necessary to keep the possession of true glory, which is, to hear the opposers of it with patience, and preserve the virtue by which it was acquired. When a man is thoroughly persuaded that he ought neither to admire, wish for, or pursue any thing but what is exactly his duty, it is not in the power of seasons, persons, or accidents, to diminish his value. He only is a great man who can neglect the applause of the multitude, and enjoy himself independent of its favour. This is indeed an arduous task; but it should comfort a glorious spirit that it is the highest step to which human nature can arrive. Triumph, applause, acclamation, are dear to the mind of man; but it is still a more exquisite delight to say to yourself, you have done well, than to hear the whole human race pronounce you glorious, except you yourself can join with them in your own reflections. A mind thus equal and uniform, may be deserted by little fashionable admirers and followers, but will ever be had in reverence by souls like itself. The branches of the oak endure all the seasons of the year, though its leaves fall off in autumn; and these too will be restored with the returning spring.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 173. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1711.

— Remove fera monstra, tuæque
Sarcifoci vultus, quæcunque ea, tolle Medusæ.

OID. Met. v. 216.

Remove that horrid monster, and take hence
Medusæ's petrifying countenance.

In a late paper I mentioned the project of an ingenious author for the erecting of several handicraft prizes to be contended for by our British artisans, and the influence they might have towards the improvement of our several manufactures. I have since that been very much surprised by the following advertisement, which I find in the Post-Boy of the 11th instant, and again repeated in the Post-Boy of the 15th:

'On the 9th of October next will be run for upon Colleshill-heath in Warwickshire, a plate of six guineas value, three heats, by any horse, mare,

or gelding, that hath not won above the value of 5*l*.; the winning horse to be sold for 10*l*. to carry 10 stone weight, if 14 hands high; if above or under, to carry or be allowed weight for inches, and to be entered Friday the 5th, at the Swan in Colleshill, before six in the evening. Also a plate of less value, to be run for by asses. The same day a gold ring to be grinn'd for by men *.

The first of these diversions that is to be exhibited by the 10*l*. race-horses, may probably have its use; but the two last, in which the asses and men are concerned, seem to me altogether extraordinary and unaccountable. Why they should keep running asses at Colleshill, or how making mouths turns to account in Warwickshire, more than in any other parts of England, I cannot comprehend. I have looked over all the Olympic games, and do not find any thing in them like an ass-race, or a match at grinning. However it be, I am informed that several asses are now kept in body-clothes, and sweated every morning upon the heath; and that all the country-fellows within ten miles of the Swan, grin an hour or two in their glasses every morning, in order to qualify themselves for the 9th of October. The prize which is proposed to be grinn'd for, has raised such an ambition among the common people of out-grinning one another, that many very discerning persons are afraid it should spoil most of the faces in the county; and that a Warwickshire man will be known by his grin, as Roman Catholics imagine a Kentish man is by his tail. The gold ring which is made the prize of deformity, is just the reverse of the golden apple that was formerly made the prize of beauty, and should carry for its poesy the old motto inverted:

'Detur tetrioni.'

Or, to accommodate it to the capacity of the combatants,

*'The frightfullst grinner
Be the winner.'*

In the meanwhile I would advise a Dutch painter to be present at this great controversy of faces, in order to make a collection of the most remarkable grins that shall be there exhibited.

I must not here omit an account which I lately received of one of these grinning-matches from a gentleman, who, upon reading the above-mentioned advertisement, entertained a coffee-house with the following narrative. Upon the taking of Namur †, amidst other public rejoicings made on that occasion, there was a gold ring given by a whig justice of peace to be grinn'd for. The first competitor that entered the lists, was a black swarthy Frenchman ‡, who accidentally passed that way, and being a man naturally of a withered look, and hard features, promised himself good success. He was placed upon a table in the great point of view, and looking upon the company like Milton's Death,

'Grinn'd horribly a ghastly smile:—'

His muscles were so drawn together on each side of his face, that he showed twenty teeth at a grin, and put the country in some pain, lest a fo-

reigner should carry away the honour of the day; but upon a further trial they found he was master only of the merry grin.

The next that mounted the table was a male-content in those days, and a great master in the whole art of grinning, but particularly excelled in the angry grin. He did his part so well, that he is said to have made half a dozen women miscarry; but the justice being apprized by one who stood near him, that the fellow who grinn'd in his face was a Jacobite, and being unwilling that a disaffected person should win the gold ring, and be looked upon as the best grinner in the country, he ordered the oaths to be tendered unto him upon his quitting the table, which the grinner refusing, he was set aside as an unqualified person. There were several other grotesque figures, that presented themselves, which it would be too tedious to describe. I must not however omit a ploughman, who lived in the further part of the country, and being very lucky in a pair of long lantern-jaw, wrung his face into such an hideous grimace, that every feature of it appeared under a different distortion. The whole company stood astonished at such a complicated grin, and were ready to assign the prize to him, had it not been proved by one of his antagonists, that he had practised with verjuice for some days before, and had a crab found upon him at the very time of grinning; upon which the best judges of grinning declared it as their opinion, that he was not to be looked upon as a fair grinner, and therefore ordered him to be set aside as a cheat.

The prize, it seems, fell at length upon a cobbler, Giles Gorgon by name, who produced several new grins of his own invention, having been used to cut faces for many years together over his last. At the very first grin he cast every human feature out of his countenance, at the second he became the face of a spout, at the third a baboon, at the fourth a head of a bass-viol, and at the fifth a pair of nut-crackers. The whole assembly wondered at his accomplishments, and bestowed the ring on him unanimously; but, what he esteemed more than all the rest, a country wench, whom he had wooed in vain for above five years before, was so charmed with his grins, and the applauses which he received on all sides, that she married him the week following, and to this day wears the prize upon her finger, the cobbler having made use of it as his wedding-ring.

This paper might perhaps seem very impertinent, if it grew serious in the conclusion. I would nevertheless leave it to the consideration of those who are the patrons of this monstrous trial of skill, whether or no they are not guilty, in some measure, of an affront to their species, in treating after this manner the 'human face divine,' and turning that part of us, which has so great an image impressed upon it, into the image of a monkey; whether the raising such silly competitions among the ignorant, proposing prizes for such useless accomplishments, filling the common people's heads with such senseless ambitions, and inspiring them with such absurd ideas of superiority and pre-eminence, has not in it something immoral as well as ridiculous.

ADDISON.

L

* In No 547, this paper is pointed out as an infallible cure for the hypochondriac melancholy; as are also Nos. 184, 191, 203, 209, 221, 233, 235, 239, 245, 247, and 251.

† From the French, by king William, September 2, 1695.

‡ In a French translation of *The Spectator*, we find it observed, that 'this is one of those papers which it has not been thought proper to translate.'

№174. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1711.

Hec mentis et victum frustra contendere Thyrrin.
VIRG. Ecl. vii. ver. 69.

These rhymes I did to memory commend,
When vanquish'd Thyrris did in vain contend.
DRYDEN.

There is scarce any thing more common than animosities between parties that cannot subsist but by their agreement: this was well represented in the edition of the members of the human body in the old Roman fable*. It is often the case of lesser confederate states against a superior power, which are hardly held together, though their unanimity is necessary for their common safety: and this is always the case of the landed and trading interest of Great Britain: the trader is fed by the product of the land, and the landed man cannot be clothed but by the skill of the trader; and yet those interests are ever jarring.

We had last winter an instance of this at our club, in Sir Roger de Coverley and Sir Andrew Freeport, between whom there is generally a constant, though friendly, opposition of opinions. It happened that one of the company, in an historical discourse, was observing, that Carthaginian faith was a proverbial phrase to intimate breach of leagues. Sir Roger said it could hardly be otherwise: that the Carthaginians were the greatest traders in the world; and as gain is the chief end of such a people, they never pursue any other: the means to it are never regarded: they will, if it comes easily, get money honestly; but if not, they will not scruple to attain it by fraud, or cozenage: and indeed, what is the whole business of the trader's account, but to over-reach him who trusts to his memory? But were that not so, what can there great and noble be expected from him whose attention is for ever fixed upon balancing his books, and watching over his expenses? And at best, let frugality and parsimony be the virtues of the merchant, how much is his punctual dealing below a gentleman's charity to the poor, or hospitality among his neighbours?

Captain Sentry observed Sir Andrew very diligent in hearing Sir Roger, and had a mind to turn the discourse, by taking notice in general from the highest to the lowest parts of human society, there was a secret, though unjust, way among men, of indulging the seeds of ill-nature and envy, by comparing their own state of life to that of another, and grudging the approach of their neighbour to their own happiness; and on the other side, he, who is the less at his ease, repines at the other, who he thinks has unjustly the advantage over him. Thus the civil and military lists look upon each other with much ill-nature; the soldier repines at the courtier's power, and the courtier rallies the soldier's honour; or, to come to lower instances, the private men in the horse and foot of an army, the carmen and coachmen in the city streets, mutually look upon each other with ill-will, when they are in competition for quarters, or the way in their respective motions.

'It is very well, good captain,' interrupted Sir Andrew: 'you may attempt to turn the discourse if you think fit; but I must however have a word or two with Sir Roger, who, I see, thinks he has paid me off, and been very severe upon the mer-

chant. I shall not,' continued he, 'at this time remind Sir Roger of the great and noble monuments of charity and public spirit, which have been erected by merchants since the Reformation, but at present content myself with what he allows us, parsimony and frugality. If it were consistent with the quality of so ancient a baronet as Sir Roger, to keep an account, or measure things by the most infallible way, that of numbers, he would prefer our parsimony to his hospitality. If to drink so many hogheads is to be hospitable, we do not contend for the fame of that virtue; but it would be worth while to consider, whether so many artificers at work ten days together by my appointment, or so many peasants made merry on Sir Roger's charge, are the men more obliged? I believe the families of the artificers will thank me, more than the household of the peasant shall Sir Roger. Sir Roger gives to his men, but I place mine above the necessity or obligation of my bounty. I am in very little pain for the Roman proverb upon the Carthaginian traders; the Romans were their professed enemies: I am only sorry no Carthaginian histories have come to our hands: we might have been taught perhaps by them some proverbs against the Roman generosity, in fighting for, and bestowing other people's goods. But since Sir Roger has taken occasion from an old proverb, to be out of humour with merchants, it should be no offence to offer one not quite so old in their defence. When a man happens to break in Holland, they say of him that "he has not kept true accounts." This phrase, perhaps, among us would appear a soft or humorous way of speaking, but with that exact nation it bears the highest reproach. For a man to be mistaken in the calculation of his expense, in his ability to answer future demands, or to be impertinently sanguine in putting his credit to too great adventure, are all instances of as much infamy, as with gayer nations to be failing in courage, or common honesty.

'Numbers are so much the measure of every thing that is valuable, that it is not possible to demonstrate the success of any action, or the prudence of any undertaking, without them. I say this in answer to what Sir Roger is pleased to say, "that little that is truly noble can be expected from one who is ever poring on his cash-book, or balancing his accounts." When I leave my returns from abroad, I can tell to a shilling, by the help of numbers, the profit or loss by my adventure; but I ought also to be able to show that I had reason for making it, either from my own experience, or that of other people, or from a reasonable presumption that my returns will be sufficient to answer my expense and hazard; and this is never to be done without the skill of numbers. For instance, if I am to trade to Turkey; I ought beforehand to know the demand of our manufactures there as well as of their silks in England, and the customary prices that are given for both in each country. I ought to have a clear knowledge of these matters beforehand, that I may presume upon sufficient returns to answer the charge of the cargo I have fitted out, the freight and assurance out and home, the customs to the queen, and the interest of my own money, and besides all these expenses, a reasonable profit to myself. Now what is there of scandal in this skill? What has the merchant done, that he should be so little in the good graces of Sir Roger? He throws down no man's inclosures, and tramples upon no man's corn; he takes nothing from the industrious labourer; he pays the poor man for his work; he communicates his profit

* Well related from Livy in Shakspeare's *Coriolanus*, act i. scene 1.

with mankind; by the preparation of his cargo, and the manufacture of his returns, he furnishes employment and subsistence to greater numbers than the richest nobleman; and even the nobleman is obliged to him for finding out foreign markets for the produce of his estate, and for making a great addition to his rents; and yet it is certain that none of all these things could be done by him without the exercise of his skill in numbers.

'This is the economy of the merchant; and the conduct of the gentleman must be the same, unless by scorning to be the steward, he resolves the steward shall be the gentleman. The gentleman, no more than the merchant, is able, without the help of numbers, to account for the success of any action, or the prudence of any adventure. If, for instance, the chase is his whole adventure, his only returns must be the stag's horns in the great hall, and the fox's nose upon the stable door. Without doubt Sir Roger knows the full value of these returns; and if beforehand he had computed the charges of the chase, a gentleman of his discretion would certainly have hanged up all his dogs; he would never have brought back so many fine horses to the kennel, he would never have gone so often, like a blast, over fields of corn. If such too, had been the conduct of all his ancestors, he might truly have boasted at this day, that the antiquity of his family had never been sullied by a trade; a merchant had never been permitted with his whole estate to purchase a room for his picture in the gallery of the Coverleys, or to claim his descent from the maid of honour. But it is very happy for Sir Roger that the merchant paid so dear for his ambition. It is the misfortune of many other gentlemen to turn out, of the seats of their ancestors, to make way for such new masters as have been more exact in their accounts than themselves; and certainly he deserves the estate a great deal better, who has got it by his industry, than he who has lost it by his negligence.'

STEELE.

T.

N^o 175. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1711.

Prosimus a tactis ignis defenditur agre.
OVID. Rem. Am. v. 625.

To save your house from neighbouring fire is hard.
TATE.

I SHALL this day entertain my readers with two or three letters I have received from my correspondents: the first discovers to me a species of females which have hitherto escaped my notice, and is as follows:

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a young gentleman of a competent fortune, and a sufficient taste of learning, to spend five or six hours every day very agreeably among my books. That I might have nothing to divert me from my studies, and to avoid the noises of coaches and chairmen, I have taken lodgings in a very narrow street not far from Whitehall; but it is my misfortune to be so posted, that my lodgings are directly opposite to those of a Jezebel. You are to know, sir, that a Jezebel (so called by the neighbourhood from displaying her pernicious charms at her window) appears constantly dressed at her sash, and has a thousand little tricks and fooleries to attract the eyes of all the idle young fellows in the neighbourhood. I have seen more than six persons at once from their several win-

dows observing the Jezebel I am now complaining of. I at first looked on her myself with the highest contempt, could divert myself with her airs for half an hour, and afterwards take up my Plutarch with great tranquillity of mind; but was a little vexed to find that in less than a month she had considerably stolen upon my time, so that I resolved to look at her no more. But the Jezebel, who, as I suppose, might think it a diminution to her honour, to have the number of her gazers lessened, resolved not to part with me so, and began to play so many new tricks at her window, that it was impossible for me to forbear observing her. I verily believe she put herself to the expense of a new wax-baby on purpose to plague me; she used to dangle and play with this figure as impudently as if it had been a real child: sometimes she would let fall a glove or a pin cushion in the street, and shut or open her casement three or four times in a minute. When I had almost weaned myself from this, she came in her shift-sleeves, and dressed at the window. I had no way left but to let down my curtains, which I submitted to though it considerably darkened my room, and was pleased to think that I had at last got the better of her; but was surprised the next morning to hear her talking out of her window quite across the street, with another woman that lodged over me: I am since informed, that she made her a visit, and got acquainted with her within three hours after the fall of my window-curtains.

'Sir, I am plagued every moment in the day, one way or other, in my own chambers; and the Jezebel has the satisfaction to know, that though I am not looking at her, I am listening to her impertinent dialogues, that pass over my head. I would immediately change my lodgings, but that I think it might look like a plain confession, that I am conquered; and besides this, I am told that most quarters of the town are infested with these creatures. If they are so, I am sure it is such an abuse, as a lover of learning and silence ought to take notice of.

'I am, sir, yours, &c.'

I am afraid, by some lines in this letter, that my young student is touched with a distemper which he hardly seems to dream of, and is too far gone in it to receive advice. However, I shall animadvert in due time on the abuse which he mentions, having myself observed a nest of Jezebels near the Temple, who make it their diversion to draw up the eyes of young Templars, that at the same time they may see them stumble in an unlucky gutter which runs under the window.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE lately read the conclusion of your forty-seventh speculation upon Butts with great pleasure, and have ever since been thoroughly persuaded that one of those gentlemen is extremely necessary to enliven conversation. I had an entertainment last week upon the water for a lady to whom I make my addresses, with several of our friends of both sexes. To divert the company in general, and to show my mistress in particular my genius for railery, I took one of the most celebrated Butts in town along with me. It is with the utmost shame and confusion that I must acquaint you with the sequel of my adventure. As soon as we were got into the boat, I played a sentence or two at my Butt which I thought very smart; when my ill genius, who I verily believe

inspired him purely for my distraction, suggested to him such a reply, as got all the laughter on his side. I was dashed at so unexpected a turn; which the Butt perceiving, resolved not to let me recover myself, and pursuing his victory, rallied and teased me in a most unmerciful and barbarous manner till we came to Chelsea. I had some small success while we were eating chesscakes; but coming home, he renewed his attacks with his former good fortune, and equal diversion to the whole company. In short, sir, I must ingenuously own that I was never so handled in all my life; and to complete my misfortune, I am since told that the Butt, flushed with his late victory, has made a visit or two to the dear object of my wishes, so that I am at once in danger of losing all my pretensions to wit, and my mistress into the bargain. This, sir, is a true account of my present troubles, which you are the more obliged to assist me in, as you were yourself in a great measure the cause of them, by recommending to us an instrument, and not instructing us at the same time how to play upon it.

I have been thinking whether it might not be highly convenient, that all Butts should wear an inscription affixed to some part of their bodies, showing on which side they are to be come at; and that if any of them are persons of unequal temper, there should be some method taken to inform the world at what time it is safe to attack them, and when you had best to let them alone. But submitting these matters to your more serious consideration,

'I am, sir,
'Yours, &c.'

I have, indeed, seen and heard of several young gentlemen under the same misfortune with my present correspondent. The best rule I can lay down for them to avoid the like calamities for the future, is thoroughly to consider, not only, whether their companions are weak, but whether themselves are wits.

The following letter comes to me from Exeter, and being credibly informed that what it contains is matter of fact, I shall give it my reader as it was sent to me:

'MR. SPECTATOR, Exeter, Sept. 7.
'You were pleased in a late speculation* to take notice of the inconvenience we lie under in the country, in not being able to keep pace with the fashion. But there is another misfortune which we are subject to, and is no less grievous than the former, which has hitherto escaped your observations. I mean, the having things palmed upon us for London fashions, which were never once heard of there.

'A lady of this place had some time since a box of the newest ribands sent down by the coach. Whether it was her own malicious invention, or the wantonness of a London milliner, I am not able to inform you; but among the rest, there was one cherry-coloured riband, consisting of about half a dozen yards, made up in the figure of a small head-dress. The aforesaid lady had the assurance to affirm, amidst a circle of female inquisitors, who were present at the opening of the box, that this was the newest fashion worn at court. Accordingly the next Sunday, we had several females, who came to church with their heads dressed wholly in ribands, and looked like so many victims ready to be sacrificed. This is still a reigning

mode among us. At the same time we have a set of gentlemen who take the liberty to appear in all public places without any buttons to their coats, which they supply with several little silver hasps, though our freshest advices from London make no mention of any such fashion; and we are something shy of affording matter to the button-makers for a second petition*.

'What I would humbly propose to the public is, that there may be a society erected in London, to consist of the most skilful persons of both sexes, for the inspection of modes and fashions; and that hereafter no person or persons shall presume to appear singularly habited in any part of the country, without a testimonial from the aforesaid society, that their dress is answerable to the mode at London. By this means, sir, we shall know a little whereabouts we are.

'If you could bring this matter to bear, you would very much oblige great numbers of your country friends, and among the rest,

'Your very humble servant,
'JACK MODISH.' X.

BUDGEELL.

Nº 176. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1711.

Paroula, pumilio, χαριτων μου, tota merum sai.
LUCR. l. 4. vs. 1155.

A little, pretty, witty, charming she!

THERE are in the following letter matters, which I, a bachelor, cannot be supposed to be acquainted with; therefore shall not pretend to explain upon it till further consideration, but leave the author of the epistle to express his condition his own way.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I do not deny but you appear in many of your papers to understand human life pretty well; but there are very many things which you cannot possibly have a true notion of in a single life; these are such as respect the married state; otherwise I cannot account for your having overlooked a very good sort of people, which are commonly called in scorn "the Hen-peckt." You are to understand that I am one of those innocent mortals who suffer derision under that word, for being governed by the best of wives. It would be worth your consideration to enter into the nature of affection itself, and tell us, according to your philosophy, why it is that our Dears should do what they will with us, shall be froward, ill-natured, assuming, sometimes whine, at others rail, then swoon away, then come to life, have the use of speech to the greatest fluency imaginable, and then sink away again, and all because they fear we do not love them enough: that is, the poor things love us so heartily, that they cannot think it possible we should be able to love them in so great a degree, which makes them take on so. I say, sir, a true good-natur'd man, whom rakes and libertines call hen-peckt, shall fall into all these dif-

* In 1709 the button-makers presented a petition to parliament, and obtained an act in their favour, of which the preamble states, that 'Whereas the maintenance and subsistence of many thousands of men, women, and children, within this Kingdom of Great-Britain, depends upon the making of silk, mohair, gimp, and thread buttons and button-holes with the needle, &c. And a late un-reason practice of making and binding button-holes with cloth, &c. &c. to the utter ruin of numerous families, &c.'

ferent moods with his dear life, and at the same time see they are wholly put on; and yet not be hard-hearted enough to tell the dear good creature that she is a hypocrite.

'This sort of good men is very frequent in the populous and wealthy city of London, and is the true hen-peckt man. The kind creature cannot break through his kindnesses so far as to come to an explanation with the tender soul, and therefore goes on to comfort her when nothing ails her, to appease her when she is not angry, and to give her his cash when he knows she does not want it; rather than be uneasy for a whole month, which is computed by hard-hearted men the space of time which a froward woman takes to come to herself, if you have courage to stand out.

'There are, indeed, several other species of the hen-peckt, and in my opinion they are certainly the best subjects the queen has; and for that reason I take it to be your duty to keep us above contempt.

'I do not know whether I make myself understood in the representation of a hen-peckt life, but I shall take leave to give you an account of myself, and my own spouse. You are to know that I am reckoned no fool, have on several occasions been tried whether I will take ill-usage, and the event has been to my advantage; and yet there is not such a slave in Turkey as I am to my Dear. She has a good share of wit, and is what you call a very pretty agreeable woman. I perfectly doat on her, and my affection to her gives me all the anxieties imaginable but that of jealousy. My being thus confident of her, I take, as much as I can judge of my heart, to be the reason, that whatever she does, though it be never so much against my inclination, there is still left something in her manner that is amiable. She will sometimes look at me with an assumed grandeur, and pretend to resent that I have not had respect enough for her opinion in such an instance in company. I cannot but smile at the pretty anger she is in, and then she pretends she is used like a child. In a word, our great debate is, which has the superiority in point of understanding. She is eternally forming an argument of debate; to which I very indolently answer, "Thou art mighty pretty." To this she answers, "All the world but you think I have as much sense as yourself." I repeat to her, "Indeed you are pretty." Upon this there is no patience; she will throw down any thing about her, stamp, and pull off her head-clothes. "Fy, my dear," say I; "how can a woman of your sense fall into such an intemperate rage?" This is an argument which never fails. "Indeed, my dear," says she, "you make me mad sometimes, so you do, with the silly way you have of treating me like a pretty idiot." Well, what have I got by putting her into good humour? Nothing, but that I must convince her of my good opinion by my practice: and then I am to give her possession of my little ready money, and, for a day and a half following, dislike all she dislikes, and extol every thing she approves. I am so exquisitely fond of this darling, that I seldom see any of my friends, am uneasy in all companies till I see her again; and when I come home she is in the dumps, because she says she is sure I came so soon only because I think her handsome. I dare not upon this occasion laugh; but though I am one of the warmest churchmen in the kingdom, I am forced to rail at the times, because she is a violent Whig. Upon this we talk politics so long, that she is convinced I kiss her for her wisdom. It is a common prac-

tice with me to ask her some question concerning the constitution, which she answers me in general out of Harrington's Oceana*. Then I commend her strange memory, and her arm is immediately locked in mine. While I keep her in this temper she plays before me, sometimes dancing in the midst of the room, sometimes striking an air at her spinnet, varying her posture and her charms in such a manner that I am in continual pleasure. She will play the fool if I allow her to be wise; but if she suspects I like her for her trifling, she immediately grows grave.

'These are the toils in which I am taken, and I carry off my servitude as well as most men; but my application to you is in behalf of the hen-peckt in general, and I desire a dissertation from you in defence of us. You have, as I am informed, very good authorities in our favour, and hope you will not omit the mention of the renowned Socrates, and his philosophic resignation to his wife Xantippe. This would be a very good office to the world in general; for the hen-peckt are powerful in their quality and numbers, not only in cities, but in courts: in the latter they are ever the most obsequious, in the former the most wealthy of all men. When you have considered wedlock thoroughly, you ought to enter into the suburbs of matrimony, and give us an account of the thralldom of kind keepers, and irresolute lovers; the keepers who cannot quit their fair ones, though they see their approaching ruin; the lovers who dare not marry, though they know they never shall be happy without the mistresses whom they cannot purchase on other terms.

'What will be a great embellishment to your discourse will be, that you may find instances of the haughty, the proud, the frolic, the stubborn, who are each of them in secret downright slaves to their wives or mistresses. I must beg of you in the last place to dwell upon this, that the wise and valiant in all ages have been hen-peckt; and that the sturdy tempers who are not slaves to affection, owe that exemption to their being enthralled by ambition, avarice, or some meaner passion. I have ten thousand thousand things more to say, but my wife sees me writing, and will, according to custom, be consulted, if I do not seal this immediately.

'Yours,
'NATHANIEL HENROOST.'

STEELE.

T.

Nº 177. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1711.

— *Quis enim bonus, aut face dignus
Arcana, qualem Cererus vult esse sacerdos,
Ulla aliena sibi credat mala!* —

JUV. Sat. xv. ver. 142.

Who can all sense of others' ills escape,
Is but a brute, at best, in human shape.

TATE.

In one of my last week's papers I treated of good-nature, as it is the effect of constitution; I shall now speak of it as it is a moral virtue. The first

* A kind of political romance (printed in 1696) in imitation of Plato's *Atlantic Story*, by James Harrington. By Oceana he means England; and the romance exhibits a plan of republican government, which he would have had erected here in case these kingdoms had formed themselves into a genuine commonwealth.

may make a man easy in himself and agreeable to others, but implies no merit in him that is possessed of it. A man is no more to be praised upon this account, than because he has a regular pulse, or a good digestion. This good-nature, however, in the constitution, which Mr. Dryden somewhere calls a 'milkiness of blood,' is an admirable groundwork for the other. In order, therefore, to try our good-nature, whether it arises from the body or the mind, whether it be founded in the animal or rational part of our nature; in a word, whether it be such as is entitled to any other reward, besides that secret satisfaction and contentment of mind which is essential to it, and the kind reception it procures us in the world, we must examine it by the following rules:

First, whether it acts with steadiness and uniformity in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity; if otherwise, it is to be looked upon as nothing else but an irradiation of the mind from some new supply of spirits, or a more kindly circulation of the blood. Sir Francis Bacon mentions a cunning solicitor, who would never ask a favour of a great man before dinner; but took care to prefer his petition at a time when the party petitioned had his mind free from care, and his appetites in good humour. Such a transient temporary good-nature as this, is not that philanthropy, that love of mankind, which deserves the title of a moral virtue.

The next way of a man's bringing his good-nature to the test, is, to consider whether it operates according to the rules of reason and duty: for if, notwithstanding its general benevolence to mankind, it makes no distinction between its objects, if it extends itself promiscuously towards the deserving and undeserving, if it relieves alike the idle and the indigent, if it gives itself up to the first petitioner, and lights upon any one rather by accident than choice, it may pass for an amiable instinct, but must not assume the name of a moral virtue.

The third trial of good-nature will be, the examining ourselves, whether or no we are able to exert it to our own disadvantage, and employ it on proper objects, notwithstanding any little pain, want, or inconvenience which may arise to ourselves from it. In a word, whether we are willing to risk any part of our fortune, our reputation, or health, or ease, for the benefit of mankind. Among all these expressions of good-nature, I shall single out that which goes under the general name of charity, as it consists in relieving the indigent; that being a trial of this kind which offers itself to us almost at all times, and in every place.

I should propose it as a rule to every one who is provided with any competency of fortune more than sufficient for the necessities of life, to lay aside a certain proportion of his income for the use of the poor. This I would look upon as an offering to Him who has a right to the whole, for the use of those whom, in the passage hereafter mentioned, he has described as his own representatives upon earth. At the same time, we should manage our charity with such prudence and caution, that we may not hurt our own friends or relations, whilst we are doing good, to those who are strangers to us.

This may possibly be explained better by an example than by a rule.

Eugenius is a man of an universal good-nature, and generous beyond the extent of his fortune; but withal so prudent, in the economy of his affairs, that what goes out in charity is made up by good

management. Eugenius has what the world calls two hundred pounds a year; but never values himself above nine-score, as not thinking he has a right to the tenth part, which he always appropriates to charitable uses. To this sum he frequently makes other voluntary additions, inasmuch that in a good year, for such he accounts those in which he has been able to make greater bounties than ordinary, he has given above twice that sum to the sickly and indigent. Eugenius prescribes to himself many particular days of fasting and abstinence, in order to increase his private bank of charity, and sets aside what would be the current expenses of those times for the use of the poor. He often goes afoot where his business calls him, and at the end of his walk has given a shilling, which in his ordinary methods of expense would have gone for coach-hire, to the first necessitous person that has fallen in his way. I have known him, when he has been going to a play or an opera, divert the money which was designed for that purpose, upon an object of charity whom he has met with in the street; and afterwards pass his evening in a coffee-house, or at a friend's fire-side, with much greater satisfaction to himself, than he could have received from the most exquisite entertainments of the theatre. By these means he is generous without impoverishing himself, and enjoys his estate by making it the property of others.

There are few men so cramped in their private affairs, who may not be charitable after this manner, without any disadvantage to themselves, or prejudice to their families. It is but sometimes sacrificing a diversion or convenience to the poor; and turning the usual course of our expenses into a better channel. This is, I think, not only the most prudent and convenient, but the most meritorious piece of charity, which we can put in practice. By this method, we in some measure share the necessities of the poor at the same time that we relieve them, and make ourselves not only their patrons, but their fellow-sufferers.

Sir Thomas Brown, in the last part of his *Religio Medici**, in which he describes his charity in several heroic instances, and with a noble heat of sentiment, mentions that verse in the Proverbs of Solomon, 'He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth unto the Lord †: There is more rhetoric in that one sentence, says he, than in a library of sermons; and indeed if those sentences were understood by the reader, with the same emphasis as they are delivered by the author, we needed not those volumes of instructions, but might be honest by an epitome.

This passage in scripture is indeed wonderfully persuasive; but I think the same thought is carried much further in the New Testament, where our Saviour tells us, in a most pathetic manner, that he shall hereafter regard the clothing of the naked, the feeding of the hungry, and the visiting of the imprisoned, as offices done to himself, and reward them accordingly ‡. Pursuant to those passages in holy scripture, I have somewhere met with the epitaph of a charitable man, which has very much pleased me. I cannot recollect the words, but the sense of it is to this purpose: What I spent I lost; what I possessed is left to others; what I gave away remains with me §.

* Part II. sec. 13.

† Prov. xix. 17.

‡ Matt. xxv. 35, & seq.

§ The allusion is to an epitaph in the church at Doncaster.

Since I am thus insensibly engaged in sacred writ, I cannot forbear making an extract of several passages which I have always read with great delight in the book of Job. It is the account which that holy man gives of his behaviour in the days of his prosperity; and if considered only as a human composition, is a finer picture of a charitable and good-natured man than is to be met with in any other author.

Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me: when his candle shined upon my head; and when by his light I walked through darkness: when the Almighty was yet with me; when my children were about me; when I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil.

When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me. Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me; and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame; I was a father to the poor, and the cause which I knew not I searched out. Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? was not my soul grieved for the poor? Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity. If I did despise the cause of my man-servant or of my maid-servant when they contended with me; what then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him? Did not he that made me in the womb, make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb? If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail: or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof: if I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering: if his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep: if I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate; then let mine arm fall from my shoulder-blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone. If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him (neither have I suffered my mouth to sin, by wishing a curse to his soul). The stranger did not lodge in the street; but I opened my doors to the traveller. If my land cry against me, or that the fawns likewise thereof complain: if I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, or have caused the owners thereof to lose their life; let thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley.*

ADDISON.

L.

In Yorkshire, which ran thus, as we find it stated in Mr. Sullivan's "Tour, performed in 1778."

'Howe, howe, who is heare' That I spent, that I had:
I Robin of Duncastore That gave, that I have:
And Margaret my feare + That left, that I lost.

A. D. 1597.

* Quoted Robertus Byrke, who in this world did reign
Threescore years and seven, but liv'd not one.

• Job xxix 2, &c. xxx. 25, &c. xxxi. 6, &c. *passim*.

+ Mate, or companion; a Yorkshire provincialism.

Nº 178. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1711.

Comis in uxorem

HOR. Ep. li. l. 2. ver. 133.

Civil to his wife.

POPE.

I CANNOT defer taking notice of this letter.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM but too good a judge of your paper of the 15th instant, which is a masterpiece; I mean that of jealousy*: but I think it unworthy of you to speak of that torture in the breast of a man, and not to mention also the pangs of it in the heart of a woman. You have very judiciously, and with the greatest penetration imaginable, considered it as woman is the creature of whom the diffidence is raised: but not a word of a man, who is so unmerciful as to move jealousy in his wife, and not care whether she is so or not. It is possible you may not believe there are such tyrants in the world; but alas, I can tell you of a man who is ever out of humour in his wife's company, and the pleasantest man in the world every where else; the greatest sloven at home when he appears to none but his family, and most exactly well-dressed in all other places. Alas, sir, is it of course, that to deliver one's self wholly into a man's power, without possibility of appeal to any other jurisdiction but his own reflections, is so little an obligation to a gentleman, that he can be offended and fall into a rage, because my heart swells tears into my eyes when I see him in a cloudy mood? I pretend to no succour, and hope for no relief, but from himself; and yet he that has sense and justice in every thing else, never reflects, that to come home only to sleep off an intemperance, and spend all the time he is there as if it were a punishment, cannot but give the anguish of a jealous mind. He always leaves his home as if he were going to court, and returns as if he were entering a jail. I could add to this, that from his company and his usual discourse, he does not scruple being thought an abandoned man, as to his morals. Your own imagination will say enough to you concerning the condition of me his wife; and I wish you would be so good as to represent to him, for he is not ill-natured, and reads you much, that the moment I hear the door shut after him, I throw myself upon my bed, and drown the child he is so fond of, with my tears, and often frighten it with my cries; that I curse my being; that I run to my glass all over bathed in sorrows, and help the utterance of my inward anguish by beholding the gush of my own calamities as my tears fall from my eyes. This looks like an imagined picture to tell you, but indeed this is one of my pastimes. Hitherto I have only told you the general temper of my mind, but how shall I give you an account of the distraction of it? Could you but conceive how cruel I am one moment in my resentment, and at the ensuing minute, when I place him in the condition my anger would bring him to, how compassionate; it would give you some notion how miserable I am, and how little I deserve it. When I remonstrate with the greatest gentleness that is possible against unhandsome appearances, and that married persons are under particular rules; when he is in the best humour to receive this, I am

• Nº 171. See also Nº 170

answered only, that I expose my own reputation and sense if I appear jealous. I wish, good sir, you would take this into serious consideration, and admonish husbands and wives, what terms they ought to keep towards each other. Your thoughts on this important subject will have the greatest reward, that which descends on such as feel the sorrows of the afflicted. Give me leave to subscribe myself,

'Your unfortunate humble servant,
'CELINDA.'

I had it in my thoughts, before I received the letter of this lady, to consider this dreadful passion in the mind of a woman; and the smart she seems to feel does not abate the inclination I had to recommend to husbands a more regular behaviour, than to give the most exquisite of torments to those who love them, nay, whose torment would be abated if they did not love them.

It is wonderful to observe how little is made of this inexpressible injury, and how easily men get into a habit of being least agreeable where they are most obliged to be so. But this subject deserves a distinct speculation, and I shall observe for a day or two the behaviour of two or three happy pairs I am acquainted with, before I pretend to make a system of conjugal morality. I design, in the first place, to go a few miles out of town, and there I know where to meet one who practices all the parts of a fine gentleman in the day of an husband. When he was a bachelor, such business made him particularly negligent in his habit; but now there is no young lover living so exact in the care of his person. One who asked why he was so long washing his mouth, and so delicate in the choice and wearing of his linen, was answered: 'Because there is a woman of merit obliged to receive me kindly, and I think it incumbent upon me to make her inclination go along with her duty.'

If a man would give himself leave to think, he would not be so unreasonable as to expect debauchery and innocence could live in commerce together; or hope that flesh and blood is capable of so strict an alliance, as that a fine woman must go on to improve herself till she is as good and impassive as an angel, only to preserve a fidelity to a brute and a satyr. The lady who desires me for her sake to end one of my papers with the following letter, I am persuaded, thinks such a perseverance very impracticable.

'HUSBAND,
'STAY more at home. I know where you visited at seven of the clock on Thursday evening. The colonel, whom you charged me to see no more, is in town.

'MARTHA HOUSEWIFE.'

FINIS.

T.

N° 179. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1711.

*Centuria seniorum agitant expertia frugis:
Celsi pratercunt austeri pocmata Rhamni;
Omne tuis punctum qui miscuit utile dulci,
Lustore delectando, pariterque monendo.*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 341.

Old age explodes all but morality;
Austerity offends aspiring youth:
But he that joins instruction with delight,
Pleads with pleasure, carries all the votes.

ROSCOMMON.

I HAVE cast my readers under two general divisions, the Mercurial and the Saturnine. The first

are the gay part of my disciples, who require speculations of wit and humour; the others are those of a more solemn and sober turn, who find no pleasure but in papers of morality and sound sense. The former call every thing that is serious, stupid; the latter look upon every thing as impertinent that is ludicrous. Were I always grave, one half of my readers would fall off from me: were I always merry, I should lose the other. I make it therefore my endeavour to find out entertainments of both kinds, and by that means perhaps consult the good of both, more than I should do, did I always write to the particular taste of either. As they neither of them know what I proceed upon, the sprightly reader, who takes up my paper in order to be diverted, very often finds himself engaged unawares in a serious and profitable course of thinking; as, on the contrary, the thoughtful man, who perhaps may hope to find something solid, and full of deep reflection, is very often incessably betrayed into a fit of mirth. In a word, the reader sits down to my entertainment without knowing his bill of fare, and has therefore at least the pleasure of hoping there may be a dish to his palate.

I must confess, were I left to myself, I should rather aim at instructing than diverting; but if we will be useful to the world, we must take it as we find it. Authors of professed severity discourage the looser part of mankind from having any thing to do with their writings. A man must have virtue in him before he will enter upon the reading of a Seneca or an Epictetus. The very title of a moral treatise has something in it austere and shocking to the careless and inconsiderate.

For this reason several unthinking persons fall in my way, who would give no attention to lectures delivered with a religious seriousness or a philosophic gravity. They are insured into sentiments of wisdom and virtue when they do not think of it; and if by that means they arrive only at such a degree of consideration as may dispose them to listen to more studied and elaborate discourses, I shall not think my speculations useless. I might likewise observe, that the gloominess in which sometimes the minds of the best men are involved, very often stands in need of such little incitements to mirth and laughter, as are apt to disperse melancholy, and put our faculties in good humour. To which some will add, that the British climate, more than any other, makes entertainments of this nature in a manner necessary.

If what I have here said does not recommend, it will at least excuse the variety of my speculations. I would not willingly laugh but in order to instruct, or if I sometimes fail in this point, when my mirth ceases to be instructive, it shall never cease to be innocent. A scrupulous conduct in this particular, has, perhaps, more merit in it than the generality of readers imagine; did they know how many thoughts occur in a point of humour, which a discreet author in modesty suppresses; how many strokes of raillery present themselves, which could not fail to please the ordinary taste of mankind, but are stifled in their birth by reason of some remote tendency which they carry in them to corrupt the minds of those who read them; did they know how many glances of ill-nature are industriously avoided for fear of doing injury to the reputation of another, they would be apt to think kindly of those writers who endeavour to make themselves diverting, without being immoral. One may apply to these authors that passage in Waller:

'Poets lose half the praise they would have got,
Were it but known what they discreetly blot.'

As nothing is more easy than to be a wit, with all the above-mentioned liberties, it requires some genius and invention to appear such without them.

What I have here said is not only in regard to the public, but with an eye to my particular correspondent, who has sent me the following letter, which I have castrated in some places upon these considerations.

SIR,

HAVING lately seen your discourse upon a match of grinning*, I cannot forbear giving you an account of a whistling match, which, with many others, I was entertained with about three years since at the Bath. The prize was a guinea, to be conferred upon the ablest whistler, that is, on him who could whistle clearest, and go through his tune without laughing, to which at the same time he was provoked by the antic postures of a merry-andrew, who was to stand upon the stage and play his tricks in the eye of the performer. There were three competitors for the ring. The first was a ploughman of a very promising aspect; his features were steady, and his muscles composed in so inflexible a stupidity, that upon his first appearance every one gave the guinea for lost. The pickled herring however found the way to shake him; for upon his whistling a country jig, this unlucky wag danced to it with such variety of distortions and grimaces, that the countryman could not forbear smiling upon him, and by that means spoiled his whistle, and lost the prize.

The next that mounted the stage was an under-citizen of the Bath, a person remarkable among the inferior people of that place for his great wisdom, and his broad band. He contracted his mouth with much gravity, and, that he might dispose his mind to be more serious than ordinary, began the tune of *The Children in the Wood*. He went through part of it with good success, when on a sudden the wit at his elbow, who had appeared wonderfully grave and attentive for some time, gave him a touch upon the left shoulder, and stared him in the face with so bewitching a grin, that the whistler relaxed his fibres into a kind of simper, and at length burst out into an open laugh. The third who entered the lists was a footman, who, in defiance of the merry-andrew, and all his arts, whistled a Scotch tune, and an Italian sonata, with so settled a countenance that he bore away the prize, to the great admiration of some hundreds of persons, who, as well as myself, were present at this trial of skill. Now, sir, I humbly conceive, whatever you have determined of the grinders †, the whistlers ought to be encouraged, not only as their art is practised without distortion, but as it improves country music, promotes gravity, and teaches ordinary people to keep their countenances, if they see any thing ridiculous in their betters; besides that, it seems an entertainment very particularly adapted to the Bath, as it is usual for a rider to whistle to his horse when he would make his waters pass.

I am, sir, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

After having dispatched these two important points of grinning and whistling, I hope you will oblige the world with some reflections upon yawning, as I have seen it practised on a twelfth-night among other Christmas gambols at the house of a very worthy gentleman, who always entertains his

tenants at that time of the year. They yawn for a Cheshire cheese, and begin about midnight, when the whole company is disposed to be drowsy. He that yawns widest, and at the same time so naturally, as to produce the most yawns among the spectators, carries home the cheese. If you handle this subject as you ought, I question not but your paper will set half the kingdom yawning, though I dare promise you it will never make any body fall asleep.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 180. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1711.

—*Delirant reges, plectuntur Achiri.*

HOR. Ep. 2 L. 1. v. 14.

The people suffer when the prince offends.
CREECH.

THE following letter has so much weight and good sense, that I cannot forbear inserting it, though it relates to a hardened sinner, whom I have very little hopes of reforming, viz. Lewis XIV. of France.

MR. SPECTATOR,

AMIDST the variety of subjects of which you have treated, I could wish it had fallen in your way, to expose the vanity of conquests. This thought would naturally lead one to the French king, who has been generally esteemed the greatest conqueror of our age, till her majesty's armies had torn from him so many of his countries, and deprived him of the fruit of all his former victories. For my own part, if I were to draw his picture, I should be for taking him no lower than to the peace of *Ryswick**, just at the end of his triumphs, and before his reverse of fortune; and even then I should not forbear thinking his ambition had been vain, and unprofitable to himself and his people.

As for himself, it is certain he can have gained nothing by his conquests, if they have not rendered him master of more subjects, more riches, or greater power. What I shall be able to offer upon these heads, I resolve to submit to your consideration.

To begin then with his increase of subjects. From the time he came of age, and has been a manager for himself, all the people he had acquired were such only as he had reduced by his wars, and were left in his possession by the peace; he had conquered not above one third part of Flanders, and consequently no more than one third part of the inhabitants of that province.

About one hundred years ago the houses in that country were all numbered, and by a just computation the inhabitants of all sorts could not then exceed 750,000 souls. And if any man will consider the desolation by almost perpetual wars, the numerous armies that have lived almost ever since at discretion upon the people, and how much of their commerce has been removed for more security to other places, he will have little reason to imagine that their numbers have since increased; and therefore with one third of that province, that prince can have gained no more than one third part of the inhabitants, or 250,000 new subjects, even though it should be supposed they were all contented to live still in their native country, and transfer their allegiance to a new master.

The fertility of this province, its convenient situation for trade and commerce, its capacity for furnishing employment and subsistence to great

numbers, and the vast armies that have been maintained here, make it credible that the remaining two thirds of Flanders are equal to all his other conquests; and consequently by all he cannot have gained more than 750,000 new subjects, men, women, and children, especially if a deduction shall be made of such as have retired from the conqueror, to live under their old masters.

'It is time now to set his loss against his profit, and to show for the new subjects he had acquired, how many old ones he had lost in the acquisition. I think that in his wars he has seldom brought less into the field in all places than two hundred thousand fighting men, besides what have been left in garrisons; and I think the common computation is, that of an army, at the end of a campaign, without sieges or battles, scarce four fifths can be mustered of those that came into the field at the beginning of the year. His wars at several times until the last peace have held about twenty years; and if 40,000 yearly lost, or a fifth part of his armies, are to be multiplied by 20, he cannot have lost less than 800,000 of his old subjects, and all able-bodied men; a greater number than the new subjects he had acquired.

'But this loss is not all. Providence seems to have equally divided the whole mass of mankind into different sexes, that every woman may have her husband, and that both may equally contribute to the continuance of the species. It follows then, that for all the men that have been lost, as many women must have lived single, and it were but charity to believe, they have not done all the service they were capable of doing in their generation. In so long a course of years great part of them must have died, and all the rest must go off at last, without leaving any representatives behind. By this account he must have lost not only 800,000 subjects, but double that number, and all the increase that was reasonably to be expected from it.

'It is said in the last war there was a famine in his kingdom, which swept away two millions of his people. This is hardly credible. If the loss was only of one fifth part of that sum, it was very great. But it is no wonder there should be famine, where so much of the people's substance is taken away for the king's use, that they have not sufficient left to provide against accidents; where so many of the men are taken from the plough to serve the king in his wars, and a great part of the tillage is left to the weaker hands of so many women and children. Whatever was the loss, it must undoubtedly be placed to the account of his ambition.

'And so must also the destruction or banishment of 3 or 400,000 of his reformed subjects; he could have no other reasons for valuing those lives so very cheap, but only to recommend himself to the bigotry of the Spanish nation.

'How should there be industry in a country where all property is precarious? What subject will sow his land, that his prince may reap the whole harvest? Parsimony and frugality must be strangers to such a people; for will any man save to-day, what he has reason to fear will be taken from him to-morrow? And where is the encouragement for marrying? Will any man think of raising children, without any assurance of clothing for their backs, or so much as food for their bellies? And thus by his fatal ambition he must have lessened the number of his subjects, not only by slaughter and destruction; but by preventing their

very births, he has done as much as was possible towards destroying posterity itself.

'Is this then the great, the invincible Lewis? This the immortal man, the *tout-puissant*, or the almighty, as his flatterers have called him? Is this the man that is so celebrated for his conquests? For every subject he has acquired, has he not lost three that were his inheritance? Are not his troops fewer, and those neither so well fed, or clothed, or paid, as they were formerly, though he has now so much greater cause to exert himself? And what can be the reason of all this, but that his revenue is a great deal less, his subjects are either poorer, or not so many to be plundered by constant taxes for his use?

'It is well for him he had found out a way to steal a kingdom*; if he had gone on conquering as he did before, his ruin had been long since finished. This brings to my mind a saying of king Pyrrhus, after he had a second time beat the Romans in a pitched battle, and was complimented by his generals; "Yes," says he, "such another victory, and I am quite undone." And since I have mentioned Pyrrhus, I will end with a very good, though known story of this ambitious madman. When he had shown the utmost fondness for his expedition against the Romans, Cynceas his chief minister asked him what he proposed to himself by this war? "Why," says Pyrrhus, "to conquer the Romans, and reduce all Italy to my obedience."—"What then?" says Cynceas. "To pass over into Sicily," says Pyrrhus, "and then all the Sicilians must be our subjects."—"And what does your majesty intend next?"—"Why truly," says the king, "to conquer Carthage, and make myself master of all Africa."—"And what, sir," says the minister, "is to be the end of all your expeditions?"—"Why then," says the king, "for the rest of our lives we will sit down to good wine."—"How, sir," replied Cynceas, "to better than we have now before us? Have we not already as much as we can drink?"

'Riot and excess are not the becoming characters of princes; but if Pyrrhus and Lewis had debauched like Vitellius, they had been less hurtful to their people. 'Your humble servant,

'PHILARITHMUS.'

STEEL.—But the letter by MR. HENRY MARTYN. T.

Nº 181. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1711.

His lacrymis vitam damus, et miserescimus ultro.
VIRG. Æn. li. ver. 145.

Mov'd by these tears, we pity and protect.

I AM more pleased with a letter that is filled with touches of nature than of wit. The following one is of this kind:

'SIR,

'AMONG all the distresses which happen in families, I do not remember that you have touched upon the marriage of children without the consent of their parents. I am one of these unfortunate persons. I was about fifteen when I took the liberty to choose for myself: and have ever since languished under the displeasure of an inexorable father, who, though he sees me happy in the best

* Spain, seized by Louis XIV. for his grandson, as having been bequeathed to him by a will of Charles II.

of husbands, and blessed with very fine children, can never be prevailed upon to forgive me. He was so kind to me before this unhappy accident, that indeed it makes my breach of duty, in some measure, inexcusable; and at the same time creates in me such a tenderness towards him, that I love him above all things, and would die to be reconciled to him. I have thrown myself at his feet, and besought him with tears to pardon me; but he always pushes me away, and spurns me from him. I have written several letters to him, but he will neither open nor receive them. About two years ago I sent my little boy to him, dressed in a new apparel; but the child returned to me crying, because he said his grandfather would not see him, and had ordered him to be put out of his house. My mother is won over to my side, but dares not mention me to my father, for fear of provoking him. About a month ago he lay sick upon his bed, and in great danger of his life: I was pierced to the heart at the news, and could not forbear going to inquire after his health. My mother took this opportunity of speaking in my behalf: she told him with abundance of tears, that I was come to see him, that I could not speak to her for weeping, and that I should certainly break my heart if he refused at that time to give me his blessing, and be reconciled to me. He was so far from relenting towards me, that he bid her speak no more of me, unless she had a mind to disturb him in his last moments; for, sir, you must know that he has the reputation of an honest and religious man which makes my misfortune so much the greater. God be thanked! he is since recovered: but his severe usage has given me such a blow, that I shall soon sink under it, unless I may be relieved by any impressions which the reading of this in your paper may make upon him.

‘I am, &c.’

Of all hardnesses of heart there is none so inexcusable as that of parents towards their children. An obstinate, inflexible, unforgiving temper, is odious upon all occasions; but here it is unnatural. The love, tenderness, and compassion, which are apt to arise in us towards those who depend upon us, is that by which the whole world of life is upheld. The Supreme Being, by the transcendent excellency and goodness of his nature, extends his mercy towards all his works; and because his creatures have not such a spontaneous benevolence and compassion towards those who are under their care and protection, he has implanted in them an instinct, that supplies the place of this inherent goodness. I have illustrated this kind of instinct in former papers*, and have shown how it runs through all the species of brute creatures, as indeed the whole animal creation subsists by it.

This instinct in man is more general and uncircumscribed than in brutes, as being enlarged by the dictates of reason and duty. For if we consider ourselves attentively, we shall find that we are not only inclined to love those who descend from us, but that we bear a kind of *sympathy*, or natural affection, to every thing which relies upon us for its good and preservation. Dependence is a perpetual call upon humanity, and a greater incentive to tenderness and pity, than any other motive whatsoever.

The man therefore who, notwithstanding any passion or resentment, can overcome this powerful

instinct, and extinguish natural affection, debases his mind even below brutality, frustrates, as we saw in him lies, the great design of Providence, and strikes out of his nature one of the most divine principles that is planted in it.

Among innumerable arguments which might be brought against such an unreasonable proceeding, I shall only insist on one. We make it the condition of our forgiveness that we forgive others. Our very prayers we desire no more than to be treated by this kind of retaliation. The case therefore before us seems to be what they call a ‘*catch in point*’ the relation between the child and the father being what comes nearest to that between creature and its Creator. If the father is inexorable to the child who has offended, let the offender be of never so high a nature, how will he address himself to the Supreme Being, under the tender appellation of a father, and desire of him such forgiveness as he himself refuses to grant?

To this I might add many other religious, as well as many prudential considerations; but if the last-mentioned motive does not prevail, I despair of succeeding by any other, and shall therefore conclude my paper with a very remarkable story which is recorded in an old chronicle, published by Freher*, among the writers of the German history.

Eginhart, who was secretary to Charles the Great, became exceeding popular by his behaviour in that post. His great abilities gained him the favour of his master, and the esteem of the whole court. Imma, the daughter of the emperor, was so pleased with his person and conversation, that she fell in love with him. As she was one of the greatest beauties of the age, Eginhart answered her with a more than equal return of passion. They stifled their flames for some time, under a apprehension of the fatal consequences that might ensue. Eginhart at length resolving to hazard rather than live deprived of one whom his master was so much set upon, conveyed himself one night into the princess’s apartment, and, knocking gently at the door, was admitted as a person who had something to communicate to her from the emperor. He was with her in private most part of the night, but upon his preparing to go away about break-day, he observed that there had fallen a great snow during his stay with the princess. This very much perplexed him, lest the prints of his feet in the snow might make discoveries to the king, who often used to visit his daughter in the morning. He acquainted the princess Imma with his fears, who, after some consultations upon the matter, prevailed upon him to let her carry him through the snow upon her own shoulders. It happened, that the emperor, not being able to sleep, was at the time up and walking in his chamber, when upon looking through the window he perceived his daughter tottering under her burden, and carrying his first minister across the snow; which she had no sooner done, but she returned again with the utmost speed to her own apartment. The emperor was extremely troubled and astonished at this accident; but resolved to speak nothing of it till proper opportunity. In the mean time, Eginhart, knowing that what he had done could not be long a secret, determined to retire from court; and in

* Marquard Freher, a celebrated German lawyer, born at Augsburg 1563, died at Heidelberg 1614; having published among other works, “*Rerum Germanicarum scriptores*,” in which he has inserted an old monastic chronicle, that contains the story alluded to.

order to it begged the emperor that he would be pleased to dismiss him, pretending a kind of discontent at his not having been rewarded for his long services. The emperor would not give a direct answer to his petition, but told him he would think of it, and appointed a certain day when he would let him know his pleasure. He then called together the most faithful of his counsellors, and acquainting them with the secretary's crime, asked them their advice in so delicate an affair. They most of them gave their opinion, that the person could not be too severely punished, who had thus dishonoured his master. Upon the whole debate, the emperor declared that it was his opinion, that Eginhart's punishment would rather increase than diminish the shame of his family, and that therefore he thought it the most advisable to wear out the memory of the fact, by marrying him to his daughter. Accordingly Eginhart was called in, and acquainted by the emperor, that he should no longer have any pretence of complaining his services were not rewarded, for that the princess Imma should be given him in marriage, with a dowry suitable to her quality; which was soon after performed accordingly.

ADDISON.

L.

N° 182. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1711.

Plum alior quam mellis habet

JUV. Sat. vi. 180.

The bitter overbalances the sweet.

As all parts of human life come under my observation, my reader must not make uncharitable inferences from my speaking knowingly of that sort of crime which is at present treated of. He will, I hope, suppose I know it only from the letters of correspondents, two of which you shall have as follow:

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'It is wonderful to me, that among the many curiosities which you have treated of, you have not mentioned that of wenching, and particularly the ensnaring part. I mean that it is a thing very fit for your pen, to expose the villany of the practice of deluding women. You are to know, sir, that I myself am a woman who have been one of the unhappy that have fallen into this misfortune, and that by the insinuation of a very worthless fellow, who served others in the same manner both before my ruin, and since that time. I had, as soon as the rascal left me, so much indignation and resolution, as not to go upon the town, as the phrase is; but took to work for my living in an obscure place, out of the knowledge of all with whom I was before acquainted.

'It is the ordinary practice and business of life with a set of idle fellows about this town, to write letters, send messages, and form appointments with little raw unthinking girls, and leave them after possession of them, without any mercy, to shame, infamy, poverty, and disease. Were you to read the numerous impertinencies which are written on these occasions, and to see the silly creatures sighing over them, it could not but be matter of mirth as well as pity. A little 'prentice girl of mine has been for some time applied to by an Irish fellow, who dresses very fine, and sits in a laced coat, and is the admiration of waitresses who are under age in town. Ever since I have had some knowledge of the matter,

I have debarred my 'prentice from pen, ink, and paper. But the other day he bespoke some cravats of me; I went out of the shop, and left his mistress to put them up into a hand-box, in order to be sent to him when his man called. When I came into the shop again, I took occasion to send her away, and found in the bottom of the box written these words: "Why would you ruin a harmless creature that loves you?" then in the lid, "There is no resisting Strephon;" I searched a little further, and found in the rim of the box, "At eleven o'clock at night come in a hackney-coach at the end of our street." This was enough to alarm me; I sent away the things, and took my measures accordingly. An hour or two before the appointed time I examined my young lady, and found her trunk stuffed with impertinent letters and an old scroll of parchment in Latin, which her lover had sent her as a settlement of fifty pounds a year. Among other things, there was also the best lace I had in my shop to make him a present for cravats. I was very glad of this last circumstance, because I could very conscientiously swear against him that he had enticed my servant away, and was her accomplice in robbing me: I procured a warrant against him accordingly. Every thing was now prepared; and the tender hour of love approaching, I, who had acted for myself in my youth the same senseless part, knew how to manage accordingly; therefore, after having locked up my maid, and not being so much unlike her in height and shape, as in a huddled way not to pass for her, I delivered the bundle designed to be carried off, to her lover's man, who came with the signal to receive them. Thus I followed after to the coach, where, when I saw his master take them in, I cried out, Thieves! thieves! and the constable with his attendants seized my expecting lover. I kept myself unobserved till I saw the crowd sufficiently increased, and then appeared, to declare the goods to be mine; and had the satisfaction to see my man of mode put into the round-house, with the stolen wares by him, to be produced in evidence against him the next morning. This matter is notoriously known to be fact; and I have been contented to save my 'prentice, and take a year's rent of this mortified lover, not to appear further in the matter. This was some penance; but, sir, is this enough for a villany of much more pernicious consequence than the trifles for which he was to have been indicted? Should not you, and all men of any parts or honour, put things upon so right a foot, as that such a rascal should not laugh at the imputation of what he was really guilty, and dread being accused of that for which he was arrested?

'In a word, sir, it is in the power of you, and such as I hope you are, to make it as infamous to rob a poor creature of her honour as her clothes. I leave this to your consideration, only take leave (which I cannot do without sighing) to remark to you, that if this had been the sense of mankind thirty years ago, I should have avoided a life spent in poverty and shame.

'I am, SIR,

'Your most humble servant,

'ALICE THREADNEEDLE.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

Round-House, Sept. 9.

'I AM a man of pleasure about town, but by the stupidity of a dull rogue of a justice of peace, and an insolent constable, upon the oath of an old barridan, am imprisoned here for theft, when I designed only fornication. The midnight magistrate,

as he conveyed me along had you in his mouth, and said, "this would make a pure story for the Spectator." I hope, sir, you won't pretend to wit, and take the part of dull rogues of business. The world is so altered of late years, that there was not a man who would knock down a watchman in my behalf, but I was carried off with as much triumph as if I had been a pickpocket. At this rate, there is an end of all the wit and humour in the world. The time was when all the honest whore-masters in the neighbourhood would have risen against the cockolds in my rescue. If fornication is to be scandalous, half the fine things that have been writ by most of the wits of the last age may be burned by the common hangman. Harkce, Mr. Spec. do not be queer; after having done some things pretty well, don't begin to write at that rate that no gentleman can read thee. Be true to love, and burn your Seneca. You do not expect me to write my name from hence, but I am,

‘Your unknown humble, &c.’

STELLA.

T.

Nº 183. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1711.

Ἰμμετ φησὶν πολλὰ λεγόντι κρυμμένον ὄμμα,
Ἰμμετ δ' ἴν' ὀφθαλμοῖς, ἀληθεῖα μὲν ὁρᾷται.

HESIOD.

Sometimes fair truth in action we disguise;
Sometimes present her naked to men's eyes.

FABLES were the first pieces of wit that made their appearance in the world, and have been still highly valued not only in times of the greatest simplicity, but among the most polite ages of mankind. Jotham's fable of the Trees* is the oldest that is extant, and as beautiful as any which have been made since that time. Nathan's fable of the Poor Man and his Lamb† is likewise more ancient than any that is extant, besides the above mentioned, and had so good an effect, as to convey instruction to the ear of a king without offending it, and to bring the man after God's own heart to a right sense of his guilt and his duty. We find Æsop in the most distant ages of Greece; and if we look into the very beginnings of the commonwealth of Rome, we see a mutiny among the common people appeased by a fable of the Belly and the Limbs‡, which was indeed very proper to gain the attention of an incensed rabble, at a time when perhaps they would have torn to pieces any man who had preached the same doctrine to them in an open and direct manner. As fables took their birth in the very infancy of learning, they never flourished more than when learning was at its greatest height. To justify this assertion, I shall put my reader in mind of Horace, the greatest wit and critic in the Augustan age; and of Boileau, the most correct poet among the moderns; not to mention La Fontaine, who by this way of writing is come more into vogue than any other author of our times.

The fables I have here mentioned are raised altogether upon brutes and vegetables, with some of our own species mixed among them, when the moral hath so required. But besides this kind of fable, there is another in which the actors are passions, virtues, vices, and other imaginary persons

of the like nature. Some of the ancient critics will have it, that the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer are fables of this nature; and that the several names of gods and heroes are nothing else but the affections of the mind in a visible shape and character. Thus they tell us, that Achilles, in the first Iliad, represents anger, or the irascible part of human nature; that upon drawing his sword against his superior in a full assembly, Pallas is only another name for reason, which checks and advises him upon that occasion; and at her first appearance touches him upon the head, that part of the man being looked upon as the seat of reason. And thus of the rest of the poem. As for the Odyssey, I think it is plain that Horace considered it as one of these allegorical fables, by the moral which he has given us of several parts of it. The greatest Italian wits have applied themselves to the writing of this latter kind of fables. Spenser's Faery Queen is one continued series of them from the beginning to the end of that admirable work. If we look into the finest prose-authors of antiquity, such as Cicero, Plato, Xenophon, and many others, we shall find that this was likewise their favourite kind of fable. I shall only further observe upon it, that the first of this sort that made any considerable figure in the world, was that of Hercules meeting with Pleasure and Virtue; which was invented by Prodicus, who lived before Socrates, and in the first dawnings of philosophy. He used to travel through Greece by virtue of this fable, which procured him a kind reception in all the market-towns, where he never failed telling it as soon as he had gathered an audience about him.

After this short preface, which I have made up of such materials as my memory does at present suggest to me, before I present my reader with a fable of this kind, which I design as the entertainment of the present paper, I must in a few words open the occasion of it.

In the account which Plato gives us of the conversation and behaviour of Socrates the morning he was to die, he tells the following circumstance.

When Socrates's fetters were knocked off (as was usual to be done on the day that the condemned person was to be executed), being seated in the midst of his disciples, and laying one of his legs over the other, in a very unconcerned posture he began to rub it where it had been galled by the iron; and whether it was to show the indifference with which he entertained the thoughts of his approaching death, or (after his usual manner) to take every occasion of philosophizing upon some useful subject, he observed the pleasure of that sensation which now arose in those very parts of his leg, that just before had been so much pained by the fetters. Upon this he reflected on the nature of pleasure and pain in general, and how constantly they succeed one another. To this he added, That if a man of a good genius for a fable were to represent the nature of pleasure and pain in that way of writing, he would probably join them together after such a manner, that it would be impossible for the one to come into any place without being followed by the other.

It is possible, that if Plato had thought it proper at such a time to describe Socrates launching into a discourse which was not of a piece with the business of the day, he would have enlarged upon this hint, and have drawn it out into some beautiful allegory or fable. But since he has not done it, I shall attempt to write one myself in the style of that divine author.

* There were two families which from the beginning

* Judges, ix. 8—15.

† 2 Sam. xii. 1, &c.

‡ See Livy's Roman History, book ii.

ing of the world were as opposite to each other as light and darkness. The one of them lived in heaven, and the other in hell. The youngest descendant of the first family was Pleasure, who was the daughter of Happiness, who was the child of Virtue, who was the offspring of the Gods. These, as I said before, had their habitation in heaven. The youngest of the opposite family was Pain, who was the son of Misery, who was the child of Vice, who was the offspring of the Furies. The habitation of this race of beings was in hell.

'The middle station of nature between these two opposite extremes was the earth, which was inhabited by creatures of a middle kind, neither so virtuous as the one, nor so vicious as the other, but partaking of the good and bad qualities of these two opposite families. Jupiter considering that the species, commonly called Man, was too virtuous to be miserable, and too vicious to be happy; that he might make a distinction between the good and the bad, ordered the two youngest of the above-mentioned families, Pleasure, who was the daughter of Happiness, and Pain, who was the son of Misery, to meet one another upon this part of nature which lay in the half way between them, having promised to settle it upon them both, provided they could agree upon the division of it, so as to share mankind between them.

'Pleasure and Pain were no sooner met in their new habitation, but they immediately agreed upon this point, that Pleasure should take possession of the virtuous, and Pain of the vicious part of that species which was given up to them. But upon examining to which of them any individual they met with belonged, they found each of them had a right to him; for that, contrary to what they had seen in their old places of residence, there was no person so vicious who had not some good in him, nor any person so virtuous who had not in him some evil. The truth of it is, they generally found upon search, that in the most vicious man Pleasure might lay claim to an hundredth part, and that in the most virtuous man Pain might come in for at least two-thirds. This they saw would occasion endless disputes between them, unless they could come to some accommodation. To this end there was a marriage proposed between them, and at length concluded. By this means it is, that we find Pleasure and Pain are such constant yoke-fellows, and that they either make their visits together, or are never far asunder. If Pain comes into a heart, he is quickly followed by Pleasure; and if Pleasure enters, you may be sure Pain is not far off.

'But notwithstanding this marriage was very convenient for the two parties, it did not seem to answer the intention of Jupiter in sending them among mankind. To remedy therefore this inconvenience, it was stipulated between them by article, and confirmed by the consent of each family, that notwithstanding they here possessed the species indifferently; upon the death of every single person, if he was found to have in him a certain proportion of evil, he should be dispatched into the infernal regions by a passport from Pain, there to dwell with Misery, Vice, and the Furies. Or on the contrary, if he had in him a certain proportion of good, he should be dispatched into heaven by a passport from Pleasure, there to dwell with Happiness, Virtue, and the Gods.'

ADAMSON.

L.

Nº 184. MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1711.

— *Opera in longo fas est obrepere somnum.*
HOR. Ars Poet. v. 368.
— In long works sleep will sometimes surprise.
ROSCOMMON.

WHEN a man has discovered a new vein of humour, it often carries him much further than he expected from it. My correspondents take the hint I gave them, and pursue it into speculations which I never thought of at my first starting it: This has been the fate of my paper on the match of grinning*, which has already produced a second paper on parallel subjects†, and brought me the following letter by the last post. I shall not premise any thing to it further, than that it is built on matter of fact, and is as follows:

'SIR,

'You have already obliged the world with a discourse upon grinning, and have since proceeded to whistling, from whence you at length came to yawning: from this, I think, you may make a very natural transition to sleeping. I therefore recommend to you for the subject of a paper the following advertisement, which about two months ago was given into every body's hands, and may be seen with some additions in the Daily Courant of August the ninth.

"NICHOLAS HART ‡, who slept last year in St. Bartholomew's hospital, intends to sleep this year at the Cock and Bottle in Little-Britain."

'Having since inquired into the matter of fact, I find that the above-mentioned Nicholas Hart is every year seized with a periodical fit of sleeping, which begins upon the fifth of August, and ends on the 11th of the same month: That

On the first of that month he grew dull;
On the second, appeared drowsy;
On the third, fell a yawning;
On the fourth, began to nod;
On the fifth, dropped asleep;
On the sixth, was heard to snore;
On the seventh, turned himself in his bed;
On the eighth, recovered his former posture;
On the ninth, fell a stretching;
On the tenth, about midnight, awaked;
On the eleventh, in the morning, called for a little small-beer.

'This account I have extracted out of the journal of this sleeping worthy, as it has been faithfully kept by a gentleman of Lincoln's-Inn, who has undertaken to be his historiographer. I have sent it to you, not only as it represents the actions of Nicholas Hart, but as it seems a very natural picture of the life of many an honest English gentleman, whose whole history very often consists of yawning, nodding, stretching, turning, sleeping, drinking, and the like extraordinary particulars. I do not question, sir, that, if you pleased, you could put out an advertisement not unlike the above-mentioned, of several men of figure; that Mr. John Such-a-one, gentleman, or Thomas Such-a-one, esquire, who slept in the country last summer, intends to sleep in town this winter. The worst of

* Nº 173.

† Nº 179.

‡ An account of this curious character may be seen in The British Apollo, Nº 69.

it is, that the drowsy part of our species is chiefly made up of very honest gentlemen, who live quietly among their neighbours, without ever disturbing the public peace. They are drones without stings. I could heartily wish, that several turbulent, restless, ambitious spirits, would for a while change places with these good men, and enter themselves into Nicholas Hart's fraternity. Could one but lay asleep a few busy heads which I could name, from the first of November next to the first of May ensuing*, I question not but it would very much redound to the quiet of particular persons, as well as to the benefit of the public.

But to return to Nicholas Hart: I believe, sir, you will think it a very extraordinary circumstance for a man to gain his livelihood by sleeping, and that rest should procure a man sustenance as well as industry; yet so it is, that Nicholas got last year enough to support himself for a twelvemonth. I am likewise informed that he has this year had a very comfortable nap. The poets value themselves very much for sleeping on Parnassus, but I never heard they got a groat by it. On the contrary, our friend Nicholas gets more by sleeping than he could by working, and may be more properly said, than ever Homer was, to have had golden dreams. Juvenal, indeed, mentions a drowsy husband who raised an estate by snoring, but then he is represented to have slept what the common people call a dog's sleep; or if his sleep was real, his wife was awake, and about her business. Your pen, which loves to moralize upon all subjects, may raise something, methinks, on this circumstance also, and point out to us those sets of men, who, instead of growing rich by an honest industry, recommend themselves to the favours of the great, by making themselves agreeable companions in the participations of luxury and pleasure.

'I must further acquaint you, sir, that one of the most eminent pens in Grub-street is now employed in writing the dream of this miraculous sleeper, which I hear will be of a more than ordinary length, as it must contain all the particulars that are supposed to have passed in his imagination during so long a sleep. He is said to have gone already through three days and three nights of it, and to have comprised in them the most remarkable passages of the four first empires of the world. If he can keep free from party strokes, his work may be of use; but this I much doubt, having been informed by one of his friends and confidants, that he has spoken some things of Nimrod with too great freedom.

'I am ever, sir, &c.'

ADMON.

L:

Nº 185. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1711.

— *Tantane animis celestibus ira!*
VIRG. Æn. l. i. ver. 15.

And dwells such fury in celestial breasts?

THERE is nothing in which men more deceive themselves than in what the world calls zeal. There are so many passions which hide themselves under it, and so many mischiefs arising from it, that some have gone so far as to say it would have been for the benefit of mankind if it had never been reckoned in the catalogue of virtues. It is certain, where it is once laudable and prudent, it is an

hundred times criminal and erroneous; nor can it be otherwise, if we consider that it operates with equal violence in all religions, however opposite they may be to one another, and in all the subdivisions of each religion in particular.

We are told by some of the Jewish rabbins, that the first murder was occasioned by a religious controversy; and if we had the whole history of zeal from the days of Cain to our own times, we should see it filled with so many scenes of slaughter and bloodshed, as would make a wise man very careful how he suffers himself to be actuated by such a principle when it only regards matters of opinion and speculation.

I would have every zealous man examine his heart thoroughly, and, I believe, he will often find, that what he calls a zeal for his religion, is either pride, interest, or ill-nature. A man, who differs from another in opinion, sets himself above him in his own judgment, and in several particulars pretends to be the wiser person. This is a great provocation to the proud man, and gives a very keen edge to what he calls his zeal. And that this is the case very often, we may observe from the behaviour of some of the most zealous for orthodoxy, who have often great friendships and intimacies with vicious immoral men, provided they do but agree with them in the same scheme of belief. The reason is, because the vicious believer gives the precedence to the virtuous man, and allows the good Christian to be the worthier person, at the same time that he cannot come up to his perfections. This we find exemplified in that trite passage which we see quoted in almost every system of ethics, though upon another occasion:

— *'Video meliora proboque,
Deteriora sequor'* —

OVID. Met. vii. ver. 50.

'I see the right, and I approve it too;
Condemn the wrong, and yet the wrong pursue.'

TATE.

On the contrary, it is certain, if our zeal were true and genuine, we should be much more angry with a sinner than a heretic; since there are several cases which may excuse the latter before his great Judge, but none which can excuse the former.

Interest is likewise a great inflamer, and sets a man on persecution under the colour of zeal. For this reason we find none are so forward to promote the true worship by fire and sword, as those who find their present account in it. But I shall extend the word Interest to a larger meaning than what is generally given it, as it relates to our spiritual safety and welfare, as well as to our temporal. A man is glad to gain numbers on his side, as they serve to strengthen him in his private opinions. Every proselyte is like a new argument for the establishment of his faith. It makes him believe that his principles carry conviction with them, and are the more likely to be true, when he finds they are conformable to the reason of others, as well as to his own. And that this temper of mind deludes a man very often into an opinion of his zeal, may appear from the common behaviour of the atheist, who maintains and spreads his opinions with as much heat as those who believe they do it only out of a passion for God's glory.

Ill-nature is another dreadful imitator of zeal. Many a good man may have a natural rancour and malice in his heart, which has been in some measure quelled and subdued by religion; but if it finds any pretence of breaking out, which does

* Alluding to the time of the year generally occupied in the sittings of parliament.

not seem to him inconsistent with the duties of a Christian, it throws off all restraint, and rages in full fury. Zeal is therefore a great ease to a malicious man, by making him believe he does God service, whilst he is gratifying the bent of a perverse revengeful temper. For this reason we find, that most of the massacres and devastations, which have been in the world, have taken their rise from a furious pretended zeal.

I love to see a man zealous in a good matter, and especially when his zeal shows itself for advancing morality, and promoting the happiness of mankind. But when I find the instruments he works with are racks and gibbets, gallies and dungeons; when he imprisons men's persons, confiscates their estates, ruins their families, and burns the body to save the soul, I cannot stick to pronounce of such a one, that (whatever he may think of his faith and religion) his faith is vain, and his religion unprofitable.

After having treated of these false zealots in religion, I cannot forbear mentioning a monstrous species of men, who one would not think had any existence in nature, were they not to be met with in ordinary conversation, I mean the zealots in atheism. One would fancy that these men, though they fall short in every other respect of those who make a profession of religion, would at least outshine them in this particular, and be exempt from that single fault which seems to grow out of the imprudent fervours of religion. But so it is, that infidelity is propagated with as much fierceness and contention, wrath and indignation, as if the safety of mankind depended upon it. There is something so ridiculous and perverse in this kind of zealots, that one does not know how to set them out in their proper colours. They are a sort of gamblers who are eternally upon the fret, though they play for nothing. They are perpetually teasing their friends to come over to them, though at the same time they allow that neither of them shall get any thing by the bargain. In short, the zeal of spreading atheism is, if possible, more absurd than atheism itself.

Since I have mentioned this unaccountable zeal which appears in atheists and infidels, I must further observe, that they are likewise in a most particular manner possessed with the spirit of bigotry. They are wedded to opinions full of contradiction and impossibility, and at the same time look upon the smallest difficulty in an article of faith as a sufficient reason for rejecting it. Notions that fall in with the common reason of mankind, that are conformable to the sense of all ages, and all nations, not to mention their tendency for promoting the happiness of societies, or of particular persons, are exploded as errors and prejudices; and schemes erected in their stead that are altogether monstrous and irrational, and require the most extravagant credulity to embrace them. I would fain ask one of these bigoted infidels, supposing all the great points of atheism, as the material or eternal formation of the world, the materiality of a thinking substance, the mortality of the soul, the fortuitous organization of the body, the motions and gravitation of matter, with the like particulars, were laid together and formed into a kind of creed, according to the opinions of the most celebrated atheists; I say, supposing such a creed as this were formed, and imposed upon any one people in the world, whether it would not require an infinitely greater measure of faith, than any set of articles which they so violently oppose. Let me therefore advise this generation of wran-

glers, for their own and for the public good, to act at least so consistently with themselves, as not to burn with zeal for irreligion, and with bigotry for nonsense.

ADDITION.

G.

Nº 186. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1711.

Calum ignem petimus stultitia.—

HOR. Od. iii. l. 1. ver. 38.

— Scarce the gods and heav'nly crimes
Are safe from our audacious crimes.

DRYDEN.

Upon my return to my lodgings last night, I found a letter from my worthy friend the clergyman, whom I have given some account of in my former papers. He tells me in it, that he was particularly pleased with the latter part of my yesterday's speculation; and at the same time inclosed the following essay; which he desires me to publish as the sequel of that discourse. It consists partly of uncommon reflections, and partly of such as have been already used, but now set in a stronger light.

'A believer may be excused by the most hardened atheist for endeavouring to make him a convert, because he does it with an eye to both their interests. The atheist is inexorable who tries to gain over a believer, because he does not propose the doing himself or the believer any good by such a conversion.

'The prospect of a future state is the secret comfort and refreshment of my soul; it is that which makes nature look gay about me; it doubles all my pleasures, and supports me under all my afflictions. I can look at disappointments and misfortunes, pain and sickness, death itself, and what is worse than death, the loss of those who are dearest to me, with indifference, so long as I keep in view the pleasures of eternity, and the state of being in which there will be no fears nor apprehensions, pains nor sorrows, sickness nor separation. Why will any man be so impertinently officious as to tell me all this is only fancy and delusion? Is there any merit in being the messenger of ill news? If it is a dream, let me enjoy it, since it makes me both the happier and better man.

'I must confess I do not know how to trust a man who believes neither heaven nor hell, or, in other words, a future state of rewards and punishments. Not only natural self-love, but reason directs us to promote our own interests above all things. It can never be for the interest of a believer to do me a mischief, because he is sure upon the balance of accounts to find himself a loser by it. On the contrary, if he considers his own welfare in his behaviour towards me, it will lead him to do me all the good he can, and at the same time restrain him from doing me any injury. An unbeliever does not act like a reasonable creature, if he favours me contrary to his present interest, or does not distress me when it turns to his present advantage. Honour and good-nature may indeed tie up his hands; but as these would be very much strengthened by reason and principle, so without them they are only instincts, or wavering unsettled notions, which rest on no foundation.

'Infidelity has been attacked with so good success of late years, that it is driven out of all its out-works. The atheist has not found his post tenable, and is therefore retired into deism, and a disbelief of revealed religion only. But the truth of it is, the greatest number of this set of men are

those who, for want of a virtuous education, or examining the grounds of religion, know so very little of the matter in question, that their infidelity is but another term for their ignorance.

As folly and inconsiderateness are the foundations of infidelity, the great pillars and supports of it are either a vanity of appearing wiser than the rest of mankind, or an ostentation of courage in despising the terrors of another world, which have so great an influence on what they call weaker minds; or an aversion to a belief that must cut them off from many of these pleasures they propose to themselves, and fill them with remorse for many of those they have already tasted.

The great received articles of the Christian religion have been so clearly proved, from the authority of that divine revelation in which they are delivered, that it is impossible for those who have ears to hear, and eyes to see, not to be convinced of them. But were it possible for any thing in the Christian faith to be erroneous, I can find no ill consequences in adhering to it. The great points of the incarnation and sufferings of our Saviour produce naturally such habits of virtue in the mind of man, that I say, supposing it were possible for us to be mistaken in them, the infidel himself must at least allow that no other system of religion could so effectually contribute to the heightening of morality. They give us great ideas of the dignity of human nature, and of the love which the Supreme Being bears to his creatures, and consequently engage us in the highest acts of duty towards our Creator, our neighbour, and ourselves. How many noble arguments has Saint Paul raised from the chief articles of our religion, for the advancing of morality in its three great branches! To give a single example in each kind. What can be a stronger motive to a firm trust and reliance on the mercies of our Maker, than the giving as his Son to suffer for us? What can make us love and esteem even the most inconsiderable of mankind more than the thought that Christ died for him? Or what dispose us to set a stricter guard upon the purity of our own hearts, than our being members of Christ, and a part of the society of which that immaculate person is the head? But these are only a specimen of those admirable reinforcements of morality, which the apostle has drawn from the history of our blessed Saviour.

If our modern infidels considered those matters with that candour and seriousness which they deserve, we should not see them act with such a spirit of bitterness, arrogance, and malice. They would not be raising such insignificant cavils, doubts, and scruples, as may be started against every thing that is not capable of mathematical demonstration; in order to unsettle the minds of the ignorant, disturb the public peace, subvert morality, and throw all things into confusion and disorder. If none of these reflections can have any influence on them, there is one that perhaps may, because it is adapted to their vanity, by which they seem to be guided much more than their reason. I would therefore have them consider, that the wisest and best of men, in all ages of the world, have been those who lived up to the religion of their country, when they saw nothing in it opposite to morality, and to the best lights they had of the Divine Nature. Pythagoras's first rule directs us to worship the gods "as it is ordained by law," for that is the most natural interpretation of the precept*. Socrates, who was the

most renowned among the heathens both for wisdom and virtue, in his last moments desires his friends to offer a cock to Esculapius; doubtless out of a submissive deference to the established worship of his country. Xenophon tells us, that his prince (whom he sets forth as a pattern of perfection), when he found his death approaching, offered sacrifices on the mountains to the Persian Jupiter, and the Sun, "according to the custom of the Persians;" for those are the words of the historian*. Nay, the Epicureans and atomical philosophers showed a very remarkable modesty in this particular; for though the being of a God was entirely repugnant to their schemes of natural philosophy, they contented themselves with the denial of a Providence, asserting at the same time the existence of gods in general; because they would not shock the common belief of mankind, and the religion of their country.

ADDISON.

L.

N^o 187. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1711.—*Miseri quibus**Intentata nititur*—

HOR. Od. v. l. i. ver. 12.

Ah, wretched those who love, yet ne'er did try
The smiling treachery of thy eye!

CREECH.

THE intelligence given by this correspondent is so important and useful, in order to avoid the person he speaks of, that I shall insert his letter at length.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

I do not know that you have ever touched upon a certain species of women, whom we ordinarily call jilts. You cannot possibly go upon a more useful work, than the consideration of these dangerous animals. The coquette is indeed one degree towards the jilt; but the heart of the former is bent upon admiring herself, and giving false hopes to her lovers; but the latter is not contented to be extremely amiable, but she must add to that advantage a certain delight in being a torment to others. Thus when her lover is in the full expectation of success, the jilt shall meet him with a sudden indifference, and admiration in her face at his being surprised that he is received like a stranger, and a cast of her head another way with a pleasant scorn of the fellow's insolence. It is very probable the lover goes home utterly astonished and dejected, sits down to his 'scrutoire', sends her word in the most abject terms, That he knows not what he has done, that all which was desirable in this life is so suddenly vanished from him, that the charmer of his soul should withdraw the vital heat from the heart which pants for her. He continues a mournful absence for some time, pining in secret, and out of humour with all things which he meets with. At length he takes a resolution to try his fate, and explain with her resolutely upon her unaccountable carriage. He walks up to her apartment, with a thousand inquietudes and doubts in what manner he shall meet the first cast of her eye; when upon his first appearance she flies towards him, wonders where he has been, accuses him of his absence, and treats him with a familiarity as surprising as her former coldness. This good correspondence continues till the lady observes the lover grows happy in it, and then she interrupts it with some new inconsistency of behaviour. For (as I just now said) the happiness of

* Αἰσχροῦ, καὶ ὁποῦν ὅτις, νόμον ἢ δαίμονος,
Τίμω.

* Cyropædia, book viii.

a jilt consists only in the power of making others uneasy. But such is the folly of this sect of women, that they carry on this pretty skittish behaviour, till they have no charms left to render it supportable. Corinna, that used to torment all who conversed with her with false glances, and little heedless unguarded motions, that were to betray some inclination towards the man she would ensnare, finds at present all she attempts that way unregarded; and is obliged to indulge the jilt in her constitution, by laying artificial plots, writing perplexing letters from unknown hands, and making all the young fellows in love with her, till they find out who she is. Thus, as before she gave torment by disguising her inclination, she now is obliged to do it by hiding her person.

As for my own part, Mr. Spectator, it has been my unhappy fate to be jilted from my youth upward; and as my taste has been very much towards intrigue, and having intelligence with women of wit, my whole life has passed away in a series of impositions. I shall, for the benefit of the present race of young men, give some account of my loves. I know not whether you have ever heard of the famous girl about town called Kitty. This creature (for I must take shame upon myself) was my mistress in the days when keeping was in fashion. Kitty, under the appearance of being wild, thoughtless, and irregular in all her words and actions, concealed the most accomplished jilt of her time. Her negligence had to me a charm in it like that of chastity, and want of desires seemed as great a merit as the conquest of them. The air she gave herself was that of a romping girl, and whenever I talked to her with any turn of fondness, she would immediately snatch off my periwig, try it upon herself in the glass, clap her arms a-kinbo, draw my sword, and make passes on the wall, take off my cravat, and seize it, to make some other use of the lace, or run into some other unaccountable romphiness, till the time I had appointed to pass away with her was over. I went from her full of pleasure at the reflection that I had the keeping of so much beauty in a woman, who, as she was too heedless to please me, was also too unattentive to form a design to wrong me. Long did I divert every hour that hung heavy upon me in the company of this creature, whom I looked upon as neither guilty nor innocent, but could laugh at myself for my unaccountable pleasure in an expense upon her, until in the end it appeared my pretty inmate was with child by my footman.

This accident roused me into a disdain against all libertine women, under what appearance soever they hid their insincerity, and I resolved after that time to converse with none but those who lived within the rules of decency and honour. To this end I formed myself into a more regular turn of behaviour, and began to make visits, frequent assemblies, and lead out ladies from the theatres, with all the other insignificant duties which the professed servants of the fair place themselves in constant readiness to perform. In a very little time (having a plentiful fortune) fathers and mothers began to regard me as a good match, and I found easy admittance into the best families in town to observe their daughters; but I, who was born to follow the fair to no purpose, have by the force of my ill stars made my application to three jilts successively.

Hyæna is one of those who form themselves into a melancholy and indolent air, and endeavour to gain admirers from their inattention to all around them. Hyæna can loll in her coach, with

something so fixed in her countenance, that it is impossible to conceive her meditation is employed only on her dress and her charms in that posture. If it were not too coarse a simile, I should say, Hyæna, in the figure she affects to appear in, is a spider in the midst of a cobweb, that is sure to destroy every fly that approaches it. The net Hyæna throws is so fine, that you are taken in it, before you can observe any part of her work. I attempted her for a long and weary season, but I found her passion went no further than to be admired; and she is of that unreasonable temper, as not to value the inconstancy of her lovers, provided she can boast she once had their addresses.

Biblis was the second I aimed at, and her vanity lay, in purchasing the adorers of others, and not in rejoicing in their love itself. Biblis is no man's mistress, but every woman's rival. As soon as I found this, I fell in love with Chloe, who is my present pleasure and torment. I have writ to her, danced with her, and fought for her, and have been her man in the sight and expectation of the whole town these three years, and thought myself near the end of my wishes; when the other day she called me into her closet, and told me, with a very grave face, that she was a woman of honour, and scorned to deceive a man who loved her with so much sincerity as she saw I did; and therefore she must inform me that she was by nature the most inconstant creature breathing, and begged of me not to marry her: if I insisted upon it, I should; but that she was lately fallen in love with another. What to do or say I know not, but desire you to inform me, and you will infinitely oblige,

SIR,

Your most humble servant,
CHARLES YELLOW.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Mr. Sly, haberdasher of hats, at the corner of Dovercourt, in the Strand, gives notice, that he has prepared very neat hats, rubbers, and brushes, for the use of young tradesmen in their last year of apprenticeship, at reasonable rates.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 188. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1711.

Letus nunc laudari a te laudato viro.

TULL.

It gives me pleasure to be praised by you, whom all men praise.

Hz is a very unhappy man who sets his heart upon being admired by the multitude, or affects a general and undistinguishing applause among men. What pious men call the testimony of a good conscience, should be the measure of our ambition in this kind, that is to say, a man of spirit should condemn the praise of the ignorant, and like being applauded for nothing but what he knows in his own heart he deserves. Besides which, the character of the person who commends you is to be considered, before you set a value upon his esteem. The praise of an ignorant man is only good-will, and you should receive his kindness as he is a good neighbour in society, and not as a good judge of your actions in point of fame and reputation. The satirist said

* This Mr. Sly (who is also mentioned in other parts of the Spectator) died April 14, 1729, of a mortification in his leg; which, say the newspapers of the day, he had endured a long time.

very well of popular praise and acclamations, 'Give the tinkers and cobblers their presents again, and learn to live of yourself *.' It is an argument of a loose and ungoverned mind to be affected with the promiscuous approbation of the generality of mankind; and a man of virtue should be too delicate for so coarse an appetite of fame. Men of honour should endeavour only to please the worthy, and the man of merit should desire to be tried only by his peers. I thought it a noble sentiment which I heard yesterday uttered in conversation: 'I know,' said a gentleman, 'a way to be greater than any man. If he has worth in him, I can rejoice in his superiority to me; and that satisfaction is a greater act of the soul in me, than any in him which can possibly appear to me.' This thought could proceed but from a candid and generous spirit; and the approbation of such minds is what may be esteemed true praise: for with the common rate of men there is nothing commendable but what they themselves may hope to be partakers of, and arrive at; but the motive truly glorious is, when the mind is set rather to do things laudable, than to purchase reputation. Where there is that sincerity as the foundation of a good name, the kind opinion of virtuous men will be an unsought, but a necessary consequence. The Lacedæmonians, though a plain people, and no pretenders to politeness, had a certain delicacy in their sense of glory, and sacrificed to the Muses when they entered upon any great enterprise. They would have the commemoration of their actions be transmitted by the purest and most untainted memorialists. The din which attends victories and public triumphs is by far less eligible, than the recital of the actions of great men by honest and wise historians. It is a frivolous pleasure to be the admiration of gaping crowds; but to have the approbation of a good man in the cool reflections of his closet, is a gratification worthy an heroic spirit. The applause of the crowd makes the head giddy, but the attestation of a reasonable man makes the heart glad.

What makes the love of popular or general praise still more ridiculous, is, that it is usually given for circumstances which are foreign to the persons admired. Thus they are the ordinary attendants on power and riches, which may be taken out of one man's hands, and put into another's. The application only, and not the possession, makes those outward things honourable. The vulgar and men of sense agree in admiring men for having what they themselves would rather be possessed of; the wise man applauds him whom he thinks most virtuous, the rest of the world him who is most wealthy.

When a man is in this way of thinking, I do not know what can occur to one more monstrous, than to see persons of ingenuity address their services and performances to men so way addicted to liberal arts. In these cases, the praise on one hand, and the patronage on the other, are equally the objects of ridicule. Dedications to ignorant men are as absurd as any of the speeches of Baldrick in the Droll. Such an address one is apt to translate into other words; and when the different parties are thoroughly considered, the panegyric generally implies no more than if the author should say to the patron, 'My very good lord, you and I can never understand one another, therefore I humbly desire we may be intimate friends for the future.'

The rich may as well ask to borrow of the poor,

* *Pensées*, Sat. iv.

as the man of virtue or merit hope for addition to his character from any but such as himself. He that commends another engages so much of his own reputation as he gives to that person commended; and he that has nothing laudable in himself is not of ability to be such a surety. The wise Phœron was so sensible how dangerous it was to be touched with what the multitude approved, that upon a general acclamation made when he was making an oration, he turned to an intelligent friend who stood near him, and asked in a surprised manner, 'What slip have I made *?'

I shall conclude this paper with a billet which has fallen into my hands, and was written to a lady from a gentleman whom she had highly commended. The author of it had formerly been her lover. When all possibility of commerce between them on the subject of love was cut off, she spoke so handsomely of him, as to give occasion to this letter.

'MADAM,

'I SHOULD be insensible to a stupidity, if I could forbear making you my acknowledgments for your late mention of me with so much applause. It is, I think, your fate to give me new sentiments: as you formerly inspired me with the true sense of love, so do you now with the true sense of glory. As desire had the least part in the passion I heretofore professed towards you, so has vanity no share in the glory to which you have now raised me. Innocence, knowledge, beauty, virtue, sincerity, and discretion, are the constant ornaments of her who has said this of me. Fame is a babbler, but I have arrived at the highest glory in this world, the commendation of the most deserving person in it.'

STELLA.

T.

Nº 189. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1711.

— *Patria pietatis imago.*

VING. 2a. 2. vol. 689.

An image of paternal tenderness!

THE following letter being written to my bookseller, upon a subject of which I treated some time since, I shall publish it in this paper, together with the letter that was enclosed in it.

'MR. BUCKLEY,

'MR. SPECTATOR having of late descanted upon the cruelty of parents to their children †, I have been induced (at the request of several of Mr. Spectator's admirers) to enclose this letter, which I assure you is the original from a father to his own son, notwithstanding the latter gave but little or no provocation. It would be wonderfully obliging to the world, if Mr. Spectator would give his opinion of it in some of his speculations, and particularly to (Mr. Buckley)

'Your humble servant.'

'MURRAY,

'You are a sancy audacious rascal, and both fool and mad, and I care not a farthing whether you comply or no; that does not raze out my impressions of your insolence, going about railing at me, and the next day to solicit my favour. There are inconsistencies, such as discover thy reason depraved. To be brief, I never desire to see your face; and, sirrah, if you go to the workhouse, it is

* *Plutarch's Life of Phœron.*

† Nº 181.

no disgrace to me for you to be supported there; and if you starve in the streets, I'll never give any thing underhand in your behalf. If I have any more of your scribbling nonsense, I'll break your head the first time I set sight on you. You are a stubborn beast; is this your gratitude for my giving you money? You rogue, I'll better your judgment, and give you a greater sense of your duty to (I regret to say) your father, &c.

'P. S. Its prudence for you to keep out of my sight; for to reproach me, that Might overcomes Right, on the outside of your letter, I shall give you a great knock on the scull for it.'

Was there ever such an image of paternal tenderness! It was usual among some of the Greeks to make their slaves drink to excess, and then expose them to their children, who by that means conceived an early aversion to a vice which makes men appear so monstrous and irrational. I have exposed this picture of an unnatural father with the same intention, that its deformity may deter others from its resemblance. If the reader has a mind to see a father of the same stamp represented in the most exquisite strokes of humour, he may meet with it in one of the finest comedies that ever appeared upon the English stage: I mean the part of Sir Sampson in *Love for Love*.

I must not, however, engage myself blindly on the side of the son, to whom the fond letter above-written was directed. His father calls him a 'saucy and audacious rascal' in the first line, and I am afraid upon examination he will prove but an ungracious youth. 'To go about railing' at his father, and to find no other place but 'the outside of his letter' to tell him 'that might overcomes right'—if it does not discover 'his reason to be depraved,' and 'that he is either fool or mad,' as the choleric old gentleman tells him, we may at least allow that the father will do very well in endeavouring to 'better his judgment, and give him a greater sense of his duty.' But whether this may be brought about by 'breaking his head,' or 'giving him a great knock on the scull,' ought, I think, to be well considered. Upon the whole, I wish the father has not met with his match, and that he may not be as equally paired with a son, as the mother in *Virgil*:

*Crudelis tu quoque mater:
Crudelis mater magis, an puer improbus ille?
Improbus ille puer, crudelis tu quoque mater.'*

ECL. viii. ver. 48.

Cruel alike the mother and the son.

Or like the crow and her egg in the Greek proverb:

ΚΑΚΗ ΚΟΡΑΙΩΝ ΧΑΝΟΥ ΜΟΥ.

'Bad the crow, bad the egg.'

I must here take notice of a letter which I have received from an unknown correspondent, upon the subject of my paper, upon which the foregoing letter is likewise founded*. The writer of it seems very much concerned lest that paper should seem to give encouragement to the disobedience of children towards their parents; but if the writer of it will take the pains to read it over again attentively, I dare say his apprehensions will vanish. Pardon and reconciliation are all the penitent daughter requests, and all that I contend for in her

* No 181.

behalf; and in this case I may use the saying of an eminent wit, who, upon some great men's pressing him to forgive his daughter who had married against his consent, told them he could refuse nothing to their instances, but that he would have them remember there was difference between giving and forgiving.

I must confess, in all controversies between parents and their children, I am naturally prejudiced in favour of the former. The obligations on that side can never be acquitted, and I think it is one of the greatest reflections upon human nature, that paternal instinct should be a stronger motive to love than filial gratitude; that the receiving of favours should be a less inducement to good-will, tenderness, and commiseration, than the conferring of them; and that the taking care of any person should endear the child or dependant more to the parent or benefactor, than the parent or benefactor to the child or dependant; yet so it happens, that for one cruel parent we meet with a thousand undutiful children. This is indeed wonderfully contrived (as I have formerly observed*) for the support of every living species; but at the same time that it shows the wisdom of the Creator, it discovers the imperfection and degeneracy of the creature.

The obedience of children to their parents is the basis of all government, and set forth as the measure of that obedience which we owe to those whom Providence hath placed over us.

It is father Le Compte†, if I am not mistaken, who tells us how want of duty in this particular is punished among the Chinese, inasmuch that if a son should be known to kill, or so much as to strike his father, not only the criminal, but his whole family, would be rooted out, nay, the inhabitants of the place where he lived would be put to the sword, nay, the place itself would be razed to the ground, and its foundations sown with salt. For, say they, there must have been an utter depravation of manners in that clan or society of people who could have bred up among them so horrid an offender. To this I shall add a passage out of the first book of Herodotus. That historian, in his account of the Persian customs and religion, tells us, it is their opinion that no man ever killed his father, or that it is possible such a crime should be in nature; but that if any thing like it should ever happen, they conclude that the reputed son must have been illegitimate, supposititious, or begotten in adultery. Their opinion in this particular shows sufficiently what a notion they must have had of undutifulness in general.

ADDISON.

L.

No 190. MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1711.

Servitus crescit nova

HOR. Od. viii. l. ii. ver. 18.

A servitude to former times unknown.

SINCE I made some reflections upon the general negligence used in the case of regard towards women, or, in other words, since I talked of wenching, I have had epistles upon that subject, which I shall, for the present entertainment, insert as they lie before me.

* No 190.

† In his 'Present State of China,' part II.

a g

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'As your speculations are not confined to any part of human life, but concern the wicked as well as the good, I must desire your favourable acceptance of what I, a poor strolling girl about town, have to say to you. I was told by a Roman catholic gentleman who picked me up last week, and who, I hope, is absolved for what passed between us; I say, I was told by such a person, who endeavoured to convert me to his own religion, that in countries where popery prevails, besides the advantage of licensed stewns, there are large endowments given for the *Incurabili*, I think he called them, such as are past all remedy, and are allowed such maintenance and support as to keep them without further care till they expire. This manner of treating poor sinners has, methinks, great humanity in it*; and as you are a person who pretend to carry your reflections upon all subjects whatever that occur to you, with candour, and act above the sense of what misinterpretation you may meet with, I beg the favour of you to lay before all the world the unhappy condition of us poor vagrants, who are really in a way of labour instead of idleness. There are crowds of us whose manner of livelihood has long ceased to be pleasing to us; and who would willingly lead a new life, if the rigour of the virtuous did not for ever expel us from coming into the world again. As it now happens, to the eternal infamy of the male sex, falsehood among you is not reproachful, but credulity in women is infamous.

'Give me leave, sir, to give you my history. You are to know that I am a daughter of a man of a good reputation, tenant to a man of quality. The heir of this great house took it in his head to cast a favourable eye upon me, and succeeded. I do not pretend to say he promised me marriage: I was not a creature silly enough to be taken by so foolish a story; but he ran away with me up to this town, and introduced me to a grave matron, with whom I boarded for a day or two with great gravity, and was not a little pleased with the change of my condition, from that of a country life to the finest company, as I believed, in the whole world. My humble servant made me understand that I should be always kept in the plentiful condition I then enjoyed; when, after a very great fondness towards me, he one day took his leave of me for four or five days. In the evening of the same day my good landlady came to me, and observing me very pensive, began to comfort me, and with a smile told me I must see the world. When I was deaf to all she could say to divert me, she began to tell me with a very frank air that I must be treated as I ought, and not take those squamish humours upon me, for my friend had left me to the town; and, as their phrase is, she expected I would see company, or I must be treated like what I had brought myself to. This put me into a fit of crying; and I immediately, in a true sense of my condition, threw myself on the floor, deploring my fate, calling upon all that was good and sacred to succour me. While I was in all this agony, I observed a decrepit old fellow come into the room, and looking with a sense of pleasure in his face at all my vehemence and trans-

port. In a pause of my distress, I heard him say to the shameless old woman who stood by me, "She is certainly a new face, or else she acts it rarely." With that the gentlewoman, who was making her market of me, in all the turns of my person, the heaves of my passion, and the suitable changes of my posture, took occasion to commend my neck, my shape, my eyes, my limbs. All this was accompanied with such speeches as you may have heard horse-couriers make in the sale of nags, when they are warranted for their soundness. You understand by this time that I was left in a brothel, and exposed to the next bidder that could purchase me of my patroness. This is so much the work of hell; the pleasure in the possession of us wenches, abates in proportion to the degrees we go beyond the bounds of innocence; and no man is gratified, if there is nothing left for him to debauch. Well, sir, my first man, when I came upon the town, was Sir Jeoffry Foible, who was extremely lavish to me of his money, and took such a fancy to me that he would have carried me off, if my patroness would have taken any reasonable terms for me; but as he was old, his covetousness was his strongest passion, and poor I was soon left exposed to be the common refuse of all the rakes and debauchees in town. I cannot tell whether you will do me justice or no; till I see whether you print this or not; otherwise, as I now live with Sal*, I could give you a very just account of who and who is together in this town. You perhaps won't believe it; but I know of one who pretends to be a very good protestant, who lies with a Roman catholic; but more of this hereafter, as you please me. There do come to our house the greatest politicians of the age; and Sal is more shrewd than any body thinks. No body can believe that such wise men could go to bawdy-houses out of idle purposes. I have heard them often talk of Augustus Caesar, who had intrigues with the wives of senators, not out of wantonness, but stratagem.

'It is a thousand pities you should be so severely virtuous as I fear you are; otherwise, after one visit or two, you would soon understand that we women of the town are not such useless correspondents as you may imagine: you have undoubtedly heard that it was a courtesan who discovered Carline's conspiracy. If you print this I'll tell you more; and am, in the mean time,

'SIR,

'Your most humble servant,

'REBECCA NETTLETOP.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM an idle young woman that would work for my livelihood, but that I am kept in such a manner as I cannot stir out. My tyrant is an old jealous fellow, who allows me nothing to appear in. I have but one shoe and one slipper; no head-dress, and no upper petticoat. As you set up for a reformer, I desire you would take me out of this wicked way, and keep me yourself.

'EVE AFTERDAY.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM to complain to you of a set of impertinent coxcombs, who visit the apartments of us women of the town, only, as they call it, to see the world. I must confess to you, this to men of dexterity might have an effect to cure them; but as they are stupid, noisy, and drunken fellows, it tends only

* For much more laudable purposes, we have the institutions of The Magdalen and The Asylum; the former for the relief and reformation of *Pendient Prostitutes*; the latter, for *Female Orphans*, whose settlements cannot be found; to preserve them from falling into the ways of vice and shame.

* A noted procurer at that time.

to make vice in themselves, as they think, pleasant and humorous, and at the same time nameous in us. I shall, sir, hereafter from time to time give you the names of these wretches who pretend to enter our houses merely as Spectators. These men think it wit to use us ill; pray tell them, however worthy we are of such treatment, it is unworthy them to be guilty of it towards us. Pray, sir, take notice of this, and pity the oppressed: I wish we could add to it, the innocent.'

STEEL.

T.

N^o 191. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1711.

— δλον ονυκτ.

HOM. II. II. ver. 6.

— Deluding vision of the night.
POPE.

SOME ludicrous schoolmen have put the case, that if an ass were placed between two bundles of hay, which affected his senses equally on each side, and tempted him in the very same degree, whether it would be possible for him to eat of either. They generally determine this question to the disadvantage of the ass, who, they say, would starve in the midst of plenty, as not having a single grain of free-will, to determine him more to the one than to the other. The bundle of hay on either side striking his sight and smell in the same proportion, would keep him in a perpetual suspense, like the two magnets, which travellers have told us, are placed one of them in the roof, and the other in the floor of Mahomet's burying-place at Mecca, and by that means, say they, pull the impostor's iron coffin with such an equal attraction, that it hangs in the air between both of them. As for the ass's behaviour in such nice circumstances, whether he would starve sooner than violate his neutrality to the two bundles of hay, I shall not presume to determine; but only take notice of the conduct of our own species in the same perplexity. When a man has a mind to venture his money in a lottery, every figure of it appears equally alluring, and as likely to succeed as any of its fellows. They all of them have the same pretensions to good luck, stand upon the same foot of competition, and no manner of reason can be given, why a man should prefer one to the other before the lottery is drawn. In this case, therefore, caprice very often acts in the place of reason, and forms to itself some groundless imaginary motive, where real and substantial ones are wanting. I know a well-meaning man that is very well pleased to risk his good-fortune upon the number 1711, because it is the year of our Lord, I am acquainted with a tacker that would give a good deal for the number 134*. On the contrary, I have been told of a certain zealous dissenter, who being a great enemy to popery, and believing that bad men are the most fortunate in this world, will lay two to one on the number 666 against any other number; because, says he, it is the number of the beast†. Several would

prefer the number 12000 before any other, as it is the number of the pounds in the great prize. In short, some are pleased to find their own age in their number; some that they have got a number which makes a pretty appearance in the ciphers; and others, because it is the same number that succeeded in the last lottery. Each of these, upon no other grounds, thinks he stands fairest for the great lot, and that he is possessed of what may not be improperly called 'the Golden Number.'

These principles of election are the pastimes and extravagancies of human reason, which is of so busy a nature, that it will be exerting itself in the meanest trifles, and working even when it wants materials. The wisest of men are sometimes acted by such unaccountable motives, as the life of the fool and the superstitious is guided by nothing else.

I am surprised that some of the fortune-tellers, or as the French call them, the *Discours de bonne Avanture*, who publish their bills in every quarter of the town, have not turned our lotteries to their advantage. Did any of them set up for a caster of fortunate figures, what might he not get by his pretended discoveries and predictions?

I remember among the advertisements in the Post-Boy of September the 27th, I was surprised to see the following one:

'This is to give notice, that ten shillings over and above the market-price, will be given for the ticket in the 1,500,000^l lottery, N^o 132, by Nath Cliff, at the Bible and Three Crowns, in Cheapside.'

This advertisement has given great matter of speculation to coffee-house theorists. Mr. Cliff's principles and conversation have been canvassed upon this occasion, and various conjectures made why he should thus set his heart upon N^o 132. I have examined all the powers in those numbers, broken them into fractions, extracted the square and cube root, divided and multiplied them all ways, but could not arrive at the secret till about three days ago, when I received the following letter from an unknown hand; by which I find that Mr. Nathaniel Cliff is only the agent, and not the principal in this advertisement:

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM the person that lately advertised I would give ten shillings more than the current price for the ticket N^o 132 in the lottery now drawing; which is a secret I have communicated to some friends, who rally me incessantly upon that account. You must know I have but one ticket, for which reason, and a certain dream I have lately had more than once, I was resolved it should be the number I most approved. I am so positive I have pitched upon the great lot, that I could almost lay all I am worth of it. My visions are so frequent and strong upon this occasion, that I have not only possessed the lot, but disposed of the money which in all probability it will sell for. This morning, in particular, I set up an equipage which I look upon to be the gayest in the town; the liveries are very rich, but not gaudy. I should be very glad to see a speculation or two upon lottery subjects, in which you would oblige all people concerned, and in particular,

'Your most humble servant,

'GEORGE GOOLING.

'P. S. Dear Spec, if I get the 12,000 pound, I'll make thee a handsome present.'

* Alluding to the numbers so called in the Almanack.

† Meaning actuated.

* In November, 1704, a bill to prevent occasional conformity was brought into the house of commons; and in order to make it pass the house of lords, in which it had been twice rejected, it was proposed to tack it to a money-bill. This produced warm debates, and at length it was put to the vote; when 134 were for tacking: but a large majority being against it, the bill was sent up singly to the lords, who decided it on the 15th, in the presence of the queen, and again rejected it by a majority of 51 voices.

† Revelation xiii. 18.

After having wished my correspondent good luck, and thanked him for his intended kindness, I shall for this time dismiss the subject of the lottery, and only observe, that the greatest part of mankind are in some degree guilty of my friend Gosling's extravagance. We are apt to rely upon future prospects, and become really expensive while we are only rich in possibility. We live up to our expectations, not to our possessions, and make a figure proportionable to what we may be, not what we are. We outrun our present income, as not doubting to disburse * ourselves out of the profits of some future place, project, or reversion that we have in view. It is through this temper of mind, which is so common among us, that we see tradesmen break, who have met with no misfortunes in their business; and men of estates reduced to poverty, who have never suffered from losses or repairs, tenants, taxes, or law-suits. In short, it is this foolish sanguine temper, this depending upon contingent futurities, that occasions romantic generosity, chimerical grandeur, senseless ostentation, and generally ends in beggary and ruin. The man, who will live above his present circumstances, is in great danger of living in a little time much beneath them; or, as the Italian proverb runs, 'The man who lives by hope, will die by hunger.'

It should be an indispensable rule in life, to contract our desires to our present condition; and, whatever may be our expectations, to live within the compass of what we actually possess. It will be time enough to enjoy an estate when it comes into our hands; but if we anticipate our good fortune, we shall lose the pleasure of it when it arrives, and may possibly never possess what we have so foolishly counted upon.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 192. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1711.

— *Uno ore omnes omnia
Bona dicite, et laudare fortunas meas,
Qui gnatum habetum tali ingendo pradium.*
TER. Andr. act I. sc. 1.

All men agreed in complimenting me, and applauded my good fortune in being the father of so towardsly a son.

I arose the other day, and beheld a father sitting in the middle of a room with a large family of children about him; and methought I could observe in his countenance different motions of delight, as he turned his eye towards the one and the other of them. The man is a person moderate in his designs for their preferment and welfare; and as he has an easy fortune, he is not solicitous to make a great one. His eldest son is a child of a very towardsly disposition, and as much as the father loves him, I dare say he will never be a knave to improve his fortune. I do not know any man who has a juster relish of life than the person I am speaking of, or keeps a better guard against the terrors of want, or the hopes of gain. It is usual in a crowd of children, for the parent to name out of his own flock all the great officers of the kingdom. There is something so very surprising in the parts of a child of a man's own, that there is nothing too great to be expected from his endowments. I know a good woman who has but three sons, and there is, she says, nothing she expects with more certainty, than that she shall see one of

them a bishop, the other a judge, and the third a court physician. The humour is, that any thing which can happen to any man's child, is expected by every man for his own. But my friend, whom I was going to speak of, does not flatter himself with such vain expectations, but has his eye more upon the virtue and disposition of his children, than their advancement or wealth. Good habits are what will certainly improve a man's fortune and reputation; but, on the other side, influence of fortune will not as probably produce good affections of the mind.

It is very natural for a man of a kind disposition, to amuse himself with the promises his imagination makes to him of the future condition of his children, and to represent to himself the figure they shall bear in the world after he has left it. When his prospects of this kind are agreeable, his fondness gives us it were a longer date to his own life; and the survivorship of a worthy man in his son, is a pleasure scarce inferior to the hopes of the continuance of his own life. That man is happy who can believe of his son, that he will escape the follies and indiscretions of which he himself was guilty, and pursue and improve every thing that was valuable in him. The continuance of his virtue is much more to be regarded than that of his life; but it is the most lamentable of all reflections, to think that the heir of a man's fortune is such a one as will be a stranger to his friends, alienated from the same interests, and a promoter of every thing which he himself disapproved. An estate in possession of such a successor to a good man, is worse than laid waste; and the family, of which he is the head, is in a more deplorable condition than that of being extinct.

When I visit the agreeable seat of my honoured friend Ruricola, and walk from room to room revolving many pleasing occurrences, and the expressions of many just sentiments I have heard him utter, and seeing the booby his heir in pain while he is doing the honours of his house to the friend of his father, the heaviness it gives me is not to be expressed. Want of genius is not to be imputed to any man, but want of humanity is a man's own fault. The son of Ruricola (whose life was one continued series of worthy actions, and gentleman-like inclinations) is the companion of drunken clowns, and knows no sense of praise but in the flattery he receives from his own servants; his pleasures are mean and inordinate, his language base and filthy, his behaviour rough and absurd. Is this creature to be accounted the successor of a man of virtue, wit, and breeding? At the same time that I have this melancholy prospect at the house where I miss my old friend, I can go to a gentleman's not far off it, where he has a daughter who is the picture both of his body and mind, but both improved with the beauty and modesty peculiar to her sex. It is she who supplies the loss of her father to the world; she, without his name or fortune, is a truer memorial of him, than her brother who succeeds him in both. Such an offspring as the eldest son of my friend perpetuates his father in the same manner as the appearance of his ghost would: it is indeed Ruricola, but it is Ruricola grown frightful.

I know not to what to attribute the brutal turn which this young man has taken, except it may be to a certain severity and distance which his father used towards him, and might, perhaps, have occasioned a dislike to those modes of life, which were not made amiable to him by freedom and affability.

* It should be *reimburses*.

We may promise ourselves that no such excrecence will appear in the family of the Cornelli, where the father lives with his sons like their eldest brother, and the sons converse with him as if they did it for no other reason but that he is the wisest man of their acquaintance. As the Cornelli are eminent traders, their good correspondence with each other is useful to all that know them, as well as to themselves: and their friendship, good-will, and kind offices, are disposed of jointly as well as their fortune, so that no one ever obliged one of them, who had not the obligation multiplied in returns from them all.

It is the most beautiful object the eyes of man can behold, to see a man of worth and his son live in an entire unreserved correspondence. The mutual kindness and affection between them, give an inexpressible satisfaction to all who know them. It is a sublime pleasure which increases by the participation. It is as sacred as friendship, as pleasurable as love, and as joyful as religion. This state of mind does not only dissipate sorrow, which would be extreme without it, but enlarges pleasures which would otherwise be contemptible. The most indifferent thing has its force and beauty when it is spoke by a kind father, and an insignificant trifle has its weight when offered by a dutiful child. I know not how to express it, but I think I may call it 'a transplanted self-love.' All the enjoyments and sufferings which a man meets with are regarded only as they concern him in the relation he has to another. A man's very honour receives a new value to him, when he thinks that, when he is in his grave, it will be had in remembrance that such an action was done by such a one's father. Such considerations sweeten the old man's evening, and his soliloquy delights him when he can say to himself, No man can tell my child his father was either unmerciful or unjust. My son shall meet many a man who shall say to him, 'I was obliged to thy father; and be my child a friend to his child for ever.'

It is not in the power of all men to leave illustrious names or great fortunes to their posterity, but they can very much conduce to their having industry, probity, valour, and justice. It is in every man's power to leave his son the honour of descending from a virtuous man, and add the blessings of heaven to whatever he leaves him. I shall end this rhapsody with a letter to an excellent young man of my acquaintance, who has lately lost a worthy father.

DEAR SIR,

I know no part of life more impertinent than the office of administering consolation: I will not enter into it, for I cannot but applaud your grief. The virtuous principles you had from that excellent man, whom you have lost, have wrought in you as they ought, to make a youth of three and twenty incapable of comfort upon coming into possession of a great fortune. I doubt not but you will honour his memory by a modest enjoyment of his estate; and scorn to triumph over his grave, by employing in riot, excess, and debauchery, what he purchased with so much industry, prudence, and wisdom. This is the true way to show the sense you have of your loss, and to take away the distress of others upon the occasion. You cannot recall your father by your grief, but you may revive him to his friends by your conduct.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 193. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1711.

—*Ingentem foribus domus alta superbis
Manc salutatant totis vomit adibus undam.*
VIRG. Georg. li. 461.

His lordship's palace, from its stately doors,
A flood of levee-hunting mortals pours.

WHEN we look round us, and behold the strange variety of faces and persons which fill the streets with business and hurry, it is no unpleasant amusement to make guesses at their different pursuits, and judge by their countenances, what it is that so anxiously engages their present attention. Of all this busy crowd, there are none who would give a man inclined to such inquiries better diversion for his thoughts, than those whom we call good courtiers, and such as are assiduous at the levees of great men. These worthies are got into a habit of being servile with an air, and enjoy a certain vanity in being known for understanding how the world passes. In the pleasure of this they can rise early, go abroad sleek and well-dressed, with no other hope or purpose, but to make a bow to a man in court favour, and be thought, by some insignificant smile of his, not a little engaged in his interests and fortunes. It is wondrous, that a man can get over the natural existence and possession of his own mind so far, as to take delight either in paying or receiving such cold and repeated civilities. But what maintains the humour is, that outward show is what most men pursue, rather than real happiness. Thus both the idol, and idolater, equally impose upon themselves in pleasing their imaginations this way. But as there are very many of her majesty's good subjects, who are extremely uneasy at their own seats in the country, where all from the skies to the centre of the earth is their own, and have a mighty longing to shine in courts, or to be partners in the power of the world; I say, for the benefit of these, and others who hanker after being in the whisper with great men, and vexing their neighbours with the changes they would be capable of making in the appearance at a country sessions, it would not methinks be amiss to give an account of that market for preferment, a great man's levee.

For aught I know, this commerce between the mighty and their slaves, very justly represented, might do so much good, as to incline the great to regard business rather than ostentation; and make the little know the use of their time too well, to spend it in vain applications and addresses. The famous doctor in Moorfields, who gained so much reputation for his horary predictions, is said to have had in his parlour different ropes to little bells which hung in the room above stairs, where the doctor thought fit to be oracularous. If a girl had been deceived by her lover, one bell was pulled; and if a peasant had lost a cow, the servant rung another. This method was kept in respect to all other passions and concerns, and the skilful waiter below sifted the inquirer, and gave the doctor notice accordingly. The levee of a great man is laid after the same manner, and twenty whispers, false alarms, and private intimations, pass backward and forward from the porter, the valet, and the patron himself, before the gaping crew, who are to pay their court, are gathered together. When the scene is ready, the doors fly open and discover his lordship.

There are several ways of making this first ap-

pearance. You may be either half-dressed, and washing yourself, which is indeed the most stately; but this way of opening is peculiar to military men, in whom there is something graceful in exposing themselves naked; but the politicians, or civil officers, have usually affected to be more reserved, and preserve a certain chastity of deportment. Whether it be hieroglyphical or not, this difference in the military and civil list, I will not say; but have ever understood the fact to be, that the close minister is buttoned up, and the brave officer open-breasted on these occasions.

However that is, I humbly conceive the business of a levee is to receive the acknowledgments of a multitude, that a man is wise, bounteous, valiant, and powerful. When the first shot of eyes is made, it is wonderful to observe how much submission the patron's modesty can bear, and how much servitude the client's spirit can descend to. In the vast multiplicity of business, and the crowd about him, my lord's parts are usually so great, that, to the astonishment of the whole assembly, he has something to say to every man there, and that so suitable to his capacity as any man may judge that it is not without talents that men can arrive at great employments. I have known a great man ask a flag officer, which way was the wind, a commander of horse the present price of oats, and a stock-jobber at what discount such a fund was, with as much ease as if he had been bred to each of those several ways of life. Now this is extremely obliging; for at the same time that the patron informs himself of matters, he gives the person of whom he inquires an opportunity to exert himself. What adds to the pomp of those interviews is, that it is performed with the greatest silence and order imaginable. The patron is usually in the midst of the room, and some humble person gives him a whisper, which his lordship answers aloud, 'It is well. Yes, I am of your opinion. Pray inform yourself farther, you may be sure of my part in it.' This happy man is dismissed, and my lord can turn himself to a business of a quite different nature, and off-hand give as good an answer as any great man is obliged to. For the chief point is to keep in generals, and if there be any thing offered that is particular, to be in haste.

But we are now in the height of the affair, and my lord's creatures have all had their whispers round to keep up the farce of the thing, and the dumb show is become more general. He casts his eye to that corner, and there to Mr. Such-a-one; to the other, 'And when did you come to town?' And perhaps just before he nods to another; and enters with him, 'But, sir, I am glad to see you, now I think of it.' Each of those are happy for the next four and twenty hours; and those who bow in ranks undistinguished, and by dozens at a time, think they have very good prospects if they may hope to arrive at such notices half a year hence.

The satirist says, there is seldom common sense in high fortune*; and one would think, to behold a levee, that the great were not only inflated with their station, but also that they believed all below were acized too; else how is it possible they could think of imposing upon themselves and others in such a degree, as to set up a levee for any thing but a direct farce? But such is the weakness of our nature, that when men are a little exalted in their condition, they immediately conceive they

have additional senses, and their capacities enlarged not only above other men, but above human comprehension itself. Thus it is ordinary to see a great man attend one listening, bow to one at a distance, and call to a third at the same instant. A girl in new ribands is not more taken with herself, nor does she betray more apparent coquetries, than even a wise man in such a circumstance of courtship. I do not know any thing that I ever thought so very distasteful as the affectation which is recorded of Cæsar, to wit, that he would dictate to three several writers at the same time. This was an ambition below the greatness and candour of his mind. He indeed, if any man had pretensions to greater faculties than any other mortal, was the person; but such a way of acting is childish, and inconsistent with the manner of our being. And it appears from the very nature of things, that there cannot be any thing effectually dispatched in the distraction of a public levee; but the whole seems to be a conspiracy of a set of servile slaves, to give up their own liberty to take away their patron's understanding.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 194. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1711.

— *Diffliti bile tunet jecur.*

HOR. 1 Od. mil. 4.

Anger boils up in my hot lab'ring breast.
GLANVIL.

THE present paper shall consist of two letters, which observe upon faults that are easily cured both in love and friendship. In the latter, as far as it merely regards conversation, the person who neglects visiting an agreeable friend is punished in the very transgression; for a good companion is not found in every room we go into. But the case of love is of a more delicate nature, and the anxiety is inexpressible, if every little instance of kindness is not reciprocal. There are things in this sort of commerce which there are not words to express; and a man may not possibly know how to represent, what yet may tear his heart into ten thousand tortures. To be grave to a man's mirth, unattentive to his discourse, or to interrupt either with something that argues a disinclination to be entertained by him, has in it something so disagreeable, that the utmost steps which may be made in further enmity cannot give greater torment. The gay Corinna, who sets up for an indifference and becoming heedlessness, gives her husband all the torment imaginable out of mere indolence, with this peculiar vanity, that she is to look as gay as a maid in the character of a wife. It is no matter what is the reason of a man's grief, if it be heavy as it is. Her unhappy man is convinced that she means him no dishonour, but pines to death because she will not have so much deference to him as to avoid the appearances of it. The author of the following letter is perplexed with an injury that is in a degree yet less criminal, and yet the source of the utmost unhappiness.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE read your papers which relate to jealousy, and desire your advice in my case, which you

* Some one asked that great statesman John de Witt, how he could go through so much business? 'By doing one thing at a time,' replied he. *Steward's Biographana.*

will say is not common. I have a wife, of whose virtue I am not in the least doubtful; yet I cannot be satisfied she loves me, which gives me as great uneasiness as being faulty the other way would do. I know not whether I am not yet more miserable than in that case, for she keeps possession of my heart without the return of hers. I would desire your observations upon that temper in some women who will not condescend to convince their husbands of their innocence or their love, but are wholly negligent of what reflections the poor men make upon their conduct (so they cannot call it criminal), when at the same time a little tenderness of behaviour, or regard to show an inclination to please them, would make them entirely at ease. Do not such women deserve all the misinterpretation which they neglect to avoid? Or are they not in the actual practice of guilt, who care not whether they are thought guilty or not? If my wife does the most ordinary thing, as visiting her sister, or taking the air with her mother, it is always carried with the air of a secret. Then she will sometimes tell a thing of no consequence, as if it was only want of memory made her conceal it before; and this only to dally with my anxiety. I have complained to her of this behaviour in the gentlest terms imaginable, and beseeched her not to use him, who desired only to live with her like an indulgent friend, as the most morose and unsociable husband in the world. It is no easy matter to describe our circumstance; but it is miserable, with this aggravation, that it might be easily mended, and yet no remedy endeavoured. She reads you, and there is a phrase or two in this letter which she will know came from me. If we enter into an explanation which may tend to our future quiet by your means, you shall have our joint thanks: in the mean time I am (as much as I can in this ambiguous condition be any thing),

'SIR,
'Your humble servant.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

GIVE me leave to make you a present of a character not yet described in your papers, which is that of a man who treats his friend with the same odd variety which a fantastical female tyrant practices towards her lover. I have for some time had a friendship with one of these mercurial persons. The rogue I know loves me, yet takes advantage of my fondness for him to use me as he pleases. We are by turns the best friends and the greatest strangers imaginable. Sometimes you would think me incomparable; at other times he avoids me for a long time, yet neither he nor I know why. When we meet next by chance, he is amazed he has not seen me, is impatient for an appointment the same evening; and when I expect he should have kept it, I have known him slip away to another place; where he has sat reading the news, when there is no post; smoking his pipe, which he seldom cares for; and staring about him in company with whom he had nothing to do, as if he wondered how he came there.

That I may state my case to you the more fully, I shall transcribe some short minutes I have taken of him in my almanack since last spring; for you must know there are certain seasons of the year, according to which, I will not say our friendship, but the enjoyment of it rises or falls. In March and April he was as various as the weather; in May and part of June, I found him the sprightliest best-humoured fellow in the world; in the

dog-days he was much upon the indolent; in September, very agreeable but very busy; and since the glass fell last to changeable, he has made three appointments with me, and broke them every one. However I have good hopes of him this winter, especially if you will lend me your assistance to reform him, which will be a great ease and pleasure to,

October 9,
1711.

STEELE.

'SIR,
'Your most humble servant.'

T.

Nº 195. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1711.

Νηκτοι, εὐ' ἰσασιν ὅσω πλεον ἡμῖν πονητος.
Οὐδ' ὁσον τι μαλαχῇ; τι δὲ ἀσφοδῖλῳ μὲν' ὀνιμας.
HES. Oper. et Dier. l. i. ver. 40.

Fools, not to know that half exceeds the whole,
Nor the great blessings of a frugal board!

THERE is a story in the Arabian Nights Tales of a king who had long languished under an ill habit of body, and had taken abundance of remedies to no purpose. At length, says the fable, a physician cured him by the following method: He took a hollow ball of wood, and filled it with several drugs; after which he closed it up so artificially that nothing appeared. He likewise took a mall, and after having hollowed the handle, and that part which strikes the ball, he inclosed in them several drugs after the same manner as in the ball itself. He then ordered the sultan, who was his patient, to exercise himself early in the morning with these rightly-prepared instruments, till such time as he should sweat: when, as the story goes, the virtue of the medicaments perspiring through the wood had so good an influence on the sultan's constitution, that they cured him of an indisposition which all the compositions he had taken inwardly had not been able to remove. This eastern allegory is finely contrived to show us how beneficial bodily labour is to health, and that exercise is the most effectual physic. I have described in my hundred and fiftenth paper, from the general structure and mechanism of an human body, how absolutely necessary exercise is for its preservation. I shall in this place recommend another great preservative of health, which in many cases produces the same effects as exercise, and may, in some measure, supply its place, where opportunities of exercise are wanting. The preservative I am speaking of is temperance, which has those particular advantages above all other means of health, that it may be practised by all ranks and conditions, at any season, or in any place. It is a kind of regimen into which every man may put himself, without interruption to business, expense of money, or loss of time. If exercise throws off all superfluities, temperance prevents them; if exercise clears the vessels, temperance neither satiates nor overstrains them; if exercise raises proper ferments in the humours, and promotes the circulation of the blood, temperance gives nature her full play, and enables her to exert herself in all her force and vigour; if exercise dissipates a growing distemper, temperance starves it.

Physic, for the most part, is nothing else but the substitute of exercise or temperance. Medicines are indeed absolutely necessary in acute distempers, that cannot wait the slow operations of these two great instruments of health; but did

men live in an habitual course of exercise and temperance, there would be but little occasion for them. Accordingly we find that those parts of the world are the most healthy, where they subsist by the chase; and that men lived longest when their lives were employed in hunting, and when they had little food besides what they caught. Blistering, cupping, bleeding, are seldom of use but to the idle and intemperate; as all those inward applications which are so much in practice among us, are for the most part nothing else but expedients to make luxury consistent with health. The apothecary is perpetually employed in countermining the cook and the vintner. It is said of Diogenes, that meeting a young man who was going to a feast he took him up in the street and carried him home to his friends, as one who was running into imminent danger, had not he prevented him. What would that philosopher have said, had he been present at the gluttony of a modern meal? Would not he have thought the master of a family mad, and have begged his servants to tie down his hands, had he seen him devour fowl, fish, and flesh; swallow oil and vinegar, wines and spices; throw down salads of twenty different herbs, sauces of an hundred ingredients, confections and fruits of numberless sweets and flavours? What unnatural motions and counter-ferments must such a medley of intemperance produce in the body? For my part, when I behold a fashionable table set out in all its magnificence, I fancy that I see gout and dropsies, fevers and lethargies, with other innumerable distempers, lying in ambuscade among the dishes.

Nature delights in the most plain and simple diet. Every animal, but man, keeps to one dish. Herbs are the food of this species, fish of that, and flesh of a third. Man falls upon every thing that comes in his way; not the smallest fruit or excrescence of the earth, scarce a berry or a mushroom can escape him.

It is impossible to lay down any determinate rule for temperance, because what is luxury in one may be temperance in another; but there are few that have lived any time in the world, who are not judges of their own constitutions, so far as to know what kinds and what proportions of food do best agree with them. Were I to consider my readers as my patients, and to prescribe such a kind of temperance as is accommodated to all persons, and such as is particularly suitable to our climate and way of living, I would copy the following rules of a very eminent physician. 'Make your whole repast out of one dish. If you indulge in a second, avoid drinking any thing strong, till you have finished your meal; at the same time abstain from all sauces, or at least such as are not the most plain and simple.' A man could not be well guilty of gluttony, if he stuck to these few obvious and easy rules. In the first case, there would be no variety of tastes to solicit his palate, and occasion excess; nor in the second, any artificial provocatives to relieve satiety, and create a false appetite. Were I to prescribe a rule for drinking, it should be formed upon a saying quoted by Sir William Temple: 'The first glass for myself, the second for my friends, the third for good-humour, and the fourth for mine enemies.' But because it is impossible for one who lives in the world to diet himself always in so philosophical a manner, I think every man should have his days of abstinence, according as his constitution will permit. These are great reliefs to nature, as they qualify her for struggling with hunger and thirst, whenever any distemper or duty of life may put her upon such

difficulties; and at the same time give her an opportunity of extricating herself from her oppressions, and recovering the several tones and springs of her distended vessels. Besides that, abstinence well-timed, often kills a sickness in embryo, and destroys the first seeds of an indisposition. It is observed by two or three ancient authors, that Socrates, notwithstanding he lived in Athens during that great plague which has made so much noise through all ages, and has been celebrated at different times by such eminent hands; I say, notwithstanding that he lived in the time of this devouring pestilence, he never caught the least infection, which those writers unanimously ascribe to that uninterrupted temperance which he always observed.

And here I cannot but mention an observation which I have often made, upon reading the lives of the philosophers, and comparing them with any series of kings or great men of the same number. If we consider these ancient sages, a great part of whose philosophy consisted in a temperate and abstemious course of life, one would think the life of a philosopher and the life of a man were of two different dates. For we find that the generality of these wise men were nearer an hundred than sixty years of age, at the time of their respective deaths. But the most remarkable instance of the efficacy of temperance towards the procuring of long life, is what we meet with in a little book published by Lewis Cornaro the Venetian; which I the rather mention, because it is of undoubted credit, as the late Venetian ambassador, who was of the same family, attested more than once in conversation, when he resided in England. Cornaro, who was the author of the little treatise I am mentioning, was of an infirm constitution, till about forty, when by obstinately persisting in an exact course of temperance, he recovered a perfect state of health; inasmuch that at fourscore he published his book, which has been translated into English under the title of *Sure and certain Methods of attaining a long and healthy Life*. He lived to give a third or fourth edition of it; and after having passed his hundredth year, died without pain or agony, and like one who falls asleep. The treatise I mention has been taken notice of by several eminent authors, and is written with such a spirit of cheerfulness, religion, and good sense, as are the natural concomitants of temperance and sobriety. The mixture of the old man in it is rather a recommendation than a discredit to it.

Having designed this paper as the sequel to that upon exercise, I have not here considered temperance as it is a moral virtue, which I shall make the subject of a future speculation, but only as it is the means of health.

ADDISON.

L.

N° 196. MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1711.

Est Ulubris, animus a te non deficit equus.
HOR. Ep. xi. l. i. ver. 30.

True happiness is to no place confin'd,
But still is found in a contented mind.

MR SPECTATOR,

'THERE is a particular fault which I have observed in most of the moralists in all ages, and that is, that they are always professing themselves, and teaching others to be happy. This state is not to be arrived at in this life, therefore I would recom-

need to you to talk in an humbler strain than your predecessors have done, and, instead of presuming to be happy, instruct us only to be easy. The thoughts of him who would be discreet, and aim at practicable things, should turn upon allaying our pain rather than promoting our joy. Great iniquity is to be avoided, but great felicity is not to be attained. The great lesson is equanimity, a regularity of spirit, which is a little above cheerfulness and below mirth. Cheerfulness is always to be supported if a man is out of pain, but mirth to a prudent man should always be accidental. It should naturally arise out of the occasion, and the occasion seldom be laid for it; for those tempers who want mirth to be pleased, are like the constitutions which flag without the use of brandy. Therefore, I say, let your precept be, "Be easy." That mind is dissolute and ungoverned, which must be hurried out of itself by loud laughter or sensual pleasure, or else be wholly inactive.

'There are a couple of old fellows of my acquaintance who meet every day and smoke a pipe, and by their natural love to each other, though they have been men of business and bustle in the world, enjoy a greater tranquillity than either could have worked himself into by any chapter of Seneca. Indolence of body and mind, when we aim at no more, is very frequently enjoyed; but the very inquiry after happiness has something restless in it, which a man who lives in a series of temperate meals, friendly conversations, and easy slumbers, gives himself no trouble about. While men of refinement are talking of tranquillity, he possesses it.

'What I would by these broken expressions recommend to you, Mr. Spectator, is, that you would speak of the way of life which plain men may pursue to fill up the spaces of time with satisfaction. It is a lamentable circumstance, that wisdom, or, as you call it, philosophy, should furnish ideas only for the learned; and that a man must be a philosopher, to know how to pass away his time agreeably. It would therefore be worth your pains to place in a handsome light the relations and affinities among men, which render their conversation with each other so grateful, that the highest talents give but an impotent pleasure in comparison with them. You may find descriptions and discourses which will render the fireside of an honest artificer as entertaining, as your own club is to you. Good-nature has an endless source of pleasures in it; and the representation of domestic life filled with its natural gratifications, (instead of the necessary vexations which are generally insisted upon in the writings of the witty) will be a very good office to society.

'The vicissitudes of labour and rest in the lower part of mankind, make their being pass away with that sort of relish which we express by the word comfort; and should be treated of by you, who art a Spectator, as well as such subjects which appear indeed more speculative, but are less instructive. In a word, sir, I would have you turn your thoughts to the advantage of such as want you most; and show that simplicity, innocence, industry, and temperance, are arts which lead to tranquillity, as much as learning, wisdom, knowledge, and contemplation. I am, sir,

Your most humble servant,
T. H.

MR. SPECTATOR,

Hackney, October 12.

I am the young woman whom you did so much jus-

tice to some time ago, in acknowledging that I am perfect mistress of the fan, and use it with the utmost knowledge and dexterity*. Indeed, the world, malicious as it is, will allow, that from a hurry of laughter, I recollect myself the most suddenly, make a curtsy, and let fall my hands before me, closing my fan at the same instant, the best of any woman in England. I am not a little delighted that I have had your notice and approbation; and however other young women may rally me out of envy, I triumph in it, and demand a place in your friendship. You must therefore permit me to lay before you the present state of my mind. I was reading your Spectator of the 9th instant†, and thought the circumstance of the ass divided between two bundles of hay which equally affected his senses, was a lively representation of my present condition, for you are to know that I am extremely enamoured with two young gentlemen who at this time pretend to me. One must hide nothing when one is asking advice, therefore I will own to you that I am very amorous, and very covetous. My lover Will is very rich, and my lover Tom very handsome. I can have either of them when I please; but when I debate the question in my own mind, I cannot take Tom for fear of losing Will's estate, nor enter upon Will's estate, and bid adieu to Tom's person. I am very young, and yet no one in the world, dear sir, has the main chance more in her head than myself. Tom is the gayest, the blithest creature! He dances well, is very civil, and diverting at all hours and seasons. Oh he is the joy of my eyes! But then again Will is so very rich and careful of the main. How many pretty dresses does Tom appear in to charm me! But then it immediately occurs to me, that a man of his circumstances is so much the poorer. Upon the whole, I have at last examined both these desires of love and avarice, and upon strictly weighing the matter I begin to think I shall be covetous longer than fond; therefore if you have nothing to say to the contrary, I shall take Will. Alas, poor Tom!

Your humble servant,

'BIDDY LOVELESS.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 197. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1711.

*Aller risator de lana tepe caprina, et
Propugnator nudis armatus: scilicet, ut non
Sis mihi prima fides? et, vix quod placeat, ut non
Acriter elatrem? Pretium atas altera sordet.
Ambigitur quid enim? Castor scint, an Docilis plus,
Brundisium Numici melius vix ducat, an Appi.
HOR. Ep. xviii. l. l. var. 13.*

One strives for trifles, and for toys contends:

He is in earnest; what he says, defends:

'That I should not be trusted, right or wrong,

'Or be debar'd the freedom of my tongue,

'And not bawl what I please! To part with this,

'I think another life too mean a price.'

The question is—Pray, what?—Why which can boast

Or Docilis, or Castor, knowing most;

Or whether thro' Numicum best as good

To fair Brundisium, as the Appian road.

CREECH.

EVERY age a man passes through, and way of life he engages in, has some particular vice or imperfection naturally cleaving to it, which it will require his nicest care to avoid. The several weaknesses to which youth, old age, and manhood are exposed, have long since been set down by many

* See the concluding letter in Nº 134.

† Nº 191.

both of the poets and philosophers; but I do not remember to have met with any author who has treated of those ill habits men are subject to, not so much by reason of their different ages and tempers, as the particular professions or business in which they were educated and brought up.

I am the more surprised to find this subject so little touched on, since what I am here speaking of is so apparent, as not to escape the most vulgar observation. The business men are chiefly conversant in, does not only give a certain cast or turn to their minds, but is very often apparent in their outward behaviour, and some of the most indifferent actions of their lives. It is this air diffusing itself over the whole man, which helps us to find out a person at his first appearance; so that the most careless observer fancies he can scarce be mistaken in the carriage of a seaman, or the gait of a tailor.

The liberal arts, though they may possibly have less effect on our external mien and behaviour, make so deep an impression on the mind, as is very apt to bend it wholly one way.

The mathematician will take little less than demonstration in the most common discourse, and the schoolman is as great a friend to definitions and syllogisms. The physician and divine are often heard to dictate in private companies with the same authority which they exercise over their patients and disciples; while the lawyer is putting cases, and raising matter for disputation, out of every thing that occurs.

I may possibly some time or other animadvert more at large on the particular fault each profession is most infected with; but shall at present wholly apply myself to the cure of what I last mentioned, namely, that spirit of strife and contention in the conversations of gentlemen of the long robe.

This is the more ordinary, because these gentlemen regarding argument as their own proper province, and very often making ready-money of it, think it unsafe to yield before company. They are showing in common talk how zealously they could defend a cause in court, and therefore frequently forget to keep that temper which is absolutely requisite to render conversation pleasant and instructive.

Captain Sentry pushes this matter so far, that I have heard him say, 'he has known but few pleaders that were tolerable company.'

The captain, who is a man of good sense, but dry conversation, was last night giving me an account of a discourse, in which he had lately been engaged with a young wrangler in the law. 'I was giving my opinion,' says the captain, 'without apprehending any debate that might arise from it, of a general's behaviour in a battle that was fought some years before either the Templar or myself were born. The young lawyer immediately took me up, and by reasoning above a quarter of an hour upon a subject which I saw he understood nothing of, endeavoured to show me that my opinions were ill-grounded. Upon which,' says the captain, 'to avoid any further contests, I told him, that truly I had not considered those several arguments which he had brought against me, and that there might be a great deal in them.' 'Ay, but,' says my antagonist, who would not let me escape so, 'there are several things to be urged in favour of your opinion which you have omitted;' and thereupon began to shine on the other side of the question. Upon this, says the captain, 'I came over to my first sentiments, and entirely acquiesced

in his reasons for my so doing. Upon which the Templar again recovered his former posture, and confuted both himself and me a third time. In short,' says my friend, 'I found he was resolved to keep me at sword's length, and never let me close with him; so that I had nothing left but to hold my tongue, and give my antagonist free leave to smile at his victory, who I found, like H-dibras, "could still change sides, and still confute *."

For my own part, I have ever regarded our lions of court as nurseries of statesmen and law-givers, which makes me often frequent that part of the town with great pleasure.

Upon my calling in lately at one of the most noted Temple coffee-houses, I found the whole room, which was full of young students, divided into several parties, each of which was deeply engaged in some controversy. The management of the late ministry was attacked and defended with great vigour; and several preliminaries to the peace were proposed by some, and rejected by others: the demolishing of Dunkirk was so eagerly insisted on, and so warmly controverted, as had like to have produced a challenge. In short, I observed that the desire of victory, whetted by the little prejudices of party and interest, generally carried the argument to such a height, as made the disputants insensibly conceive an aversion towards each other, and part with the highest dissatisfaction on both sides.

The managing an argument handsomely being so nice a point, and what I have seen so very few excel in, I shall here set down a few rules on that head, which, among other things, I gave in writing to a young kinsman of mine, who had made so great a proficiency in the law, that he began to plead in company, upon every subject that was started.

Having the entire manuscript by me, I may, perhaps, from time to time, publish such parts of it as I shall think requisite for the instruction of the British youth. What regards my present purpose is as follows:

Avoid disputes as much as possible. In order to appear easy and well-bred in conversation, you may assure yourself that it requires more wit, as well as more good-humour, to improve than to contradict the notions of another: but if you are at any time obliged to enter on an argument, give your reasons with the utmost coolness and modesty, two things which scarce ever fail of making an impression on the hearers. Besides, if you are neither dogmatical, nor show, either by your actions or words, that you are full of yourself, all will the more heartily rejoice at your victory. Nay, should you be pinched in your argument, you may make your retreat with a very good grace. You were never positive, and are now glad to be better informed. This has made some approve the Socratical way of reasoning, where, while you scarce affirm any thing, you can hardly be caught in an absurdity; and though possibly you are endeavouring to bring over another to your opinion, which is firmly fixed, you seem only to desire information from him.

In order to keep that temper which is so difficult, and yet so necessary to preserve, you may please to consider, that nothing can be more unjust or ridiculous, than to be angry with another because he is not of your opinion. The interests,

education, and means by which men attain their knowledge, are so very different, that it is impossible they should all think alike; and he has at least as much reason to be angry with you, as you with him. Sometimes to keep yourself cool, it may be of service to ask yourself fairly, what might have been your opinion, had you all the biases of education and interest your adversary may possibly have? But if you contend for the honour of victory alone, you may lay down this as an infallible maxim, That you cannot make a more false step, or give your antagonists a greater advantage over you, than by falling into a passion.

When an argument is over, how many weighty reasons does a man recollect, which his heat and violence made him utterly forget?

It is yet more absurd to be angry with a man because he does not apprehend the force of your reasons, or gives weak ones of his own. If you argue for reputation, this makes your victory the easier; he is certainly in all respects an object of your pity, rather than anger; and if he cannot comprehend what you do, you ought to thank nature for her favours, who has given you so much the clearer understanding.

You may please to add this consideration, that among your equals no one values your anger, which only preys upon its master; and perhaps you may find it not very consistent either with prudence or your ease, to punish yourself whenever you meet with a fool or a knave.

Lastly, if you propose to yourself the true end of argument, which is information, it may be a reasonable check to your passion; for if you search purely after truth, it will be almost indifferent to you where you find it. I cannot in this place omit an observation which I have often made, namely, That nothing procures a man more esteem and less envy from the whole company, than if he chooses the part of moderator, without engaging directly on either side in a dispute. This gives him the character of impartial, furnishes him with an opportunity of sifting things to the bottom, showing his judgment, and of sometimes making handsome compliments to each of the contending parties.

I shall close this subject with giving you one caution. When you have gained a victory, do not push it too far; it is sufficient to let the company and your adversary see it is in your power; but that you are too generous to make use of it.

BUDGELL.

X.

Nº 198. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1711.

*Certe luporum præda rapacium,
Sustinetur ultro, quoniam optamus
Fallere et effugere et triumphare.*
HOR. Od. iv. l. iv. ver. 58.

We, like the stag, the brinded wolf provoke,
And, when retreat is victory,
Rush on, tho' sure to die.
ANON.

There is a species of women, whom I shall distinguish by the name of Salamanders. Now a Salamander is a kind of heroine in chastity, that treads upon fire, and lives in the midst of flames, without being hurt. A Salamander knows no distinction of sex in those she converses with, grows familiar with a stranger at first sight, and is not so narrow-spirited as to observe whether the person she talks to be in breeches or petticoats. She admits a male visitant to her bed-side, plays with him a whole afternoon at picquet, walks with him two

or three hours by moonlight, and is extremely scandalized at the unreasonableness of a husband, or the severity of a parent, that would debar the sex from such innocent liberties. Your Salamander is therefore a perpetual declaimer against jealousy, an admirer of the French good-breeding, and a great stickler for freedom in conversation. In short, the Salamander lives in an invincible state of simplicity and innocence. Her constitution is preserved in a kind of natural frost. She wonders what people mean by temptations, and defies mankind to do their worst. Her chastity is engaged in a constant ordeal, or fiery trial: like good Queen Emma*, the pretty innocent walks blindfold among burning ploughshares, without being scorched or singed by them.

It is not therefore for the use of the Salamander, whether in a married or single state of life, that I design the following paper; but for such females only as are made of flesh and blood; and find themselves subject to human frailties.

As for this part of the fair sex who are not of the Salamander kind, I would most earnestly advise them to observe a quite different conduct in their behaviour; and to avoid as much as possible what religion calls temptations, and the world opportunities. Did they but know how many thousands of their sex have been gradually betrayed from innocent freedoms to ruin and infamy; and how many millions of ours have begun with statuettes, protestations, and endearments, but ended with reproaches, perjury, and perfidiousness; they would shun like death the very first approaches of one that might lead them into inextricable labyrinths of guilt and misery. I must so far give up the cause of the male world, as to exhort the female sex in the language of Chamoit in the Orphan:

'Trust not a man: we are by nature false,
Dissembling, subtle, cruel, and unconstant:
When a man talks of love, with caution trust him;
But if he swears, he'll certainly deceive thee.'

I might very much enlarge upon this subject, but shall conclude it with a story which I lately heard from one of our Spanish officers†, and which may show the danger a woman incurs by too great familiarities with a male companion.

An inhabitant of the kingdom of Castile, being a man of more than ordinary prudence, and of a grave composed behaviour, determined about the fiftieth year of his age to enter upon wedlock. In order to make himself easy in it, he cast his eye upon a young woman who had nothing to recommend her but her beauty and her education, her parents having been reduced to great poverty by the wars, which for some years have laid that whole country waste. The Castilian having made his addresses to her and married her, they lived together in perfect happiness for some time; when at length the husband's affairs made it necessary for him to take a voyage to the kingdom of Naples, where a great part of his estate lay. The wife loved him too tenderly to be left behind him. They had not been a-shipboard above a day, when they unluckily fell into the hands of an Algerine pirate, who carried the whole company on shore, and made

* Emma, the mother of King Edward the Confessor: who, being suspected of incontinence, was, as a trial of her innocence, made to walk hood-winked and bare-foot over nine red-hot ploughshares. This, which was called the ordeal-trial, Emma is said to have performed unharmed.

† Meaning, we suppose, one of the English officers who had been employed under the Earl of Peterborough, in Spain, in 1706.

them slaves. The Castilian and his wife had the comfort to be under the same master: who seeing how dearly they loved one another, and gasped after their liberty, demanded a most exorbitant price for their ransom. The Castilian, though he would rather have died in slavery himself, than have paid such a sum as he found would go near to ruin him, was so moved with compassion towards his wife, that he sent repeated orders to his friend in Spain (who happened to be his next relation) to sell his estate, and transmit the money to him. His friend hoping that the terms of his ransom might be made more reasonable, and unwilling to sell an estate which he himself had some prospect of inheriting, formed so many delays, that three whole years passed away without any thing being done for the setting them at liberty.

There happened to live a French renegade in the same place where the Castilian and his wife were kept prisoners. As this fellow had in him all the vivacity of his nation, he often entertained the captives with accounts of his own adventures; to which he sometimes added a song or a dance, or some other piece of mirth, to divert them during their confinement. His acquaintance with the manners of the Algerines, enabled him likewise to do them several good offices. The Castilian, as he was one day in conversation with this renegade, discovered to him the negligence and treachery of his correspondent in Castile, and at the same time asked his advice how he should behave himself in that exigency; he farther told the renegade, that he found it would be impossible for him to raise the money, unless he himself might go over to dispose of his estate. The renegade, after having represented to him that his Algerine master would never consent to his release upon such a pretence, at length contrived a method for the Castilian to make his escape in the habit of a seaman. The Castilian succeeded in his attempt; and having sold his estate, being afraid lest the money should miscarry by the way, and determining to perish with it rather than lose one who was much dearer to him than his life, he returned himself in a little vessel that was going to Algiers. It is impossible to describe the joy he felt upon this occasion, when he considered that he should soon see the wife whom he so much loved, and endear himself more to her, by this uncommon piece of generosity.

The renegade, during the husband's absence, so insinuated himself into the good graces of his young wife, and so turned her head with stories of gallantry, that she quickly thought him the finest gentleman she had ever conversed with. To be brief, her mind was quite alienated from the honest Castilian, whom she was taught to look upon as a formal old fellow, unworthy the possession of so charming a creature. She had been instructed by the renegade how to manage herself upon his arrival; so that she received him with an appearance of the utmost love and gratitude, and at length persuaded him to trust their common friend the renegade with the money he had brought over for their ransom; as not questioning but he would beat down the terms of it, and negotiate the affair more to their advantage than they themselves could do. The good man admired her prudence, and followed her advice. I wish I could conceal the sequel of this story; but since I cannot, I shall dispatch it in as few words as possible. The Castilian having slept longer than ordinary the next morning, upon his awaking found his wife had left him. He immediately rose and inquired after her, but was told that she was seen with the renegade

about break of day. In a word, her lover having got all things ready for their departure, they soon made their escape out of the territories of Algiers, carried away the money, and left the Castilian in captivity; who partly through the cruel treatment of the incensed Algerine his master, and partly through the unkind usage of his unfaithful wife, died some few months after.

ADDISON.

L.

N° 199. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1711.

—Scribere jussit amor.

OVID. Ep. iv. ver. 10.

Love bade me write.

The following letters are written with such an air of sincerity that I cannot deny the inserting of them:

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THOUGH you are every where in your writings a friend to women, I do not remember that you have directly considered the mercenary practice of men in the choice of wives. If you will please to employ your thoughts upon that subject, you would easily conceive the miserable condition many of us are in, who not only from the laws of custom and modesty are restrained from making any advances towards our wives, but are also, from the circumstance of fortune, out of all hope of being addressed to by those whom we love. Under all these disadvantages I am obliged to apply myself to you, and hope I shall prevail with you to print in your very next paper the following letter, which is a declaration of passion to one who has made some faint addresses to me for some time. I believe he ardently loves me, but the inequality of my fortune makes him think he cannot answer it to the world, if he pursues his designs by way of marriage; and I believe, as he does not want discerning, he discovered me looking at him the other day unawares in such a manner, as has raised his hopes of gaining me on terms the men call easier. But my heart was very full on this occasion, and if you know what love and honour are, you will pardon me that I use no further arguments with you, but hasten to my letter to him, whom I call Oronodates; because if I do not succeed, it shall look like romance; and if I am regarded, you shall receive a pair of gloves at my wedding, sent to you under the name of Statira.

'TO ORODATES.

'SIR,

'AFTER very much perplexity in myself, and revolving how to acquaint you with my own sentiments, and expostulate with you concerning yours, I have chosen this way, by which means I can be at once revealed to you, or, if you please, be concealed. If I do not within few days find the effect which I hope from this, the whole affair shall be buried in oblivion. But alas! what am I going to do, when I am about to tell you that I love you? But after I have done so, I am to assure you, that with all this passion which ever entered a tender heart, I know I can banish you from my sight for ever, when I am convinced that you have no inclinations towards me but to my dishonour. But alas! sir, why should you sacrifice the real and essential happiness of life to the opinion of a world, that moves upon no other foundation but professed error and prejudice? You all can observe, that riches

alone do not make you happy, and yet give up every thing else when it stands in competition with riches. Since the world is so bad, that religion is left to us silly women, and you men act generally upon principles of profit and pleasure, I will talk to you without arguing from any thing but what may be most to your advantage as a man of the world. And I will lay before you the state of the case, supposing that you had it in your power to make me your mistress, or your wife, and hope to convince you that the latter is more for your interest, and will contribute more to your pleasure.

'We will suppose then the scene was laid, and you were now in expectation of the approaching evening wherein I was to meet you, and be carried to what convenient corner of the town you thought fit, to consummate all which your wanton imagination has promised to you in the possession of one who is in the bloom of youth, and in the reputation of innocence. You would soon have enough of me, as I am sprightly, young, gay, and airy. When fancy is sated, and finds all the promises it made itself false, where is now the innocence which charmed you? The first hour you are alone, you will find that the pleasure of a debauchee is only that of a destroyer. He blasts all the fruit he tastes; and where the brute has been devouring, there is nothing left worthy the relish of the man. Reason resumes her place after imagination is cloyed; and I am, with the utmost distress and confusion, to behold myself the cause of uneasy reflections to you, to be visited by stealth, and dwell for the future with the two companions (the most met for each other in the world) solitude and guilt. I will not insist upon the shameful obscurity we should pass our time in, nor run over the little short snatches of fresh air, and free commerce, which all people must be satisfied with, whose actions will not bear examination, but leave them to your reflections, who have seen of that life, of which I have but a mere idea.

'On the other hand, if you can be so good and generous as to make me your wife, you may promise yourself all the obedience and tenderness with which gratitude can inspire a virtuous woman. Whatever gratifications you may promise yourself from an agreeable person, whatever compliances from an easy temper, whatever consolations from a sincere friendship, you may expect as the due of your generosity. What at present in your ill view you promise yourself from me, will be followed by distaste and satiety; but the transports of a virtuous love are the least part of its happiness. The raptures of innocent passion are but like lighting to the day, they rather interrupt than advance the pleasure of it. How happy then is that life to be, where the highest pleasures of sense are but the lowest parts of its felicity?

'Now am I to repeat to you the unnatural request of taking me in direct terms. I know there stands between me and that happiness, the haughty daughter of a man who can give you suitably to your fortune. But if you weigh the attendance and behaviour of her who comes to you in partnership of your fortune, and expects an equivalent, with that of her who enters your house as honoured and obliged by that permission, whom of the two will you choose? You, perhaps, will think fit to spend the day abroad in the common entertainments of men of sense and fortune; she will think herself ill used in that absence, and contrive at home an expense proportioned to the appearance which you make in the world. She is in all things to have a regard to the fortune which she brought

you, I to the fortune to which you introduced me. The commerce between you two will eternally have the air of a bargain, between us of a friendship: joy will ever enter into the room with you, and kind wishes attend my benefactor when he leaves it. Ask yourself how would you be pleased to enjoy for ever the pleasure of having laid an immediate obligation on a grateful mind? Such will be your case with me. In the other marriage you will live in a constant comparison of benefits, and never know the happiness of conferring or receiving any.

'It may be you will, after all, act rather in the prudential way, according to the sense of the ordinary world. I know not what I think or say, when that melancholy reflection comes upon me; but shall only add more, that it is in your power to make me your grateful wife, but never your abandoned mistress.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 200. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1711.

Vincit amor patria —

VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 823.

The noblest motive is the public good.

THE ambition of princes is many times as hurtful to themselves as to their people. This cannot be doubted of such as prove unfortunate in their wars, but it is often true too of those who are celebrated for their successes. If a severe view were to be taken of their conduct, if the profit and loss by their wars could be justly balanced, it would be rarely found that the conquest is sufficient to repay the cost.

As I was the other day looking over the letters of my correspondents, I took this hint from that of Philarithmus*; which has turned my present thoughts upon political arithmetic, an art of greater use than entertainment. My friend has offered an essay towards proving that Lewis XIV. with all his acquisitions is not master of more people than at the beginning of his wars; nay, that for every subject he had acquired, he had lost three that were his inheritance. If Philarithmus is not mistaken in his calculations, Lewis must have been impoverished by his ambition.

The prince, for the public good, has a sovereign property in every private person's estate; and consequently his riches must increase or decrease in proportion to the number and riches of his subjects. For example; if sword or pestilence should destroy all the people of this metropolis (God forbid there should be room for such a supposition! but if this should be the case), the queen must needs lose a great part of her revenue, or at least, what is charged upon the city must increase the burden upon the rest of her subjects. Perhaps the inhabitants here are not above a tenth part of the whole; yet, as they are better fed, and clothed, and lodged, than her other subjects, the customs and excises upon their consumption, the imposts upon their houses, and other taxes, do very probably make a fifth part of the whole revenue of the crown. But this is not all; the consumption of the city takes off a great part of the fruits of the whole island; and as it pays such a proportion of the rent or yearly value of the lands in the country, so it is the cause of paying such a pro-

portion of taxes upon those lands. The loss then of such a people must needs be sensible to the prince, and visible to the whole kingdom.

On the other hand, if it should please God to drop from heaven a new people equal in number and riches to the city, I should be ready to think their excises, customs, and house-rent, would raise as great a revenue to the crown as would be lost in the former case. And as the consumption of this new body would be a new market for the fruits of the country, all the lands, especially those most adjacent, would rise in their yearly value, and pay greater yearly taxes to the public. The gain in this case would be as sensible as the former loss.

Whatsoever is assessed upon the general, is levied upon individuals. It were worth the while then to consider what is paid by, or by means of, the meanest subjects, in order to compute the value of every subject to the prince.

For my own part, I should believe that seven-eighths of the people are without property in themselves or the heads of their families, and forced to work for their daily bread; and that of this sort there are seven millions in the whole island of Great Britain! and yet one would imagine that seven-eighths of the whole people should consume at least three-fourths of the whole fruits of the country. If this is the case, the subjects without property pay three-fourths of the rents, and consequently enable the landed men to pay three-fourths of their taxes. Now if so great a part of the land-tax were to be divided by seven millions, it would amount to more than three shillings to every head. And thus as the poor are the cause, without which the rich could not pay this tax, even the poorest subject is upon this account worth three shillings yearly to the prince.

Again; one would imagine the consumption of seven-eighths of the whole people should pay two-thirds of all the customs and excises. And if this sum too should be divided by seven millions, viz. the number of poor people, it would amount to more than seven shillings to every head; and therefore with this and the former sum every poor subject, without property, except of his limbs or labour, is worth at least ten shillings yearly to the sovereign. So much then the queen loses with every one of her old, and gains with every one of her new subjects.

When I was got into this way of thinking, I presently grew conceited of the argument, and was just preparing to write a letter of advice to a member of parliament, for opening the freedom of our towns and trades, for taking away all manner of distinctions between the native and foreigners, for repealing our laws of parish settlements, and removing every other obstacle to the increase of the people. But as soon as I had recollected with what inimitable eloquence my fellow-labourers had exaggerated the mischiefs of selling the birthright of Britons for a shilling, of spoiling the pure British blood with foreign mixtures, of introducing a confusion of languages and religions, and of letting in strangers to eat the bread out of the mouths of our own people*, I became so humble as to let my project fall to the ground, and leave my country to increase by the ordinary way of generation.

As I have always at heart the public good, so I

* In ironical allusion to some of the arguments that had been urged in the year 1706, against a bill for the naturalization of foreign Protestants, on their taking and subscribing the oath of allegiance, &c. The Wigs supported this bill, and the Tories opposed it.

an ever contriving schemes to promote it; and I think I may without vanity pretend to have contrived some as wise as any of the castle-builders. I had no sooner given up my former project, but my head was presently full of draining fens and marshes, banking out the sea, and joining new lands to my country; for since it is thought impracticable to increase the people to the land, I fell immediately to consider how much would be gained to the prince by increasing the land to the people.

If the same omnipotent Power which made the world, should at this time raise out of the ocean and join to Great Britain an equal extent of land, with equal buildings, corn, cattle, and other conveniences and necessities of life, but no men, women, nor children, I should hardly believe this would add either to the riches of the people or revenue of the prince; for since the present buildings are sufficient for all the inhabitants, if any of them should forsake the old to inhabit the new part of the island, the increase of house-rent in this would be attended with at least an equal decrease of it in the other. Besides we have such a sufficiency of corn and cattle, that we give bounties to our neighbours to take what exceeds of the former off our hands, and we will not suffer any of the latter to be imported upon us by our fellow-subjects; and for the remaining product of the country, it is already equal to all our markets. But if all these things should be doubled to the same buyers, the owners must be glad with half their present prices, the landlords with half their present rents; and thus by so great an enlargement of the country, the rents in the whole would not increase, nor the taxes to the public.

On the contrary, I should believe they would be very much diminished; for as the land is only valuable for its fruits, and these are all perishable, and for the most part must either be used within the year, or perish without use, the owners will get rid of them at any rate, rather than they should waste in their possession: so that it is probable the annual production of those perishable things, even of the tenth part of them, beyond all possibility of use, will reduce one half of their value. It seems to be for this reason that our neighbour merchants*, who ingross all the spices, and know how great a quantity is equal to the demand, destroy all that exceeds it. It were natural then to think that the annual production of twice as much as can be used, must reduce all to an eighth part of their present prices; and thus this extended island would not exceed one-fourth part of its present value, or pay more than one-fourth part of the present tax.

It is generally observed, that in countries of the greatest plenty, there is the poorest living; like the schoolman's *am* in one of my speculations†, the people almost starve between two meek. The truth is, the poor, which are the bulk of a nation, work only that they may live; and if with two days labour they can get a wretched subsistence, they will hardly be brought to work the other four. But then with the wages of two days they can neither pay such prices for their provisions, nor such excises to the government.

That paradox, therefore, in old Henslow, *whoso sows warre, or, half is more than the whole*‡, is very applicable to the present case; since something is more true in political arithmetic, than that the same people with half a country is more w.e.

* The Hollanders.

† N° 191.

‡ Selected as the motto of N° 195.

hable than with the whole. I begin to think there was nothing absurd in Sir W. Petty, when he fancied if all the highlands of Scotland, and the whole kingdom of Ireland, were sunk in the ocean, so that the people were all saved and brought into the lowlands of Great Britain; nay, though they were to be reimbursed the value of their estates by the body of the people, yet both the sovereign and the subjects in general would be enriched by the very loss.

If the people only make the riches, the father of ten children is a greater benefactor to his country, than he who has added to it 10,000 acres of land, and no people. It is certain, Lewis has joined vast tracts of land to his dominions: but if Philarithmus says true, that he is not now master of so many subjects as before; we may then account for his not being able to bring such mighty armies into the field, and for their being neither so well fed, nor clothed, nor paid as formerly. The reason is plain. Lewis must needs have been impoverished, not only by his loss of subjects, but by his acquisition of lands.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 201. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1711.

Religientem esse oportet, religiosum nefas.
Incerti Auctoris apud AUL. GELL.

A man should be religious, not superstitious.

It is of the last importance to season the passions of a child with devotion, which seldom dies in a mind that has received an early tincture of it. Though it may seem extinguished for a while by the cares of the world, the heats of youth, or the allurements of vice, it generally breaks out and discovers itself again as soon as discretion, consideration, age, or misfortunes have brought the man to himself. The fire may be covered and overlaid, but cannot be entirely quenched and smothered.

A state of temperance, sobriety, and justice, without devotion, is a cold, lifeless, insipid condition of virtue; and is rather to be styled philosophy than religion. Devotion opens the mind to great conceptions, and fills it with more sublime ideas than any that are to be met with in the most exalted science; and at the same time warms and agitates the soul more than sensual pleasure.

It has been observed by some writers, that man is more distinguished from the animal world by devotion than by reason, as several brute creatures discover in their actions something like a faint glimmering of reason, though they betray, in no single circumstance of their behaviour, any thing that bears the least affinity to devotion. It is certain, the propensity of the mind to religious worship, the natural tendency of the soul to fly to some superior being for succour in dangers and distresses, the gratitude to an invisible superintendant which arises in us upon receiving any extraordinary and unexpected good fortune, the acts of love and admiration with which the thoughts of men are so wonderfully transported in meditating upon the divine perfections, and the universal concurrence of all the nations under heaven in the great article of adoration, plainly show that devotion or religious worship must be the effect of traditions from some first founder of mankind, or that it is conformable to the natural light of reason, or that it proceeds from an instinct implanted in the soul itself. For my part, I look upon all these to be the concurrent causes: but

whichever of them shall be assigned as the principle of divine worship, it manifestly points to a Supreme Being as the first author of it.

I may take some other opportunity of considering those particular forms and methods of devotion which are taught us by Christianity; but shall here observe into what errors even this divine principle may sometimes lead us, when it is not moderated by that right reason which was given us as the guide of all our actions.

The two great errors into which a mistaken devotion may betray us, are, enthusiasm and superstition.

There is not a more melancholy object than a man who has his head turned with a religious enthusiasm. A person that is crazed, though with pride or malice, is a sight very mortifying to human nature; but when the distemper arises from any indiscreet fervours of devotion, or too intense an application of the mind to its mistaken duties, it deserves our compassion in a more particular manner. We may, however, learn this lesson from it, that since devotion itself (which one would be apt to think could not be too warm) may disorder the mind, unless its heats are tempered with caution and prudence, we should be particularly careful to keep our reason as cool as possible, and to guard ourselves in all parts of life against the influence of passion, imagination, and constitution.

Devotion, when it does not lie under the check of reason, is very apt to degenerate into enthusiasm. When the mind finds herself very much inflamed with her devotions, she is too much inclined to think they are not of her own kindling, but blown up by something divine within her. If she indulges this thought too far, and humours the growing passion, she at last flings herself into imaginary raptures and ecstasies; and when once she fancies herself under the influence of a divine impulse, it is no wonder if she slight human ordinances, and refuses to comply with any established form of religion, as thinking herself directed by a much superior guide.

As enthusiasm is a kind of excess in devotion, superstition is the excess not only of devotion, but of religion in general, according to an old heathen saying, quoted by Aulus Gellius, '*Religientem esse oportet, religiosum nefas*;' 'A man should be religious, not superstitious.' For, as the author tells us, Nigidius observed upon this passage, that the Latin words which terminate in *osus* generally imply vicious characters, and the having of any quality to an excess.

An enthusiast in religion is like an obstinate clown, a superstitious man like an insipid courtier. Enthusiasm has something in it of madness, superstition of folly. Most of the sects that fall short of the Church of England have in them strong tinctures of enthusiasm, as the Roman catholic religion is one huge overgrown body of childish and idle superstitions.

The Roman catholic church seems indeed irrecoverably lost in this particular. If an absurd dress or behaviour be introduced in the world, it will soon be found out and discarded. On the contrary, a habit or ceremony, though never so ridiculous, which has taken sanctuary in the church, sticks in it for ever. A Gothic bishop perhaps thought it proper to repeat such a form in such particular shoes or slippers; another fancied it would be very decent if such a part of public devotions were performed with a mitre on his head, and a crosier in his hand. To this a brother Vandal, as wise as the others, adds an antic dress,

which he conceived would allude very aptly to such and such mysteries, till by degrees the whole office has degenerated into an empty show.

Their successors see the vanity and inconvenience of the ceremonies; but, instead of reforming, perhaps add others, which they think more significant, and which take possession in the same manner, and are never to be driven out after they have been once admitted. I have seen the Pope officiate at St. Peter's, where, for two hours together, he was busied in putting on or off his different accoutrements, according to the different parts he was to act in them.

Nothing is so glorious in the eyes of mankind, and ornamental to human nature, setting aside the infinite advantages which arise from it, as a strong steady, masculine piety; but enthusiasm and superstition are the weaknesses of human reason, that expose us to the scorn and derision of infidels, and sink us even below the beasts that perish.

Idolatry may be looked upon as another error arising from mistaken devotion; but because reflections on that subject would be of no use to an English reader, I shall not enlarge upon it.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 202. MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1711.

Sæpe decem vitis instructor odit et horret.
HOR. Ep. 18. l. l. v. 25.

Many, though flatter much themselves, per-
wad
Their less offending neighbours faults to mend.

THE other day, as I passed along the street, I saw a sturdy 'prentice boy disputing with a hackney-coachman; and in an instant, upon some word of provocation, throw off his hat and perriwig, clench his fist, and strike the fellow a slap on the face; at the same time calling him a rascal, and telling him he was a gentleman's son. The young gentleman was, it seems, bound to a blacksmith; and the debate arose about payment for some work done about a coach, near which they fought. His master, during the combat, was full of his boy's praises; and as he called to him to play with his hands and foot, and throw in his head, he made all us who stood round him of his party, by declaring the boy had very good friends, and he could trust him with untold gold. As I am generally in the theory of mankind, I could not but make my reflections upon the sudden popularity which was raised about the lad; and perhaps, with my friend Tacitus, fell into observations upon it, which were too great for the occasion; or ascribed this general favour to causes which had nothing to do towards it. But the young blacksmith's being a gentleman was, methought, what created him good-will from his present equality with the mob about him. Add to this, that he was not so much a gentleman, as not, at the same time that he called himself such, to use as rough methods for his defence as his antagonist. The advantage of his having good friends, as his master expressed it, was not lazily urged; but he showed himself superior to the coachman in the personal qualities of courage and activity, to confirm that of his being well allied, before his birth was of any service to him.

If one might moralize from this silly story, a man would say, that whatever advantages of fortune, birth, or any other good, people possess above the rest of the world, they should show collateral eminencies besides those distinctions; or those dis-

tinctions will avail only to keep up common deficiencies and ceremonies, and not to preserve a real place of favour or esteem in the opinion and common sense of their fellow creatures.

The folly of people's procedure, in imagining that nothing more is necessary than property and superior circumstances to support them in distinction, appears in no way so much as in the domestic part of life. It is ordinary to feed their humours into unnatural excrescences, if I may so speak, and make their whole being a wayward and uneasy condition, for want of the obvious reflection, that all parts of human life is a commerce. It is not only paying wages, and giving commands, that constitutes a master of a family; but prudence, equal behaviour, with readiness to protect and cherish them, is what entitles a man to that character in their very hearts and sentiments. It is pleasant enough to observe, that men expect from their dependents, from their sole motive of fear, all the good effects which a liberal education, and affluent fortune, and every other advantage cannot produce in themselves. A man will have his servant just, diligent, sober and chaste, for no other reasons but the terror of losing his master's favour; when all the laws divine and human cannot keep him whom he serves within bounds, with relation to any one of those virtues. But both in great and ordinary affairs, all superiority, which is not founded on merit and virtue, is supported only by artifice and stratagem. Thus you see flatterers are the agents in families of humourists, and those who govern themselves by any thing but reason. Makebates, distant relations, poor kinsmen, and indigent followers, are the fry which support the economy of an humourous rich man. He is eternally whispered with intelligence of who are true or false to him in matters of no consequence, and he maintains twenty friends to defend him against the insinuations of one who would perhaps cheat him of an old coat.

I shall not enter into farther speculation upon this subject at present, but think the following letters and petition are made up of proper sentiments on this occasion.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a servant to an old lady, who is governed by one she calls her friend; who is so familiar an one, that she takes upon her to advise her without being called to it, and makes her uneasy with all about her. Pray, sir, be pleased to give us some remarks upon voluntary counsellors; and let these people know, that to give any body advice, is to say to that person, "I am your better." Pray, sir, as near as you can, describe that eternal flirt and disturber of families, Mrs. Taperty, who is always visiting, and putting people in a way, as they call it. If you can make her stay at home one evening, you will be a general benefactor to all the ladies women in town, and particularly to

'Your loving friend,

'SUSAN CIVIL.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a footman, and live with one of those men, each of whom is said to be one of the best-humoured men in the world, but that he is passionate. Pray be pleased to inform them, that he who is passionate, and takes no care to command his humours, does more injury to his friends and servants in one half hour, than whole years can atone for. This master of mine, who is the best man alive in common fame, disoblige somebody every day he lives; and strikes me for the next thing I do, be-

case he is out of humour at it. If these gentlemen knew that they do all the mischief that is ever done in conversation, they would reform: and I who have been a Spectator of gentlemen at dinner for many years, have seen that indiscretion does ten times more mischief than ill-nature. But you will represent this better than

‘Your abused humble servant,

‘THOMAS SMOKY.’

‘TO THE SPECTATOR.

‘The humble petition of John Steward, Robert Butler, Harry Cook, and Abigail Chambers, in behalf of themselves and their relations, belonging to and dispersed in the several services of most of the great families within the cities of London and Westminster:

‘Sheweth,

‘THAT in many of the families in which your petitioners live and are employed, the several heads of them are wholly unacquainted with what is business, and are very little judges when they are well or ill used by us your said petitioners.

‘That for want of such skill in their own affairs, and by indulgence of their own laziness and pride, they continually keep about them certain mischievous animals called spies.

‘That whenever a spy is entertained, the peace of that house is from that moment banished.

‘That spies never give an account of good services, but represent our mirth and freedom by the words wantonness and disorder.

‘That in all families where there are spies, there is a general jealousy and misunderstanding.

‘That the masters and mistresses of such houses live in continual suspicion of their ingenuous and true servants, and are given up to the management of those who are false and perfidious.

‘That such masters and mistresses who entertain spies, are no longer more than cyphers in their own families; and that we your petitioners are with great disdain obliged to pay all our respect, and expect all our maintenance from such spies.

‘Your petitioners therefore most humbly pray, that you would represent the premises to all persons of condition; and your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall for ever pray, &c.’

THREE.

T.

Nº 203. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1711.

*Phæbe pater, si das hæcus mihi nominis usum,
Nec falsa Clymene culpam sub imagine celas;
Pignora de, genitor*

OVID. Met. l. ii. ver. 36.

Illustrous parent! since you don't despise
A parent's name, some certain token give,
That I may, Clymene's proud boast believe,
Nor longer under false reproaches grieve.

ADDISON.

THERE is a loose tribe of men whom I have not yet taken notice of, that ramble into all the corners of this great city, in order to seduce such unfortunate females as fall into their walks. These abandoned profligates raise up issue in every quarter of the town, and very often, for a valuable consideration, father it upon the churchwarden. By this means there are several married men who have a little family in most of the parishes of London and Westminster, and several bachelors who are undone by a charge of children.

When a man once gives himself this liberty of

preying at large, and living upon the common, he finds so much game in a populous city, that it is surprising to consider the numbers which he sometimes propagates. We see many a young fellow who is scarce of age, that could lay his claim to the *jus trium liberorum*, or the privileges which were granted by the Roman laws to all such as were fathers of three children. Nay, I have heard a rake, who was not quite five and twenty, declare himself the father of a seventh son, and very prudently determine to breed him up a physician. In short, the town is full of these young patriarchs, not to mention several battered beaus, who, like heedless spendthrifts that squander away their estates before they are masters of them, have raised up their whole stock of children before marriage.

I must not here omit the particular whim of an impudent libertine, that had a little smattering of heraldry; and observing how the genealogies of great families were often drawn up in the shape of trees, had taken a fancy to dispose of his own illegitimate issue in a figure of the same kind:

*— Nec longum tempus et ingens
Erit ad calum ramis felicibus arbor,
Mitraturque novas Jrontes, et non sua poma.*

VIRG. Georg. ii. ver. 80.

‘And in short space the laden boughs arise,
With happy fruit advancing to the skies:
The mother plant admires the leaves unknown
Of alien trees, and apples not her own.’

DRYDEN.

The trunk of the tree was marked with his own name, Will Maple. Out of the side of it grew a large barren branch, inscribed Mary Maple, the name of his unhappy wife. The head was adorned with five huge boughs. On the bottom of the first was written in capital characters Kate Cole, who branched out into three sprigs, viz. William, Richard, and Rebecca. Sal Twiford gave birth to another bough that shot up into Sarah, Tom, Will, and Frank. The third arm of the tree had only a single infant on it, with a space left for a second, the parent from whom it sprung being near her time when the author took this ingenious device into his head: The two other great boughs were very plentifully loaden with fruit of the same kind; besides which, there were many ornamental branches that did not bear. In short, a more flourishing tree never came out of the heralds' office.

What makes this generation of vermin so very prolific, is the indefatigable diligence with which they apply themselves to their business. A man does not undergo more watching and fatigues in a campaign, than in the course of a vicious amour. As it is said of some men, that they make their business their pleasure, these sons of darkness may be said to make their pleasure their business. They might conquer their corrupt inclinations with half the pains they are at in gratifying them.

Nor is the invention of these men less to be admired than their industry and vigilance. There is a fragment of Apollodorus the comic poet (who was contemporary with Menander) which is full of humour, as follows: ‘Thou mayest shut up thy doors,’ says he, ‘with bars and bolts. It will be impossible for the blacksmith to make them so fast, but a cat and a whoremaster will find a way through them.’ In a word, there is no head so full of stratagems as that of a libidinous man.

Were I to propose a punishment for this infamous race of propagators, it should be to send them, after the second or third offence, into our American colonies, in order to people those parts

of her majesty's dominions where there is a want of inhabitants, and, in the phrase of Diogenes, to 'plant men.' Some countries punish this crime with death; but I think such a banishment would be sufficient, and might turn this generative faculty to the advantage of the public.

In the mean time, till these gentlemen may be thus disposed of, I would earnestly exhort them to take care of those unfortunate creatures whom they have brought into the world by these indirect methods, and to give their spurious children such an education as may render them more virtuous than their parents. This is the best atonement they can make for their own crimes, and indeed the only method that is left them to repair their past miscarriages.

I would likewise desire them to consider, whether they are not bound in common humanity, as well as by all the obligations of religion and nature, to make some provision for those whom they have not only given life to, but entailed upon them, though very unreasonably, a degree of shame and disgrace. And here I cannot but take notice of those depraved notions which prevail among us, and which must have taken rise from our natural inclination to favour a vice to which we are so very prone, namely, that bastardy and cuckoldom should be looked upon as reproaches; and that the ignominy which is only due to lewdness and falsehood, should fall in so unreasonable a manner upon the persons who are innocent.

I have been immensely drawn into this discourse by the following letter, which is drawn up with much a spirit of sincerity, that I question not but the writer of it has represented his case in a true and genuine light.

'SIR,

'I AM one of those people who by the general opinion of the world are counted both infamous and unhappy.

'My father is a very eminent man in this kingdom, and one who bears considerable offices in it. I am his son; but my misfortune is, that I dare not call him father, nor he without shame own me as his issue, I being illegitimate, and therefore deprived of that endearing tenderness and unparalleled satisfaction which a good man finds in the love and conversation of a parent. Neither have I the opportunities to render him the duties of a son, he having always carried himself at so vast a distance, and with such superiority towards me, that by long use I have contracted a timorousness when before him, which hinders me from declaring my own necessities, and giving him to understand the inconveniences I undergo.

'It is my misfortune to have been neither bred a scholar, a soldier, nor to any kind of business, which renders me intirely incapable of making provision for myself without his assistance; and this creates a continual uneasiness in my mind, fearing I shall in time want bread; my father, if I may so call him, giving me but very faint assurances of doing any thing for me.

'I have hitherto lived somewhat like a gentleman, and it would be very hard for me to labour for my living. I am in continual anxiety for my future fortune, and under a great unhappiness in losing the sweet conversation and friendly advice of my parents; so that I cannot look upon myself otherwise than as a monster, strangely sprung up in nature, which every one is ashamed to own.

'I am thought to be a man of some natural parts, and by the continual reading what you have of-

fered the world, become an admirer thereof, which has drawn me to make this confession; at the same time hoping, if any thing herein shall touch you with a sense of pity, you would then allow me the favour of your opinion thereupon; as also what part I, being unlawfully born, may claim of the man's affection who begot me, and how far in your opinion I am to be thought his son, or be acknowledged as my father. Your sentiments and advice herein will be a great consolation and satisfaction to,

'SIR,
'Your admirer and
'humble servant,
'W. A.
'C.

ADDRESS.

Nº 204. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1711.

*Urit grata protervitas,
Et cultus nimium lubricus aspectus.*
HOR. Od. xix. l. 1. ver. 7.

With winning coyness she my soul distrains:
Her face darts forth a thousand rays;
My eye-balls swim, and I grow giddy while I gaze.
CONGREVE.

I AM not at all displeased that I am become the courier of love, and that the distressed in that passion convey their complaints to each other by my means. The following letters have lately come to my hands, and shall have their place with great willingness. As to the reader's entertainment, he will, I hope, forgive the inserting such particulars as to him may perhaps seem frivolous, but are to the persons who wrote them of the highest consequence. I shall not trouble you with the prefaces, compliments, and apologies made to me before each epistle when it was desired to be inserted; but in general they tell me, that the persons to whom they are addressed have intimations, by phrases and allusions in them, from whence they came.

'TO THE BOTHADES.

'THE word; by which I address you, gives you, who understand Portuguese*, a lively image of the tender regard I have for you. The Spectator's late letter from Statira† gave me the hint to me the same method of explaining myself to you. I am not affronted at the design your late behaviour discovered you had in your addressee to me; but I impute it to the degeneracy of the age, rather than your particular fault. As I aim at nothing more than being yours, I am willing to be a stranger to your name, your fortune, or any figure which your wife might expect to make in the world, provided my commerce with you is not to be a guilty one. I resign gay dress, the pleasures of visits, equipage, plays, balls, and operas, for that one satisfaction of having you for ever mine. I am willing you shall industriously conceal the only cause of triumph which I can know in this life. I wish only to have it my duty, as well as my inclination, to study your happiness. If this

* There is no such word as *Bothades* in the Portuguese dictionaries. *Saudades* (for which we may suppose it to have been mistaken) signifies, "the most reduced, most tender and ardent desire for something absent, accompanied with a solicitude and anxious regret, which cannot be expressed by one word in any other language." *Saudade*, say the dictionaries, *'ágrica, ansioso e tristemente do bem ausente, com dezo de possorlo.'*—*Saudades*, therefore, comprehends every good wish.

† The first letter in Nº 199.

has not the effect this letter seems to aim at, you are to understand that I had a mind to be rid of you, and took the readiest way to pall you with an offer of what you would never desist pursuing while you received ill usage. Be a true man; be my slave while you doubt me, and neglect me when you think I love you. I defy you to find out what is your present circumstance with me; but I know while I can keep this suspense,

'I am your admired

'BELINDA.'

'MADAM,

'It is a strange state of mind a man is in, when the very imperfections of a woman he loves turn into excellencies and advantages. I do assure you, I am very much afraid of venturing upon you. I now like you in spite of my reason, and think it an ill circumstance to owe one's happiness to nothing but infatuation. I can see you ogle all the young fellows who look at you, and observe your eye wander after new conquests every moment you are in a public place; and yet there is such a beauty in all your looks and gestures, that I cannot but admire you in the very act of endeavouring to gain the hearts of others. My condition is the same with that of the lover in *The Way of the World* *. I have studied your faults so long, that they are become as familiar to me, and I like them as well as I do my own. Look to it, madam, and consider whether you think this gay behaviour will appear to me as amiable when an husband, as it does now to me a lover. Things are so far advanced, that we must proceed; and I hope you will lay to heart, that it will be becoming in me to appear still your lover, but not in you to be still my mistress. Gaiety in the matrimonial life is graceful in one sex, but exceptionable in the other. As you improve these little hints, you will ascertain the happiness or uneasiness of,

'MADAM,

'Your most obedient,

'most humble servant,

'T. D.'

'MR,

'When I sat at the window, and you at the other end of the room by my cousin, I saw you catch me looking at you. Since you have the secret at last, which I am sure you should never have known but by inadvertency, what my eyes said was true. But it is too soon to confirm it with my hand, therefore shall not subscribe my name.'

'MR,

'There were other gentlemen nearer, and I know so accurately you were under to take up that slipshod creature's fan last night; but you shall never touch a stick of mine more, that's pos.

'PHILIS.'

'TO COLONEL R——, IN SPAIN†.

'Before this can reach the best of husbands and the fondest lover, those tender names will be of no more concern to me. The indisposition in which you, to obey the dictates of your honour and duty, left me, has increased upon me; and I am acquainted by my physicians I cannot live a week longer. At this time my spirits fail me; and it is the ardent love I have for you that carries me beyond my strength, and enables me to tell you, the most painful thing in the prospect of death is,

* *Compass's comedy under that title. See Act i. sc. 3.*
† *Mr. Bell speaking of Millamant.*

† *Supposed to have been Colonel Rivers.*

that I must part with you. But let it be a comfort to you; that I have no guilt hangs upon me; no unrepented folly that retards me; but I pass away my last hours in reflection upon the happiness we have lived in together, and in sorrow that it is so soon to have an end. This is a frailty which I hope is so far from criminal, that methinks there is a kind of piety in being so unwilling to be separated from a state which is the institution of heaven, and in which we have lived according to its laws. As we know no more of the next life, but that it will be an happy one to the good, and miserable to the wicked, why may we not please ourselves at least, to alleviate the difficulty of resigning this being, in imagining that we shall have a sense of what passes below, and may possibly be employed in guiding the steps of those with whom we walked with innocence when mortal? Why may not I hope to go on in my usual work, and, though unknown to you, be assistant in all the conflicts of your mind? Give me leave to say to you, O best of men, that I cannot figure to myself a greater happiness than in such an employment. To be present at all the adventures to which human life is exposed, to administer slumber to thy eyelids in the agonies of a fever, to cover thy beloved face in the day of battle, to go with thee a guardian angel incapable of wound or pain, where I have longed to attend thee when a weak, a fearful woman: these, my dear, are the thoughts with which I warm my poor languid heart. But indeed I am not capable under my present weakness of bearing the strong agonies of mind I fall into, when I form to myself the grief you will be in, upon your first hearing of my departure. I will not dwell upon this, because your kind and generous heart will be but the more afflicted, the more the person for whom you lament offers you consolation. My last breath will, if I am myself, expire in a prayer for you. I shall never see thy face again. Farewell for ever.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 205. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1711.

Decipimur specie recti—

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 25.

Deluded by a seeming excellence.

ROSCOMMON.

WHEN I meet with any vicious character that is not generally known, in order to prevent its doing mischief, I draw it at length, and set it up as a scarecrow; by which means I do not only make an example of the person to whom it belongs, but give warning to all her majesty's subjects, that they may not suffer by it. Thus, to change the allusion, I have marked out several of the shoals and quicksands of life, and am continually employed in discovering those which are still concealed, in order to keep the ignorant and unwary from running upon them. It is with this intention that I publish the following letter, which brings to light some secrets of this nature.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'There are none of your speculations which I read over with greater delight, than those which are designed for the improvement of our sex. You have endeavoured to correct our unreasonable fears and superstitions, in your seventh and twelfth papers; our fancy for equipage, in your fifteenth; our love of puppet-shows, in your thirty-first; our

notions of beauty, in your thirty-third; our inclination for romances, in your thirty-seventh; our passion for French fopperies, in your forty-fifth; our manhood and party zeal, in your fifty-seventh; our abuse of dancing, in your sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh; our levity, in your hundred and twenty-eighth; our love of coxcombs, in your hundred and fifty-fourth, and hundred and fifty-seventh; our tyranny over the hen-peckt, in your hundred and seventy-sixth. You have described the Pict, in your forty-first; the Idol, in your seventy-third; the Demurrer, in your eighty-ninth; the Salamander, in your hundred and ninety-eighth. You have likewise taken to pieces our dress, and represented to us the extravagancies we are often guilty of in that particular. You have fallen upon our patches in your fiftieth and eighty-first; our commodoes, in your ninety-eighth; our fans, in your hundred and second; our riding-habits, in your hundred and fourth; our hoop-petticoats, in your hundred and twenty-seventh; besides a great many little blemishes which you have touched upon in your several other papers, and in those many letters that are scattered up and down your works. At the same time we must own, that the compliments you pay our sex are innumerable, and that those very faults which you represent in us, are neither black in themselves, nor, as you own, universal among us. But, sir, it is plain that these your discourses are calculated for none but the fashionable part of womankind, and for the use of those who are rather indiscreet than vicious. But, sir, there is a sort of prostitutes in the lower part of our sex, who are a scandal to us, and very well deserve to fall under your censure. I know it would debase your paper too much to enter into the behaviour of these female libertines; but as your remarks on some part of it would be a doing of justice to several women of virtue and honour, whose reputations suffer by it, I hope you will not think it improper to give the public some accounts of this nature. You must know, sir, I am provoked to write you this letter, by the behaviour of an infamous woman, who, having passed her youth in a most shameless state of prostitution, is now one of those who gain their livelihood by seducing others that are younger than themselves, and by establishing a criminal commerce between the two sexes. Among several of her artifices to get money, she frequently persuades a vain young fellow, that such a woman of quality, or such a celebrated toast, entertains a secret passion for him, and wants nothing but an opportunity of revealing it. Nay, she has gone so far as to write letters in the name of a woman of figure, to borrow money of one of these foolish Roderigo's*, which she has afterwards appropriated to her own use. In the mean time, the person who has lent the money, has thought a lady under obligations to him, who scarce knew his name; and wondered at her ingratitude when he has been with her, that she has not owned the favour, though at the same time he was too much a man of honour to put her in mind of it.

When this abandoned baggage meets with a man who has vanity enough to give credit to relations of this nature, she turns him to very good account by repeating praises that were never uttered, and delivering messages that were never sent. As the house of this shameless creature is frequented by several foreigners, I have heard of

another artifice, out of which she often raises money. The foreigner sighs after some British beauty, whom he only knows by fame; upon which she promises, if he can be secret, to procure him a meeting. The stranger, ravished at his good fortune, gives her a present, and in a little time is introduced to some imaginary title; for you must know that this cunning parveyor has her representatives, upon this occasion, of some of the finest ladies in the kingdom. By this means, as I am informed, it is usual enough to meet with a German count in foreign countries, that shall make his boasts of favours he has received from women of the highest ranks, and the most unblemished characters. Now, sir, what safety is there for a woman's reputation, when a lady may be thus prostituted as it were by proxy, and be repaid an unchaste woman; as the hero in the ninth book of Dryden's Virgil is looked upon as a coward, because the phantom which appeared in his likeness ran away from Turnus? You may depend upon what I relate to you to be matter of fact, and the practice of more than one of these female panders. If you print this letter, I may give you some further accounts of this vicious race of women.

‘Your humble servant,
‘SELVIDERA.’

I shall add two other letters on different subjects to fill up my paper.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,
‘I AM a country clergyman, and hope you will lend me your assistance in ridiculing some little indecencies which cannot so properly be exposed from the pulpit.

A widow lady, who straggled this summer from London into my parish for the benefit of the air, as she says, appears every Sunday at church with many fashionable extravagancies, to the great astonishment of my congregation.

But what gives us the most offence is, her theatrical manner of singing the psalms. She introduces above fifty Italian airs into the hundredth psalm; and whilst we begin “All people” in the old solemn tune of our forefathers, she in a quite different key runs divisions on the vowels, and adorns them with the graces of Nicolini: if she meets with “eke” or “aye,” which are frequent in the metre of Hopkins and Sternhold, we are certain to hear her quavering them half a minute after us, to some sprightly airs of the opera.

I am very far from being an enemy to church music; but fear this abuse of it may make my parish ridiculous, who already look on the singing psalms as an entertainment, and not part of their devotion; besides, I am apprehensive that the infection may spread; for ‘Squire Squeekum, who by his voice seems (if I may use the expression) to be cut out for an Italian singer, was last Sunday practising the same airs.

I know the lady's principles, and that she will plead the toleration, which (as she fancies) allows her nonconformity in this particular; but I beg you to acquaint her, that singing the psalms in a different tune from the rest of the congregation, is a sort of schism not tolerated by that act.

‘I am, sir,
‘Your very humble servant,
‘A. A.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,
‘IN your paper upon temperance*, you prescribe

* The character so named in Shakespeare's tragedy of Othello, and who is the silly dupe of Iago's villainy.

to us a rule of drinking, out of Sir William Temple, in the following words: "The first glass for myself, the second for my friends, the third for good-humour, and the fourth for mine enemies." Now, sir, you must know, that I have read this your Spectator, in a club whereof I am a member; when our president told us there was certainly an error in the print, and that the word glass should be bottle; and therefore has ordered me to inform you of this mistake, and to desire you to publish the following erratum: In the paper of Saturday, October 13, col. 3, line 11, for "glass," read "bottle."

ADDRESS.

Yours,
ROBIN GOODFELLOW.
L.

Nº 206. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1711.

*Quando quisque sibi plura negaverit,
A Diis plura feret*

HOR. Od. xvi. l. iii. ver. 21.

They that do much themselves deny,
Receive more blessings from the sky.
CREECH.

There is a call upon mankind to value and esteem those who set a moderate price upon their own merit; and self-denial is frequently attended with unexpected blessings, which in the end abundantly recompense such losses as the modest seem to suffer in the ordinary occurrences of life. The curious tell us, a determination in our favour or to our disadvantage is made upon our first appearance, even before they know any thing of our characters, but from the intimations men gather from our aspect. A man, they say, wears the picture of his mind in his countenance; and one man's eyes are spectacles to his who looks at him to read his heart. But though that way of raising an opinion of those we behold in public is very fallacious, certain it is, that those, who by their words and actions take as much upon themselves, as they can but barely demand in the strict scrutiny of their deserts, will find their account lessen every day. A modest man preserves his character, as a frugal man does his fortune; if either of them live to the height of either, one will find losses, the other errors, which he has not stock by him to make up. It were therefore a just rule, to keep your desires, your words and actions, within the regard you observe your friends have for you; and never, if it were in a man's power, to take as much as he possibly might, either in preferment or reputation. My walks have lately been among the mercantile part of the world; and one gets phrases naturally from those with whom one converses. I say, then, he that in his air, his treatment of others, or an habitual arrogance to himself, gives himself credit for the least article of more wit, wisdom, goodness, or valour, than he can possibly produce if he is called upon, will find the world break in upon him, and consider him as one who has cheated them of all the esteem they had before allowed him. This brings a commission of bankruptcy upon him; and he that might have gone on to his life's end in a prosperous way, by aiming at more than he should, is no longer proprietor of what he really had before, but his pretensions fare as all things do which are torn instead of being divided.

There is no one living would deny Cinna the applause of an agreeable and facetious wit; or could possibly pretend that there is not something

inimitably unforced and diverting in his manner of delivering all his sentiments in his conversation, if he were able to conceal the strong desire of applause which he betrays in every syllable he utters. But they who converse with him, see that all the civilities they could do to him, or the kind things they could say to him, would fall short of what he expects; and, therefore, instead of showing him the esteem they have for his merit, their reflections turn only upon that they observe he has of it himself.

If you go among the women, and behold Gloriana trip into a room with that theatrical ostentation of her charms, Mirtilla with that soft regularity in her motion, Chloe with such an indifferent familiarity, Corinna with such a fond approach, and Roxana with such a demand of respect in the great gravity of her entrance; you find all the sex, who understand themselves and act naturally, wait only for their absence, to tell you that all these ladies would impose themselves upon you; and each of them carry in their behaviour a consciousness of so much more than they should pretend to, that they lose what would otherwise be given them.

I remember the last time I saw Macbeth, I was wonderfully taken with the skill of the poet, in making the murderer form fears to himself from the moderation of the prince whose life he was going to take away. He says of the king: 'He bore his faculties so meekly;' and justly inferred from thence, that all divine and human power would join to avenge his death, who had made such an abstinent use of dominion. All that is in a man's power to do to advance his own pomp and glory, and forbears, is so much laid up against the day of distress; and pity will always be his portion in adversity, who acted with gentleness in prosperity.

The great officer who foregoes the advantages he might take to himself, and renounces all prudential regards to his own person in danger, has so far the merit of a volunteer; and all his honours and glories are unenvied, for sharing the common fate with the same frankness as they do who have no such endearing circumstances to part with. But if there were no such considerations as the good effect which self-denial has upon the sense of other men towards us, it is of all qualities the most desirable for the agreeable disposition in which it places our own minds. I cannot tell what better to say of it, than that it is the very contrary of ambition; and that modesty allays all those passions and inquietudes to which that vice exposes us. He that is moderate in his wishes from reason and choice, and not resigned from sourness, distaste, or disappointment, doubles all the pleasures of his life. The air, the season, a sun-shiny day, or a fair prospect, are instances of happiness, and that which he enjoys in common with all the world, (by his exemption from the enchantments by which all the world are bewitched) are to him uncommon benefits and new acquisitions. Health is not eaten up with care, nor pleasure interrupted by envy. It is not to him of any consequence what this man is famed for, or for what the other is preferred. He knows there is in such a place an uninterrupted walk; he can meet in such a company an agreeable conversation. He has no emulation, he is no man's rival, but every man's well-wisher; can look at a prosperous man, with a pleasure in reflecting that he hopes he is as happy as himself; and has his mind and his fortune (as far as prudence will allow) open to the unhappy and to the stranger.

Luceo has learning, wit, humour, eloquence, but no ambitious prospects to pursue with these advantages; therefore to the ordinary world he is perhaps thought to want spirit, but known among his friends to have a mind of the most consummate greatness. He wants no man's admiration, is in no need of pomp. His clothes please him if they are fashionable and warm; his companions are agreeable if they are civil and well-natured. There is with him no occasion for superfluity at meals, or jollity in company, in a word, for any thing extraordinary to administer delight to him. Want of prejudice, and command of appetite, are the companions which make his journey of life so easy, that he in all places meets with more wit, more good cheer, and more good-humour, than is necessary to make him enjoy himself with pleasure and satisfaction.

STEELE.

T.

N° 307. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1711.

*Omnibus in terra, quæ sunt a Gadibus usque
Aurorum et Gangem, pauci dignoscere possunt
Fera bona, atque illic multum dicere, remota
Erroris nebula*——

JUV. Sat. x. ver. 1.

Look round the habitable world, how few
Know their own good, or, knowing it, pursue.
DRYDEN.

In my last Saturday's paper * I laid down some thoughts upon devotion in general, and shall here show what were the notions of the most refined heathens on this subject, as they are represented in Plato's dialogue upon prayer, entitled Alcibiades the Second, which doubtless gave occasion to Juvenal's tenth satire, and to the second satire of Persius; as the last of these authors has almost transcribed the preceding dialogue, entitled Alcibiades the First, in his fourth satire.

The speakers in this dialogue upon prayer, are Socrates and Alcibiades; and the substance of it (when drawn together out of the intricacies and digressions) as follows:

Socrates meeting his pupil Alcibiades, as he was going to his devotions, and observing his eyes to be fixed upon the earth with great seriousness and attention, tells him, that he had reason to be thoughtful on that occasion, since it was possible for a man to bring down evils upon himself by his own prayers, and that those things, which the gods send him in answer to his petitions, might turn to his destruction. This, says he, may not only happen when a man prays for what he knows is mischievous in its own nature, as Œdipus implored the gods to sow dissention between his sons; but when he prays for what he believes would be for his good, and against what he believes would be to his detriment. This the philosopher shows must necessarily happen among us, since most men are blinded with ignorance, prejudice, or passion, which hinder them from seeing such things as are really beneficial to them. For an instance, he asks Alcibiades, whether he would not be thoroughly pleased and satisfied if that god, to whom he was going to address himself, should promise to make him the sovereign of the whole earth? Alcibiades answers, that he should doubtless look upon such a promise as the greatest favour that could be bestowed upon him. Socrates then asks him, if after receiving this great favour he would be contented to lose his life? Or if he would receive it, though he was

sure he should make an ill use of it? To both which questions Alcibiades answers in the negative. Socrates then shows him, from the examples of others, how these might very probably be the effects of such a blessing. He then adds, that other reputed pieces of good-fortune, as that of having a son, or procuring the highest post in a government, are subject to the like fatal consequences; which nevertheless, says he, men ardently desire, and would not fail to pray for, if they thought their prayers might be effectual for the obtaining of them.

Having established this great point, that all the most apparent blessings in this life are obnoxious to such dreadful consequences, and that no man knows what in its events would prove to him a blessing or a curse, he teaches Alcibiades after what manner he ought to pray.

In the first place, he recommends to him, as the model of his devotions, a short prayer which a Greek poet composed for the use of his friends, in the following words: 'O Jupiter, give us those things which are good for us, whether they are such things as we pray for, or such things as we do not pray for: and remove from us those things which are hurtful, though they are such things as we pray for.'

In the second place, that his disciple may ask such things as are expedient for him, he shows him, that it is absolutely necessary to apply himself to the study of true wisdom, and to the knowledge of that which is his chief good, and the most suitable to the excellency of his nature.

In the third and last place he informs him, that the best methods he could make use of to draw down blessings upon himself, and to render his prayers acceptable, would be to live in a constant practice of his duty towards the gods, and towards men. Under this head he very much recommends a form of prayer the Lacedæmonians make use of, in which they petition the gods, 'to give them all good things so long as they were virtuous.' Under this head likewise he gives a very remarkable account of an oracle to the following purpose:

When the Athenians in the war with the Lacedæmonians received many defeats both by sea and land, they sent a message to the oracle of Jupiter Ammon, to ask the reason why they who erected so many temples to the gods, and adorned them with such costly offerings; why they who had instituted so many festivals, and accompanied them with such pomps and ceremonies; in short, why they who had slain so many hecatombs at their altars, should be less successful than the Lacedæmonians, who fell so short of them in all these particulars? To this, says he, the oracle made the following reply: 'I am better pleased with the prayers of the Lacedæmonians, than with all the oblations of the Greeks.' As this prayer implied and encouraged virtue in those who made it; the philosopher proceeds to show how the most vicious man might be devout, so far as victims could make him, but that his offerings were regarded by the gods as bribes, and his petitions as blasphemies. He likewise quotes on this occasion two verses out of Homer *, in which the poet says, 'that the scent of the Trojan sacrifices were carried up to heaven by the winds; but that it was not acceptable to the gods, who were displeased with Priam and all his people.'

The conclusion of this dialogue is very remarkable. Socrates having deterred Alcibiades from

the prayers and sacrifice which he was going to offer, by setting forth the above-mentioned difficulties of performing that duty as he ought, adds these words: 'We must therefore wait till such time as we may learn how we ought to behave ourselves towards the gods and towards men.'—'But when will that time come,' says Alcibiades, 'and who is it that will instruct us? for I would fain see this man, whoever he is.'—'It is one,' says Socrates, 'who takes care of you; but as Homer tells us, that Minerva removed the mist from Diomedes's eyes that he might plainly discover both gods and men', so the darkness that hangs upon your mind must be removed before you are able to discern what is good, and what is evil.'—'Let him remove from my mind,' says Alcibiades, 'the darkness and what else he pleases, I am determined to refuse nothing he shall order me, whoever he is, so that I may become the better man by it.' The remaining part of this dialogue is very obscure: there is something in it that would make us think Socrates hinted at himself, when he spoke of this divine teacher who was to come into the world, did not he own that he himself was in this respect as much at a loss, and in as great distress as the rest of mankind.

Some learned men look upon this conclusion as a prediction of our Saviour, or at least that Socrates, like the high priest†, prophesied unknowingly, and pointed at that Divine Teacher who was to come into the world some ages after him. However that may be, we find that this great philosopher saw, by the light of reason, that it was suitable to the goodness of the Divine Nature, to send a person into the world who should instruct mankind in the duties of religion, and, in particular, teach them how to pray.

Whoever reads this abstract of Plato's discourse on prayer, will, I believe, naturally make this reflection, 'That the great Founder of our religion, as well by his own example, as in the form of prayer which he taught his disciples‡, did not only keep up to those rules which the light of nature had suggested to this great philosopher, but instructed his disciples in the whole extent of this duty, as well as of all others. He directed them to the proper object of adoration, and taught them, according to the third rule above-mentioned, to apply themselves to him in their closets, without show or ostentation, and to worship him in spirit and in truth.' As the Lacedæmonians in their form of prayer implored the gods in general to give them all good things so long as they were virtuous, we ask in particular 'that our offences may be forgiven, as we forgive those of others.' If we look into the second rule which Socrates has prescribed, namely, that we should apply ourselves to the knowledge of such things as are best for us, this too is explained at large in the doctrines of the gospel, where we are taught in several instances to regard those things as curses, which appear as blessings in the eye of the world; and, on the contrary, to esteem those things as blessings, which to the generality of mankind appear as curses. Thus in the form which is prescribed to us, we only pray for that happiness which is our chief good, and the great end of our existence, when we petition the Supreme Being for the coming of his kingdom, being solicitous for no other temporal blessings but our daily sustenance. On the other side, we pray against nothing but sin, and against evil in general,

leaving it with Omniscience to determine what is really such. If we look into the first of Socrates's rules of prayer, in which he recommends the above-mentioned form of the ancient poet, we find that form not only comprehended, but very much improved in the petition, wherein we pray to the Supreme Being that his will may be done: which is of the same force with that form which our Saviour used, when he prayed against the most painful and most ignominious of deaths, 'Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done*.' This comprehensive petition is the most humble, as well as the most prudent, that can be offered up from the creature to his Creator; as it supposes the Supreme Being wills nothing but what is for our good, and that he knows better than ourselves what is so.

ADDITION.

L.

Nº 208. MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1711.

— *Veniunt spectentur ut ipsæ.*OVID. *Art. Am.* l. i. v. 99.

To be themselves a spectacle they come.

I HAVE several letters from people of good sense, who lament the depravity or poverty of taste the town is fallen into with relation to plays and public spectacles. A lady in particular observes, that there is such a levity in the minds of her own sex, that they seldom attend any thing but impertinences. It is indeed prodigious to observe how little notice is taken of the most exalted parts of the 'best tragedies in Shakspeare; nay, it is not only visible, that sensuality has devoured all greatness of soul, but the under-passion (as I may so call it) of a noble spirit, pity, seems to be a stranger to the generality of an audience. The minds of men are indeed very differently disposed; and the reliefs from care and attention are of one sort in a great spirit, and of another in an ordinary one. The man of a great heart, and a serious complexion, is more pleased with instances of generosity and pity, than the light and ludicrous spirit can possibly be with the highest strains of mirth and laughter. It is, therefore, a melancholy prospect when we see a numerous assembly lost to all serious entertainments, and such incidents as should move one sort of concern, excite in them a quite contrary one. In the tragedy of *Macbeth*, the other night, when the lady who is conscious of the crime of murdering the king seems utterly astonished at the news, and makes an exclamation at it, instead of the indignation which is natural to the occasion, that expression is received with a loud laugh. They were as merry when a criminal was stabbed. It is certainly an occasion of rejoicing when the wicked are seized in their designs; but I think it is not such a triumph as is exerted by laughter.

You may generally observe that the appetites are sooner moved than the passions. A sly expression which alludes to baudry, puts a whole row into a pleasing smirk; when a good sentence that describes an inward sentiment of the soul, is received with the greatest coldness and indifference. A correspondent of mine, upon this subject, has divided the female part of the audience, and accounts for their prepossessions against this reasonable delight in the following manner: 'The prude,' says he, 'as she acts always in contradiction, so she is gravely sullen at a comedy, and extravagantly gay at a tragedy. The coquette is so

* *Ibid.*, book v. † Caliphaz, John xi. 49—52.‡ *Matt.* vi. 9, &c. *Luke* xi. 2.* *Matt.* xxvi. 39. *Luke* xxii. 42.

much taken up with throwing her eyes around the audience, and considering the effect of them, that she cannot be expected to observe the actors but as they are her rivals, and take off the observation of the men from herself. Besides these species of women, there are the Examples, or the first of the mode: these are to be supposed too well acquainted with what the actor was going to say to be moved at it. After these one might mention a certain flip-pant set of females who are Mimics, and are wonderfully diverted with the conduct of all the people around them, and are spectators only of the audience. But what is of all the most to be lamented, is the loss of a party whom it would be worth preserving in their right senses upon all occasions, and these are those whom we may indifferently call the innocent, or the unaffected. You may sometimes see one of these sensibly touched with a well-wrought incident; but then she is immediately so impertinently observed by the men, and frowned at by some insensible superior of her own sex, that she is ashamed, and loses the enjoyment of the most laudable concern, pity. Thus the whole audience is afraid of letting fall a tear, and shun as a weakness the best and worthiest part of our sense.

SIR,

As you are one that doth not only pretend to reform, but effect it amongst people of any sense; makes me (who am one of the greatest of your admirers) give you this trouble to desire you will settle the method of us females knowing when one another is in town: for they have now got a trick of never sending to their acquaintance when they first come; and if one does not visit them within the week which they stay at home, it is a mortal quarrel. Now, dear Mr. Spec, either command them to put it in the advertisement of your paper, which is generally read by our sex, or else order them to breathe their saucy footmen (who are good for nothing else) by sending them to tell all their acquaintance. If you think to print this, pray put it into a better style as to the spelling part. The town is now filling every day, and it cannot be deferred, because people take advantage of one another by this means and break off acquaintance, and are rude. Therefore pray put this in your paper as soon as you can possibly, to prevent any future miscarriages of this nature. I am, as I ever shall be, dear Spec,

Your most obedient humble servant,

MARY MEANWELL.

Pray settle what is to be a proper notification of a person's being in town, and how that differs according to people's quality.

MR. SPECTATOR,

Oct. the 30th.

I HAVE been out of town, so did not meet with your paper dated September the 28th*, wherein you, to my heart's desire, expose that cursed vice of enamoring poor young girls, and drawing them from their friends. I assure you without flattery it has saved a "prentice of mine from ruin; and in token of gratitude, as well as for the benefit of my family, I have, put it in a frame and glass, and hung it behind my counter. I shall take care to make my young ones read it every morning, to fortify them against such pernicious rascals. I know not whether what you writ was matter of fact, or your own invention; but this I will take my oath on, the first part is so exactly like what happened to my 'prentice, that had I read your

paper then, I should have taken your method to have secured a villain. Go on and prosper.

Your most obliged humble servant.

MR. SPECTATOR,

WITHOUT raillery, I desire you to insert this word for word in your next, as you value a lover's prayers. You see it is an hue and cry after a stray heart (with the marks and blemishes under-written); which whoever shall bring to you, shall receive satisfaction. Let me beg of you not to fail, as you remember the passion you had for her to whom you lately ended a paper*:

Noble, generous, great, and good,
But never to be understood;
Fickle as the wind, still changing,
After every female ranging,
Panting, trembling, sighing, dying,
But addicted much to lying;
When the syren songs repeat,
Equal measures still it beats;
Who'er shall wear it, it will smart her,
And who'er takes it, take a Tartar.

STERILE.

T.

Nº 209. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1711.

Τὴν αἰσθητικὴν καὶ χυρμαῖ ἀντὶς ληψίται

Ἐσθλὴς ἀμείνεται, καὶ βίβλιον ἀνελπύ

SIMONIDES.

Of earthly goods, the best, is a good wife;
A bad, the bitterest curse of human life.

TWAS not as authors I am more pleased with, than those who show human nature in a variety of views, and describe the several ages of the world in their different manners. A reader cannot be more rationally entertained, than by comparing the virtues and vices of his own times with those which prevailed in the times of his forefathers; and drawing a parallel in his mind between his own private character, and that of other persons, whether of his own age, or of the ages that went before him. The contemplation of mankind under these changeable colours, is apt to shame us out of any particular vice, or animate us to any particular virtue; to make us pleased or displeased with ourselves in the most proper points, to clear our minds of prejudice and prepossession, and rectify that narrowness of temper which inclines us to think amiss of those who differ from ourselves.

If we look into the manners of the most remote ages of the world, we discover human nature in her simplicity; and the more we come downward towards our own times, may observe her hiding herself in artifices and refinements, polished insensibly out of her original plainness, and at length entirely lost under form and ceremony, and (what we call) good-breeding. Read the accounts of men and women as they are given us by the most ancient writers, both sacred and profane, and you would think you were reading the history of another species.

Among the writers of antiquity, there are none who instruct us more openly in the manners of their respective times in which they lived, than those who have employed themselves in satire, under what dress soever it may appear; as there are no other authors whose province it is to enter so directly into the ways of men, and set their miscarriages in so strong a light.

Simonides, a poet famous in his generation, is,

of the oldest satire that is now in vogue, some say, of the first that was ever composed; poet flourished about four hundred years before the siege of Troy; and shows, by his simplicity, or rather coarseness, in which he lived. I have taken a hundred and sixty-first speculation, observing what the French call the *allusion*, has been found out of the ancients, provided there in their similitudes, did not much lives about the decency of the comsatire or iambics of Simonides, with entertain my readers in the present remarkable instance of what I forbidd. The subject of this satire is worships the sex in their several characters; derives to them from a fanciful upon the doctrine of pre-existence, that the gods formed the souls of those seeds and principles which all kinds of animals and elements; good or bad dispositions arise in; as such and such seeds and principles in their constitutions. I have authored very faithfully, and if not I (which our language would not as to comprehend every one of his not adding any thing of my own. I apologized for this author's want, I must further premise, that the collects only some of the lower part of those who have been refined by a, which was not so common in the

ing God made the souls of woman-ferent materials, and in a separate bodies.

one kind of women were formed ingredients which compose a swine. is make is a slut in her house and er table. She is uncleanly in her ern in her dress, and her family is a dunghill.

rt of female soul was formed out of als that enter into the composition a one is what we call a notable an, who has an insight into every be good or bad. In this species of re some virtuous and some vicious.

d of women were made up of ca- These are what we commonly call late the animals out of which they at are always busy and barking, very one who comes in their way, etual clamour.

ind of women were made out of re are your sluggards, who pass in indolence and ignorance, hover whole winter, and apply themselves no kind of business but eating.

ecies of females were made out of e are women of variable uneven imes all storm and tempest, some- and sun-shine. The stranger who se in her smiles and smoothness, sp for a miracle of good-humour; en her looks and her words are nothing but fury and outrage, noise

These are naturally exceeding slothful, but upon the husband's exerting his authority, will live upon hard fare, and do every thing to please him. They are, however, far from being averse to venereal pleasure, and seldom refuse a male companion.

'The cat furnished materials for a seventh species of women, who are of a melancholy, froward, unamiable nature, and so repugnant to the offers of love, that they fly in the face of their husband when he approaches them with conjugal endearments. This species of women are likewise subject to little thefts, cheats, and pilferings.

'The mare with a flowing mane, which was never broke to any servile toil and labour, composed an eighth species of women. These are they who have little regard for their husbands, who pass away their time in dressing, bathing, and perfuming; who throw their hair into the nicest curls, and trick it up with the fairest flowers and garlands. A woman of this species is a very pretty thing for a stranger to look upon, but very detrimental to the owner, unless it be a king or prince who takes a fancy to such a toy.

'The ninth species of females were taken out of the ape. These are such as are both ugly and ill-natured, who have nothing beautiful in themselves, and endeavour to detract from or ridicule every thing which appears so in others.

'The tenth and last species of women were made out of the bee; and bappy is the man who gets such an one for his wife. She is altogether faultless and unblamable. Her family flourishes and improves by her good management. She loves her husband, and is beloved by him. She brings him a race of beautiful and virtuous children. She distinguishes herself among her sex. She is surrounded with graces. She never sits among the loose tribe of women, nor passes away her time with them in wanton discourses. She is full of virtue and prudence, and is the best wife that Jupiter can bestow on man.'

I shall conclude these iambics with the motto of this paper, which is a fragment of the same author: 'A man cannot possess any thing that is better than a good woman, nor any thing that is worse than a bad one.'

As the poet has shown a great penetration in this diversity of female characters, he has avoided the fault which Juvenal and Monsieur Boileau are guilty of, the former in his sixth, and the other in his last satire, where they have endeavoured to expose the sex in general, without doing justice to the valuable part of it. Such levelling satires are of no use to the world; and for this reason I have often wondered how the French author above-mentioned, who was a man of exquisite judgment, and a lover of virtue, could think human nature a proper subject for satire in another of his celebrated pieces, which is called *The Satire upon Man*. What vice or frailty can a discourse correct, which censures the whole species alike, and endeavours to show, by some superficial strokes of wit, that brutes are the most excellent creatures of the two? A satire should expose nothing but what is corrigible, and make a due discrimination between those who are, and those who are not the proper objects of it *.

ADDISON.

L.

* This subject is resumed in N^o 311.

pecies were made up of the ingre-
m-pose an ass, or a beast of burden.

Nº 210. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1711.

Necio quomodo inheret in mentibus quasi seculorum quoddam anxiarum futurarum; idque in maximis ingentis altissimisque animis et crisi maxime, et operari facillime.

CIC. Tusc. Quest.

There is, I know not how, in the minds of men, a certain pressage, as it were, of a future existence; and this takes the deepest root, and is most discoverable, in the greatest geniuses and most exalted souls.

‘ TO THE SPECTATOR.

‘ SIR,
‘ I AM fully persuaded that one of the best springs of generous and worthy actions, is the having generous and worthy thoughts of ourselves. Whoever has a mean opinion of the dignity of his nature, will act in no higher a rank than he has allotted himself in his own estimation. If he considers his being as circumscribed by the uncertain term of a few years, his designs will be contracted into the same narrow span he imagines is to bound his existence. How can he exalt his thoughts to any thing great and noble, who only believes that, after a short turn on the stage of this world, he is to sink into oblivion, and to lose his consciousness for ever?

‘ For this reason, I am of opinion that so useful and elevated a contemplation as that of the soul's immortality cannot be resumed too often. There is not a more improving exercise to the human mind, than to be frequently reviewing its own great privileges and endowments; nor a more effectual means to awaken in us an ambition raised above low objects and little pursuits, than to value ourselves as heirs of eternity.

‘ It is a very great satisfaction to consider the best and wisest of mankind in all nations and ages, asserting, as with one voice, their birthright, and to find it ratified by an express revelation. At the same time, if we turn our thoughts inward upon ourselves, we may meet with a kind of secret sense concurring with the proofs of our own immortality.

‘ You have, in my opinion, raised a good presumptive argument from the increasing appetite the mind has to knowledge*, and to the extending its own faculties, which cannot be accomplished, as the more restrained perfection of lower creatures may, in the limits of a short life. I think another probable conjecture may be raised from our appetite to duration itself, and from a reflection on our progress through the several stages of it. “ We are complaining,” as you observe in a former speculation†, “ of the shortness of life, and yet are perpetually hurrying over the parts of it, to arrive at certain little settlements, or imaginary points of rest, which are dispersed up and down in it.”

‘ Now let us consider what happens to us when we arrive at these imaginary points of rest. Do we stop our motion, and sit down satisfied in the settlement we have gained? or are we not removing the boundary, and marking out new points of rest, to which we press forward with the like eagerness, and which cease to be such as fast as we attain them? Our case is like that of a traveller upon the Alps, who should fancy that the top of

the next hill must end his journey, because it terminates his prospect; but he no sooner arrives at it, than he sees new ground and other hills beyond it, and continues to travel on as before.

‘ This is so plainly every man's condition in life, that there is no one who has observed any thing, but may observe, that as fast as his time wears away, his appetite to something future remains. The use therefore I would make of it is this, that since Nature (as some love to express it) does nothing in vain, or, to speak properly, since the Author of our being has planted no wandering passion in it, no desire which has not its object, futurity is the proper object of the passion so constantly exercised about it; and this restlessness in the present, this assigning ourselves over to further stages of duration, this successive grasping at somewhat still to come, appears to me (whatever it may to others) as a kind of instinct or natural symptom which the mind of man has of its own immortality.

‘ I take it at the same time for granted, that the immortality of the soul is sufficiently established by other arguments: and if so, this appetite, which otherwise would be very unaccountable and absurd, seems very reasonable, and adds strength to the conclusion. But I am amazed when I consider there are creatures capable of thought, who, in spite of every argument, can form to themselves a sullen satisfaction in thinking otherwise. There is something so pitifully mean in the inverted ambition of that man who can hope for annihilation, and please himself to think that his whole fabric shall one day crumble into dust, and mix with the mass of inanimate beings, that it equally deserves our admiration and pity. The mystery of such men's unbelief is not hard to be penetrated; and indeed amounts to nothing more than a sordid hope that they shall not be immortal, because they dare not be so.

‘ This brings me back to my first observation, and gives me occasion to say further, that as worthy actions spring from worthy thoughts, so worthy thoughts are likewise the consequence of worthy actions. But the wretch who has degraded himself below the character of immortality, is very willing to resign his pretensions to it, and to substitute in its room a dark negative happiness in the extinction of his being.

‘ The admirable Shakspeare has given us a strong image of the unsupported condition of such a person in his last minutes, in the second part of King Henry the Sixth, where Cardinal Beaufort, who had been concerned in the murder of the good Duke Humphry, is represented on his death-bed. After some short confused speeches, which show an imagination disturbed with guilt, just as he was expiring, King Henry, standing by him full of compassion, says,

“ Lord Cardinal! if thou think'st on heav'n's bliss,
Hold up thy hand, make signal of that hope —
He dies, and makes no sign! —”

‘ The despair which is here shown, without a word or action on the part of the dying person, is beyond what could be painted by the most forcible expressions whatever.

‘ I shall not pursue this thought farther, but only add, that as annihilation is not to be had with a wish, so it is the most abject thing in the world to wish it. What are honour, fame, wealth, or power, when compared with the generous expectation of a being without end, and a happiness adequate to that being?

ble you no farther; but with a certain these thoughts have given me, I me things people say of you, as they ho distinguish themselves, which I ue; and wish you as good a man as hor.

“I am, sir,
 r most obedient humble servant,
 ‘T. D.’

URSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1711.

verit nos jocari fabulis.

PHÆDR. L. 1. Pro.

embered, that we sport in fabled stories.

* translated the fragment of an old describes womankind under several I supposes them to have drawn their iers and dispositions from those anits out of which he tells us they were I had some thoughts of giving the sex by laying together in another paper us characters which prevail in the id showing the different ingredients naking up of such different humours ns. Horace has a thought which is to this, when, in order to excuse mistress for an invective which he had at her, and to account for that un- y with which the heart of man is ted, he tells us, that when Promeman of clay, in the kneading up of the ned it with some furious particles of at upon turning this plan to and fro, I observed so many unaccountable n, that I did not know out of what h them. Male souls are diversified characters, that the world has not erials sufficient to furnish out their imals and inclinations. The creation, imals and elements, would not be to supply their several extrava-

refore, of pursuing the thought of hall observe, that as he has exposed t of women from the doctrine of pre- e of the ancient philosophers have, atirized the vicious part of the hu- general, from a notion of the soul's if I may so call it; and that as Sibe- brutes entering into the compo- en, others have represented human ing into brutes. This is commonly ctrine of transmigration, which sup- man souls, upon their leaving the the souls of such kinds of brutes as ble in their manners; or to give an as Mr. Dryden has described it in of Pythagoras's speech in the fif- of Ovid, where that philosopher dis- tern from eating flesh:

things are but alter'd, nothing dies,
 d there th' unbodied spirit flies:
 force, or sickness disposess'd,
 where it lights, in bird or beast;
 hout till ready limbs it find,
 s those according to their kind:
 ent to tenement is toss'd,
 till the same, the figure only lost.

209.

† Simonides.

† Lib. 1. ode xvi.

‘Then let not piety be put to flight,
 To please the taste of glutton appetite;
 But suffer inmate souls secure to dwell;
 Lest from their seats your parents you expel;
 With rabid hunger feed upon your kind,
 Or from a beast dislodge a brother's mind.’

Plato, in the vision of Erus the Armenian, which I may possibly make the subject of a future speculation, records some beautiful transmigrations; as that the soul of Orpheus, who was musical, melancholy, and a woman-hater, entered into a swan; the soul of Ajax, which was all wrath and fierceness, into a lion; the soul of Agamemnon, that was rapacious and imperial, into an eagle; and the soul of Thersites, who was a mimic and a buffoon, into a monkey.

Mr. Congreve, in a prologue * to one of his comedies, has touched upon this doctrine with great humour:

‘Thus Aristotle's soul of old that was,
 May now be damn'd to animate an ass;
 Or in this very house, for aught we know,
 Is doing painful penance in some beau.’

I shall fill up this paper with some letters which my last Tuesday's speculation † has produced. My following correspondents will show, what I there observed, that the speculation of that day affects only the lower part of the sex.

‘From my house in the Strand, October 30, 1711.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘UPON reading your Tuesday's paper, I find by several symptoms in my constitution that I am a bee. My shop, or if you please to call it so, my cell, is in that great hive of females which goes by the name of the New-Exchange; where I am daily employed in gathering together a little stock of gain from the finest flowers about the town, I mean the ladies and the beaux. I have a numerous swarm of children, to whom I give the best education I am able. But, sir, it is my misfortune to be married to a drone, who lives upon what I get, without bringing any thing into the common stock. Now, sir, as on the one hand I take care not to behave myself towards him like a wasp, so likewise I would not have him look upon me as an humble-bee; for which reason I do all I can to put him upon laying up provisions for a bad day, and frequently represent to him the fatal effects his sloth and negligence may bring upon us in our old age. I must beg that you will join with me in your good advice upon this occasion, and you will for ever oblige your humble servant,

‘MELISSA.’

‘Piccadilly, October 31, 1711.

‘SIR,

‘I AM joined in wedlock for my sins to one of those fillets who are described in the old poet with that hard name you gave us the other day. She has a flowing mane, and a skin as soft as silk. But, sir, she passes half her life at her glass, and almost ruins me in ribands. For my own part, I am a plain handicraft man, and in danger of breaking by her laziness and expensiveness. Pray, master, tell me in your next paper, whether I may not expect of her so much drudgery as to take care of her family, and to curry her hide in case of refusal.

‘Your loving friend,
 ‘BARNABY BRITTLE.’

* This is a mistake: it is in the *Epilogue* to ‘*Love for Love*.’

† No 209.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I AM mightily pleased with the humour of the
cat; be so kind as to enlarge upon that subject.
'Yours till death,
'JOSIAH HENPECK.

'P. S. You must know I am married to a Gri-
malkin.'

'SIR,
'Wapping, October 31, 1711.
'EVER since your Spectator of Tuesday last came
into our family, my husband is pleased to call me
his Oceana, because the foolish old poet that you
have translated says, that the souls of some women
are made of sea-water. This, it seems, has encour-
aged my snacebox to be witty upon me. When I
am angry, he cries, "Pr'ythee, my dear, be calm;"
when I chide one of my servants, "Pr'ythee,
child, do not bluster." He had the impudence
about an hour ago to tell me, that he was a sea-
faring man, and must expect to divide his life be-
tween storm and sunshine. "When I bestir myself
with any spirit in my family, it is "high sea" in
his house; and when I sit still without doing any
thing, his affairs forsooth are "windbound." When
I ask him whether it rains, he makes answer, "It
is no matter, so that it be fair weather within
doors." In short, sir, I cannot speak my mind
freely to him, but I either swell or rage, or do
something that is not fit for a civil woman to hear.
Pray, Mr. Spectator, since you are so sharp upon
other women, let us know what materials your
wife is made of, if you have one. I suppose you
would make us a parcel of poor-spirited tame in-
lispid creatures; but, sir, I would have you to
know, we have as good passions in us as yourself,
and that a woman was never designed to be a
milk-sop.

'NATHA TEMPEST.'

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 212. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1711.

————— *Eripe turpi*
Colla iugo, liber, liber sum, dic ego —————
HOR. Sat. vii. l. 2. ver. 92.

————— Loose thy neck from this ignoble chain,
And boldly say thou'rt free.

CREECH.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I NEVER look upon my dear wife, but I think of
the happiness Sir Roger de Coverley enjoys, in
having such a friend as you to expose in proper
colours the cruelty and perverseness of his mistress.
I have very often wished you visited in our family,
and were acquainted with my spouse; she would
afford you, for some months at least, matter enough
for one Spectator a week. Since we are not so
happy as to be of your acquaintance, give me leave
to represent to you our present circumstances as
well as I can in writing. You are to know then,
that I am not of a very different constitution from
Nathaniel Henroost, whom you have lately re-
corded in your speculations; and have a wife
who makes a more tyrannical use of the knowledge
of my easy temper than that lady ever pretended to.
We had not been a month married, when she
found in me a certain pain to give offence, and
an indolence that made me bear little inconveni-

encies rather than dispute about them. From
this observation it soon came to that pass, that if I
offered to go abroad, she would get between me and
the door, kiss me, and say she could not part with
me; and then down again I sat. In a day or two
after this first pleasant step towards confining me,
she declared to me, that I was all the world to
her, and she thought she ought to be all the world to
me. "If," said she, "my dear loves me as much as
I love him, he will never be tired of my company."
This declaration was followed by my being denied
to all my acquaintance; and it very soon came to
that pass, that to give an answer at the door, be-
fore my face, the servants would ask her whether I
was within or not; and she would answer No, with
great fondness, and tell me I was a good dear. I
will not enumerate more little circumstances to
give you a livelier sense of my condition; but tell
you in general, that from such steps as these at
first, I now live the life of a prisoner of state; my
letters are opened, and I have not the use of pen,
ink, and paper, but in her presence. I never go
abroad, except she sometimes takes me with her in
her coach to take the air, if it may be called so,
when we drive, as we generally do, with the glasses
up. I have overheard my servants lament my
condition, but they dare not bring me messages
without her knowledge, because they doubt my
resolution to stand by them. In the midst of this
insipid way of life, an old acquaintance of mine,
Tom Meggot, who is a favourite with her, and al-
lowed to visit me in her company because he sings
prettily, has roused me to rebel, and conveyed his
intelligence to me in the following manner. My
wife is a great pretender to music, and very igno-
rant of it; but far gone in the Italian taste. Tom
goes to Armstrong, the famous fine writer of mu-
sic, and desires him to put this sentence of Tully
in the scale of an Italian air, and write it out for
my spouse from him. *An ille mihi liber cui matier
imperial? cui leges imponit, prescribit, jubet, vetat,
quod videtur? qui nihil imperanti negare, nihil re-
cusare audeat? Possit? dandum est. Vocat? veni-
endum. Ejicit? abeundum. Minidatur? extimi-
scendum.* "Does he live like a gentleman, who is
commanded by a woman? he to whom she gives
law, grants and denies what she pleases? who can
neither deny her any thing she asks, or refuse to
do any thing she commands?"

'To be short, my wife was extremely pleased
with it; said the Italian was the only language for
music; and admired how wonderfully tender the
sentiment was, and how pretty the accent is of that
language; with the rest that is said by rote on that
occasion. Mr. Meggot is sent to sing this air, which
he performs with mighty applause; and my wife is
in ecstasy on the occasion, and glad to find, by my
being so much pleased, that I was at last come in-
to the notion of the Italian; "for," said she, "it
grows upon one when one once comes to know a
little of the language; and pray, Mr. Meggot, sing
again those notes, "*Nihil imperanti negare, nihil
recusare.*" You may believe I was not a little de-
lighted with my friend Tom's expedient to alarm me,
and in obedience to his summons I give all this story
thus at large; and I am resolved, when this ap-
pears in the Spectator, to declare for myself.
The manner of the insurrection I contrive by your
means, which shall be no other than that Tom
Meggot, who is at our tea-table every morning,
shall read it to us; and if my dear can take the
hint, and say not one word, but let this be the
beginning of a new life without further explana-
tion, it is very well; for as soon as the Spectator

I shall, without more ado, call for the hour when I shall be at home, if I do not, they may go to dinner. He only swells and says nothing, Tom together, and all is well, as I said if she begins to command or expostulate, in my next to you, receive a fuller resistance and submission, for something must, to,

SIR,
Your most obedient humble servant,
ANTHONY FREEMAN.

I hope I need not tell you that I desire in your very next *.

T.

ATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1711.

Mens sibi conscia recti.
VIRG. Æn. l. ver. 608.
good intention.

that art and secret of Christianity, if I phrase, to manage our actions to the good, and direct them in such a manner, that we do may turn to account at that hour every thing we have done will be

to give this consideration its full weight, all our actions under the division of ourselves either good, evil, or indifferent. our intentions after the same manner, them with regard to our actions, we that great art and secret of religion here mentioned.

Intention joined to a good action, gives force and efficacy; joined to an evil action, it abates its malignity, and in some cases wholly away; and joined to an indifferent action, turns it to a virtue, and makes it as far as human actions can be so.

to place, to consider in the same manner of an evil intention upon our action, intention perverts the best of actions in reality, what the fathers of the kind of zeal have termed the virtues of the world, so many shining sins. It denotes the innocence of an indifferent action, and action all possible blackness and horror, the emphatical language of sacred 'sin exceeding sinful.'

At last place, we consider the nature of the intention, we shall find that it denotes the merit of a good action; abates, but wholly away, the malignity of an evil action, and gives an indifferent action in its natural force.

There is more of unspeakable advantage to possess with an habitual good intention, than all our thoughts, words, and actions at the end, whether it be the glory of our good of mankind, or the benefit of the world.

of sort of thrift or good husbandry in which does not throw away any single action, makes every one go as far as it can. The means of salvation, increases the number of virtues, and diminishes that of our

There is something very devout, though not solid, in Acosta's answer to Limborch, who objects to him the multiplicity of ceremonies in the Jewish religion, as washings, dresses, meats, purgations, and the like. The reply which the Jew makes upon this occasion, is, to the best of my remembrance, as follows: 'There are not duties enough,' says he, 'in the essential parts of the law for a zealous and active obedience. Time, place, and person are requisite, before you have an opportunity of putting a moral virtue into practice. We have, therefore,' says he, 'enlarged the sphere of our duty, and made many things, which are in themselves indifferent, a part of our religion, that we may have more occasions of showing our love to God, and in all the circumstances of life be doing something to please him.'

Monsieur St. Evremond has endeavoured to palliate the superstitions of the Roman Catholic religion with the same kind of apology, where he pretends to consider the different spirits of the Papists and the Calvinists, as to the great points wherein they disagree. He tells us, that the former are actuated by love, and the other by fear; and that in their expressions of duty and devotion towards the Supreme Being, the former seem particularly careful to do every thing which may possibly please him, and the other to abstain from every thing which may possibly displease him.

But notwithstanding this plausible reason with which both the Jew and the Roman Catholic would excuse their respective superstitions, it is certain there is something in them very pernicious to mankind, and destructive to religion; because the injunction of superfluous ceremonies makes such actions duties, as were before indifferent, and by that means renders religion more burdensome and difficult than it is in its own nature, betrays many into sins of omission which they could not otherwise be guilty of, and fixes the minds of the vulgar to the shadowy, unessential points, instead of the more weighty and more important matters of the law.

This zealous and active obedience, however, takes place in the great point we are recommending; for, if, instead of prescribing to ourselves indifferent actions as duties, we apply a good intention to all our most indifferent actions, we make our very existence one continued act of obedience, we turn our diversions and amusements to our eternal advantage, and are pleasing Him (whom we are made to please) in all the circumstances and occurrences of life.

It is this excellent frame of mind, this holy officiousness (if I may be allowed to call it such), which is recommended to us by the apostle in that uncommon precept wherein he directs us to propose to ourselves the glory of our Creator in all our most indifferent actions, 'whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do.'

A person therefore who is possessed with such an habitual good intention as that which I have been here speaking of, enters upon no single circumstance of life, without considering it as well-pleasing to the great Author of his being, conformable to the dictates of reason, suitable to human nature in general, or to that particular station in which Providence has placed him. He lives in a perpetual sense of the Divine Presence, regards himself as acting, in the whole course of his existence, under the observation and inspection of that Being, who is privy to all his motions and all his

The subject is resumed in No 216.
vol. vii. 13.

thoughts, who knows his 'down-sitting and his up-rising, who is about his path, and about his bed, and spieth out all his ways *.' In a word, he remembers that the eye of his Judge is always upon him, and in every action he reflects that he is doing what is commanded or allowed by him who will hereafter either reward or punish it. This was the character of those holy men of old, who in that beautiful phrase of scripture are said to have walked with God †.

When I employ myself upon a paper of morality, I generally consider how I may recommend the particular virtue which I treat of, by the precepts or examples of the ancient heathens; by that means, if possible, to shame those who have greater advantages of knowing their duty, and therefore greater obligations to perform it, into a better course of life: besides that many among us are unreasonably disposed to give a fairer hearing to a pagan philosopher, than to a christian writer.

I shall therefore produce an instance of this excellent frame of mind in a speech of Socrates, which is quoted by Erasmus. This great philosopher on the day of his execution, a little before the draught of poison was brought to him, entertaining his friends with a discourse on the immortality of the soul, has these words: 'Whether or no God will approve of my actions, I know not; but this I am sure of, that I have at all times made it my endeavour to please him, and I have a good hope that this my endeavour will be accepted by him.' We find in these words of that great man the habitual good intention which I would here inculcate, and with which that divine philosopher always acted. I shall only add, that Erasmus, who was an unbogotted Roman Catholic, was so much transported with this passage of Socrates, that he could scarce forbear looking upon him as a saint, and desiring him to pray for him; or as that ingenious and learned writer has expressed himself in a much more lively manner: 'When I reflect on such a speech pronounced by such a person, I can scarce forbear crying out, "*Sancto Socrates, ora pro nobis*:" O holy Socrates, pray for us.'

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 214. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1711.

— *Periculis tempora longi
Serevit* —

JUV. Sat. lib. ver. 124.

A long dependence in an hour is lost.
DRYDEN.

I DID some time ago lay before the world the unhappy condition of the trading part of mankind who suffer by want of punctuality in the dealings of persons above them; but there is a set of men who are much more the objects of compassion than even those; and these are the dependants on great men, whom they are pleased to take under their protection as such as are to share in their friendship and favour. These, indeed, as well from the homage that is accepted from them, as the hopes which are given to them, are become a sort of creditors; and these debts being debts of honour,

* Psal. cxxxix. 2, 3.—We may here observe, once for all, that the Spectator seems generally to have quoted by memory, whether from scriptural or profane writers; if compared with the books themselves, his quotations will be found always substantially, but not verbally, correct.

† Gen. v. 22. vi. 9.

ought, according to the accustomed maxim, to be first discharged.

When I speak of dependants, I would not be understood to mean those who are worthless in themselves, or who, without any call, will press into the company of their betters. Nor, when I speak of patrons, do I mean those who either have it not in their power, or have no obligation to assist, their friends; but I speak of such leagues where there is power and obligation on the one part, and merit and expectation on the other.

The division of patron and client, may, I believe, include a third of our nation; the want of merit, and real worth in the client, will strike out about ninety-nine in a hundred of these; and the want of ability in patrons, as many of that kind. But, however, I must beg leave to say, that he who will take up another's time and fortune in his service, though he has no prospect of rewarding his merit towards him, is as unjust in his dealings as he who takes up goods of a tradesman without intention or ability to pay him. Of the few of the class which I think fit to consider, there are not two in ten who succeed, inasmuch that I know a man of good sense who put his son to a blacksmith, though an offer was made him of his being received as a page to a man of quality. There are not more cripples come out of the wars than there are from those great services; some through discontent lose their speech, some their memories, others their senses, or their lives; and I seldom see a man thoroughly discontented, but I conclude he has had the favour of some great man. I have known of such as have been for twenty years together within a month of a good employment, but never arrived at the happiness of being possessed of any thing.

There is nothing more ordinary than that a man who has got into a considerable station shall immediately alter his manner of treating all his friends, and from that moment he is to deal with you as if he were your Fate. You are no longer to be consulted, even in matters which concern yourself; but your patron is of a species above you, and a free communication with you is not to be expected. This perhaps may be your condition all the while he bears office; and when that is at an end, you are as intimate as ever you were, and he will take it very ill if you keep the distance he prescribed you towards him in his grandeur. One would think this should be a behaviour a man could fall into with the worst grace imaginable; but they who know the world have seen it more than once. I have often, with secret pity, heard the same man who has professed his abhorrence against all kind of passive behaviour, lose minutes, hours, days, and years, in a fruitless attendance on one who had no inclination to befriend him. It is very much to be regretted, that the great have one particular privilege above the rest of the world, of being slow in receiving impressions of kindness, and quick in taking offence. The elevation above the rest of mankind, except in very great minds, makes men so giddy, that they do not see after the same manner they did before. Thus they despise their old friends, and strive to extend their interest to new pretenders. By this means it often happens, that when you come to know how you lost such an employment, you will find the man who got it never dreamed of it; but, forthwith, he was to be surprised into it, or perhaps solicited to receive it. Upon such occasions as these a man may perhaps grow out of humour. If you are so, all mankind will fall in with the patron, and you

norist and untractable if you are casting sour at a disappointment: but it is thing whether you do or do not resent on will be used after the same manner; and mothers will be sure to whip their children if they cry, and then whip them for

but two ways of doing any thing with ease; and those two, by making yourself agreeable or disagreeable. The former is obtained but by finding a way to live in, or concealing that you want them; only by falling into their taste and pleasure of all the employments in the world vile, except it happens to be of your humour. For to be agreeable to another, if he be above you, is not to be such qualities and accomplishments as are you agreeable in yourself, but such as are agreeable in respect to him. An imitation of faults, or a compliance, if not submission to his vices, must be the measures of it.

It comes to that, the unnatural state of a man, when his patron pleases, is ended; and dissimulation and complaisance are objected to the man who rejects him for his vices by his partner, but seducer. Thus the young woman who has given up the which made her charming) has not only, but also the virtue which could render her capable of resenting the injury which

be endless to recount the tricks of turning from themselves to persons who have to serve you, the art of being sorry unaccountable accident in your behaviour such a one (who, perhaps, has never used) opposes your advancement; and if you do any thing more than ordinary in you, you are with a whisper, that it is no wonder so slow in doing for a man of your taste like.

This treatment, I must still add the insolence of all, which I have once or twice to wit, that when a silly rogue has any one part in three of his life in unattendance, it is taken wonderfully ill of him, and is resolved to employ the self.

Consider these things, and reflect upon cast natures (which one who makes observation may have seen) that have by such sort of applications, it is too a scene to dwell upon; therefore I rather opportunity to discourse of good and distinguish such as have done their duty who have depended upon them, and let to act without their favour. Workers are like Plato's guardian angels, who doing good to their wards; but negligent are like Epicurus's gods, that lie in clouds, and instead of blessings pour down, and tempests on the heads of those rising incense to them.

T.

Nº 215. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1711.

— *Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes*

Emolliit mores, nec sinit esse ferus.

OVID. Ep. ix. l. 2. de Ponto, ver. 47.

Ingenuous arts, where they an entrance find,
Softens the manners, and subdues the mind.

I CONSIDER a human soul without education like marble in the quarry, which shows none of its inherent beauties, till the skill of the polisher fetches out the colours, makes the surface shine, and discovers every ornamental cloud, spot, and vein that runs through the body of it. Education, after the same manner, when it works upon a noble mind, draws out to view every latent virtue and perfection, which without such helps are never able to make their appearance.

If my reader will give me leave to change the allusion so soon upon him, I shall make use of the same instance to illustrate the force of education, which Aristotle has brought to explain his doctrine of substantial forms, when he tells us that a statue lies hid in a block of marble; and that the art of the statuary only clears away the superfluous matter, and removes the rubbish. The figure is in the stone, the sculptor only finds it. What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul. The philosopher, the saint, or the hero; the wise, the good, or the great man, very often lie hid and concealed in a plebeian, which a proper education might have dis-interred, and have brought to light. I am therefore much delighted with reading the accounts of savage nations, and with contemplating those virtues which are wild and uncultivated; to see courage exerting itself in fierceness, resolution in obstinacy, wisdom in cunning, patience in sullenness and despair.

Men's passions operate variously, and appear in different kinds of actions, according as they are more or less rectified and swayed by reason. When one hears of negroes, who upon the death of their masters, or upon changing their service, hang themselves upon the next tree, as it frequently happens in our American plantations, who can forbear admiring their fidelity, though it expresses itself in so dreadful a manner? What might not that savage greatness of soul which appears in these poor wretches on many occasions, be raised to, were it rightly cultivated? And what colour of excuse can there be for the contempt with which we treat this part of our species? that we should not put them upon the common foot of humanity; that we should only set an insignificant fine upon the man who murders them; nay, that we should, as much as in us lies, cut them off from the prospects of happiness in another world as well as in this, and deny them that which we look upon as the proper means for attaining it?

Since I am engaged on this subject, I cannot forbear mentioning a story which I have lately heard, and which is so well attested, that I have no manner of reason to suspect the truth of it. I may call it a kind of wild tragedy that passed about twelve years ago at Saint Christopher's, one of our British Leeward islands. The negroes who were the persons concerned in it, were all of them the slaves of a gentleman who is now in England.

This gentleman among his negroes had a young woman, who was looked upon as a most extraordinary beauty by those of her own complexion.

He had at the same time two young fellows who were likewise negroes and slaves, remarkable for the comeliness of their persons, and for the friendship which they bore to one another. It unfortunately happened that both of them fell in love with the female negro above-mentioned, who would have been very glad to have taken either of them for her husband, provided they could agree between themselves which should be the man. But they were both so passionately in love with her, that neither of them could think of giving her up to his rival; and at the same time were so true to one another, that neither of them would think of gaining her without his friend's consent. The torments of these two lovers were the discourse of the family to which they belonged, who could not forbear observing the strange complication of passions which perplexed the hearts of the poor negroes, that often dropped expressions of the uneasiness they underwent, and how impossible it was for either of them ever to be happy.

After a long struggle between love and friendship, truth and jealousy, they one day took a walk together into a wood, carrying their mistress along with them: where, after abundance of lamentations, they stabbed her to the heart, of which she immediately died. A slave who was at his work not far from the place where this astonishing piece of cruelty was committed, hearing the shrieks of the dying person, ran to see what was the occasion of them. He there discovered the woman lying dead upon the ground, with the two negroes on each side of her, kissing the dead corpse, weeping over it, and beating their breasts in the utmost agonies of grief and despair. He immediately ran to the English family with the news of what he had seen; who upon coming to the place saw the woman dead, and the two negroes expiring by her with wounds they had given themselves.

We see in this amazing instance of barbarity, what strange disorders are bred in the minds of those men whose passions are not regulated by virtue, and disciplined by reason. Though the action which I have recited is in itself full of guilt and horror, it proceeded from a temper of mind which might have produced very noble fruits, had it been informed and guided by a suitable education.

It is therefore an unspeakable blessing to be born in those parts of the world where wisdom and knowledge flourish; though, it must be confessed, there are, even in these parts, several poor uninstructed persons, who are but little above the inhabitants of those nations of which I have been here speaking; as those who have had the advantages of a more liberal education, rise above one another by several different degrees of perfection. For, to return to our statue in the block of marble, we see it sometimes only begun to be chipped, sometimes rough-hewn, and but just sketched into an human figure; sometimes we see the man appearing distinctly in all his limbs and features, sometimes we find the figure wrought up to a great elegance, but seldom meet with any to which the hand of a Phidias or Praxiteles could not give several nice touches and finishings.

Discourses of morality, and reflections upon human nature, are the best means we can make use of to improve our minds, and gain a true knowledge of ourselves, and consequently to recover our souls out of the vice, ignorance, and prejudice, which naturally cleave to them. I have all along professed myself in this paper a promoter of these great ends; and I flatter myself that I do from

day to day contribute something to the polishing of men's minds: at least my design is laudable, whatever the execution may be. I must confess I am not a little encouraged in it by many letters which I receive from unknown hands, in approbation of my endeavours; and must take this opportunity of returning my thanks to those who write them, and excusing myself for not inserting several of them in my papers, which I am sensible would be a very great ornament to them. Should I publish the praises which are so well penned, they would do honour to the persons who write them; but my publishing of them would, I fear, be a sufficient instance to the world that I did not deserve them.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 216. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1711.

*Siquidem hercle possis, nil prius, neque fortius :
Verum si incipias, neque perficias naviter.
Atque, ubi poti non poteris, cum nemo exoptet,
Infocia pace, ultra ad eam venies, indicans
Te amare, et ferre non posse : actum est, illic,
Peristi : cludet, ubi te victum senavit.*

TER. Eun. act. I. sc. 1.

If indeed you can keep to your resolution, you will act a noble and a manly part: but if, when you have set about it, your courage fails you, and you make a voluntary submission, acknowledging the violence of your passion, and your inability to hold out any longer, all's over with you; you are undone, and may go hang yourself; she will insult over you, when she finds you her slave.

‘ TO THE SPECTATOR.

‘ SIR,
‘ THIS is to inform you, that Mr. Freeman had no sooner taken coach, but his lady was taken with a terrible fit of the vapours; which, it is feared, will make her miscarry, if not endanger her life; therefore, dear sir, if you know of any receipt that is good against this fashionable reigning distemper, be pleased to communicate it for the good of the public, and you will oblige,

‘ Yours,

‘ A. WOEWILL.’

‘ MR. SPECTATOR,

‘ THE uproar was so great as soon as I had read the Spectator concerning Mrs. Freeman *, that after many revolutions in her temper, of raging, swooning, railing, fainting, pitying herself, and reviling her husband, upon an accidental coming in of a neighbouring lady (who says she has writ to you also) she had nothing left for it but to fall in a fit. I had the honour to read the paper to her, and have pretty good command of countenance and temper on such occasions; and soon found my historical name to be Tom Meggot in your writings, but concealed myself till I saw how it affected Mrs. Freeman. She looked frequently at her husband, as often at me: and she did not tremble as she filled tea, till she came to the circumstance of Armstrong's writing out a piece of Tully for an opera tune. Then she burst out, she was exposed, she was deceived, she was wronged and abused. The tea-cup was thrown in the fire; and without taking vengeance on her spouse, she said to me, that I was a pretending coxcomb, a meddler that knew not what it was to interpose in so nice an affair as between a man and his wife. To which Mr. Freeman: “ Madam, were I less fond of you

* Nº 212.

should not have taken this way of the Spectator, to inform a woman, of nature has placed under my direction I request of her; but since you set as not to take the hint which I put in paper, I must tell you, madam, that you have for a long and of time acted a part unsuitable to ought to have of the subordination are placed. And I must acquaint all, that the fellow without—' Ah, the footman entered and answered—'rah, don't you know my voice? Look I speak to you.'—I say, madam, it is to know of me myself, whether to see company or not. I am from of this house; and my business is where else, is to behave myself in, as it shall be hereafter an honour to my name; and your pride that you it, the darling, and ornament of a useful and esteemed by his friends; or one that has buried some merit in compliance to a froward humour won upon an agreeable woman by his

Mr. Freeman ended this with a ten- aspect, and a downcast eye, which as extremely moved at the anguish; for she sat swelling with passion, firmly fixed on the fire; when I, old lose again, took upon me to prove that amiable sorrow she was in, ne; upon which I said very season-ly, that indeed Mr. Freeman was common talk of the town; and that much a jest, as when it was said in Freeman has promised to come to Upon which the good lady turned to downright rage, and threw the title upon your humble servant, flew le of the room, and cried out she unatest of all women. Others kept factions for hours of privacy and to apology was to be made to her, to be found, no previous manner of was amiss in her; but all the world unainted with her errors, without the on. Mr. Freeman was going to make speech, but I interposed: "Look you, e nothing to say to this matter, but consider you are now past a chicken: which was well enough in a girl, is one of your motherly character."

I lost all patience, and flew directly I's periwig. I got her in my arms, my friend; he making signs at the at it was too much; I beckoning, frowning over her shoulder, that he did not persist. In this manner she d round the room in a moment, until ke of above and servants entered; e fell upon a couch as breathless. I ay friend: but he, with a very silly bring the coach to the door, and we being forced to bid the coachman: were no sooner come to my lodg- his wife's relations came to inquire i Mrs. Freeman's mother writ a note, thought never to have seen this day,

, sir, I am afraid we are upon a: no talents for; and I can observe friend looks upon me rather as a man weakness of him that he is ashamed

of, than one who has rescued him from slavery. Mr. Spectator, I am but a young fellow, and if Mr. Freeman submits, I shall be looked upon as an incendiary, and never get a wife as long as I breathe. He has indeed sent word home he shall lie at Hampstead to-night; but I believe fear of the first onset after this rupture has too great a place in this resolution. Mrs. Freeman has a very pretty sister; suppose I delivered him up, and articulated with the mother for her bringing him home. If he has not courage to stand it (you are a great casuist), is it such an ill thing to bring myself off as well as I can? What makes me doubt my man, is, that I find he thinks it reasonable to expostulate at least with her; and Captain Sentry will tell you, if you let your orders be disputed, you are no longer a commander. I wish you could advise me how to get clear of this business handsomely. Yours,

TOM MEGGOT.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 217. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1711.

— *Tunc femina simplex,
Et pariter toto repetitur clamor ab antro.*
JUV. Sat. vi. ver. 326.

Then unrestrain'd by rules of decency,
Th' assembled females raise a general cry.

I SHALL entertain my reader to-day with some letters from my correspondents. The first of them is the description of a club, whether real or imaginary I cannot determine; but am apt to fancy, that the writer of it, whoever she is, has formed a kind of nocturnal orgie out of her own fancy. Whether this be so or not, her letter may conduce to the amendment of that kind of persons who are represented in it, and whose characters are frequent enough in the world.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'In some of your first papers you were pleased to give the public a very diverting account of several clubs and nocturnal assemblies; but I am a member of a society which has wholly escaped your notice, I mean a club of She-Romps. We take each a hackney-coach, and meet once a week in a large upper-chamber, which we hire by the year for that purpose; our landlord and his family, who are quiet people, constantly contriving to be abroad on our club-night. We are no sooner come together, than we throw off all that modesty and reservedness with which our sex are obliged to disguise themselves in public places. I am not able to express the pleasure we enjoy from ten at night till four in the morning, in being as rude as you men can be for your lives. As our play runs high, the room is immediately filled with broken fans, torn petticoats, lappets, or head-dresses, flounces, furbelows, garters, and working-aprons*. I had forgot to tell you at first, that besides the coaches we come in ourselves, there is one which stands always empty to carry off our dead men, for so we call all those fragments and tatters with which the room is strewed, and which we pack up together in bundles and put into the aforesaid coach. It is no small diversion for us to meet the next night at some member's chamber, where every one is to pick out what belonged to her from this con-

* It appears probable, that this is a mistake for worked-aprons.

fused bundle of silks, stuffs, laces, and ribands. I have hitherto given you an account of our diversion on ordinary club-nights; but must acquaint you further, that once a month we demolish a prude, that is, we get some queer formal creature in among us, and unrig her in an instant. Our last month's prude was so armed and fortified in whale-bone and buckram, that we had much ado to come at her; but you would have died with laughing to have seen how the sober awkward thing looked when she was forced out of her intrenchments. In short, sir, it is impossible to give you a true notion of our sport, unless you would come one night amongst us; and though it be directly against the rules of our society to admit a male visitant, we repose so much confidence in your silence and taciturnity, that it was agreed by the whole club, at our last meeting, to give you entrance for one night as a Spectator.

'I am your humble servant,
'KITTY TERMAGANT.

'P. S. We shall demolish a prude next Thursday.'

Though I thank Kitty for her kind offer, I do not at present find in myself any inclination to venture my person with her and her romping companions. I should regard myself as a second Clodius intruding on the mysterious rites of the Bona Dea, and should apprehend being demolished as much as the prude.

The following letter comes from a gentleman, whose taste I find is much too delicate to endure the least advance towards romping. I may perhaps hereafter improve upon the hint he has given me, and make it the subject of a whole Spectator; in the mean time take it as it follows in his own words:

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'It is my misfortune to be in love with a young creature who is daily committing faults, which, though they give me the utmost uneasiness, I know not how to reprove her for, or even acquaint her with. She is pretty, dresses well, is rich, and good-humoured; but either wholly neglects, or has no notion of that which polite people have agreed to distinguish by the name of delicacy. After our return from a walk the other day she threw herself into an elbow-chair, and professed before a large company, that she was all over in a sweat. She told me this afternoon that her stomach ached; and was complaining yesterday at dinner of something that stuck in her teeth. I treated her with a basket of fruit last summer, which she ate so very greedily, as almost made me resolve never to see her more. In short, sir, I begin to tremble whenever I see her about to speak or move. As she does not want sense, if she takes these hints I am happy; if not, I am more than afraid, that these things, which shock me even in the behaviour of a mistress, will appear insupportable in that of a wife.

I am, sir,
'Yours, &c.'

My next letter comes from a correspondent whom I cannot but very much value, upon the account which she gives of herself.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM happily arrived at a state of tranquillity which few people envy, I mean that of an old

maid; therefore being wholly unconcerned in all that medley of follies which our sex is apt to contract from their silly fondness of yours, I read your raileries on us without provocation. I can say with Hamlet,

"—Man delights not me,
Nor woman neither."

'Therefore, dear sir, as you never spare your own sex, do not be afraid of reproving what is ridiculous in ours, and you will oblige at least one woman, who is

'Your humble servant,
'SUSANNA PROFT.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM wife to a clergyman, and cannot help thinking that in your tenth or tythe character of woman-kind*, you meant myself: therefore I have no quarrel against you for the other nine characters.

'Your humble servant,
'A. B.'

BUDGELL.

X.

Nº 218. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1711.

Quid de quoque viro, et cui dicas, sepe caveto.
HOR. Ep. xviii. l. 1. var. 68.

— Have a care
Of whom you talk, to whom, and what, and where.
FOOLEY.

I HAPPENED the other day, as my way is, to stroll into a little coffee-house beyond Aldgate; and as I sat there, two or three very plain sensible men were talking of the Spectator. One said, he had that morning drawn the great benefit ticket; another wished he had; but a third shook his head and said, It was pity that the writer of that paper was such a sort of man, that it was no great matter whether he had it or no. 'He is, it seems,' said the good man, 'the most extravagant creature in the world; has run through vast sums, and yet been in continual want; a man, for all he talks so well of economy, unfit for any of the offices of life by reason of his profuseness. It would be an unhappy thing to be his wife, his child, or his friend; and yet he talks as well of those duties of life as any one.' Much reflection has brought me to so easy a contempt for every thing which is false, that this heavy accusation gave me no manner of uneasiness; but at the same time it threw me into deep thought upon the subject of fame in general; and I could not but pity such as were so weak, as to value what the common people say out of their own talkative temper to the advantage or diminution of those whom they mention, without being moved either by malice or good-will. It will be too long to expatiate upon the sense all mankind have of fame, and the inexpressible pleasure which there is in the approbation of worthy men, to all who are capable of worthy actions; but methinks one may divide the general word fame, into three different species, as it regards the different orders of mankind who have any thing to do with it. Fame therefore may be divided into glory, which respects the hero; reputation, which is preserved by every gentleman; and credit, which must be supported by every tradesman. These possessions in fame are dearer than life to these characters of

* See Nº 209.

er are the life of those characters. the hero pursues great and noble em-pregnable; and all the assailants of but show their pain and impatience cas, without throwing the least shade the foundation of an high name be vice, all that is offered against it is which is too short-lived to stand up in with glory, which is everlasting.

, which is the portion of every man ve with the elegant and knowing part is as stable as glory, if it be as well l the common cause of human society icerned when we hear a man of good uniated. Besides which, according g custom amongst us, every man has n his own arm: and reproach is soon out of countenance, and overtaken

unhappy of all men, and the most the malignity or wantonness of the e, is the trader. Credit is undone in e tradesman's wound is received from ore private and more cruel than the e lantern and dagger. The manner man's name,—As; 'Mr. Cash, oh! do ur money at his shop? Why, do you room? He is indeed a general mer-y, I have seen, from the iteration of a hiding one thought of him, and ex-t you hide, by saying something to his hen you speak, a merchant hurt in his im who, every day he lived, literally value of his native country, undone was only a burden and a blemish to it. ody who knows the world is sensible evil, how careful ought a man to be ge of a merchant? It may possibly ser of a very shallow creature to lay the best family in the most opulent : more so, the more highly he deserves y; that is to say, the further he places t of his hands, to draw home that of ate.

e an ill word may change plenty into y a rash sentence a free and generous in a few days be reduced to beggary. oes a giddy prater imagine, that an o the disfavour of a merchant, may be in the consequence, as the forgery of r an inheritance, would be to a gentle-ards where it did before a gentleman ated, and the state of a great action is before calumny was offered to dimi- here is time, place, and occasion ex-avel all that is contrived against those but the trader, who is ready only for nands upon him, can have no armour nquisitive, the malicious, and the en-re prepared to fill the cry to his dis-e and sword are slow engines of de-comparison of the babblers in the case ant.

ason I thought it an imitable piece of a gentleman of my acquaintance, who riety of affairs, and used to talk with gh against gentlemen by whom he elf ill dealt with; but he would never ; he urged against a merchant (with l any difference), except in a court of used to say, that to speak ill of a mer-to begin his suit with judgment and One cannot, I think, say more on this in to repeat, that the merit of the mer-

chant is above that of all other subjects; for while he is untouched in his credit, his hand-writing is a more portable coin for the service of his fellow-citizens, and his word the gold of Ophir to the country wherein he resides.

STEEL.

Z.

N° 219. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1711.

Plæc nostris voco.

OVID. Met. xiii. 141.

These I scarce call our own.

There are but few men, who are not ambitious of distinguishing themselves in the nation or country where they live, and of growing considerable among those with whom they converse. There is a kind of grandeur and respect, which the meanest and most insignificant part of mankind endeavour to procure in the little circle of their friends and acquaintance. The poorest mechanic, nay the man who lives upon common alms, gets him his set of admirers, and delights in that superiority which he enjoys over those who are in some respects beneath him. This ambition, which is natural to the soul of man, might methinks receive a very happy turn; and, if it were rightly directed, contribute as much to a person's advantage, as it generally does to his uneasiness and disquiet.

I shall therefore put together some thoughts on this subject, which I have not met with in other writers; and shall set them down as they have occurred to me, without being at the pains to connect or methodise them.

All superiority and pre-eminence that one man can have over another, may be reduced to the notion of quality, which, considered at large, is either that of fortune, body, or mind. The first is that which consists in birth, title, or riches; it is the most foreign to our natures, and what we can the least call our own of any of the three kinds of quality. In relation to the body, quality arises from health, strength, or beauty; which are nearer to us, and more a part of ourselves than the former. Quality, as it regards the mind, has its rise from knowledge or virtue; and is that which is more essential to us, and more intimately united with us, than either of the other two.

The quality of fortune, though a man has less reason to value himself upon it than on that of the body or mind, is however the kind of quality which makes the most shining figure in the eye of the world.

As virtue is the most reasonable and genuine source of honour, we generally find in titles an intimation of some particular merit that should recommend men to the high stations which they possess. Holiness is ascribed to the pope; majesty to kings; serenity or mildness of temper to princes; excellence of perfection to ambassadors; grace to archbishops; honour to peers; worship or venerable behaviour to magistrates; and reverence, which is of the same import as the former, to the inferior clergy.

In the founders of great families, such attributes of honour are generally correspondent with the virtues of the person to whom they are applied; but in the descendants they are too often the marks rather of grandeur than of merit. The stamp and denomination still continues, but the intrinsic value is frequently lost.

The death-bed shows the emptiness of titles in a

true light. A poor dispirited sinner lies trembling under the apprehensions of the state he is entering on; and is asked by a grave attendant how his holiness does? Another hears himself addressed to under the title of highness or excellency, who lies under such mean circumstances of mortality as are the disgrace of human nature. Titles at such a time look rather like insults and mockery than respect.

The truth of it is, honours are in this world under no regulation; true quality is neglected, virtue is oppressed, and vice triumphant. The last day will rectify this disorder, and assign to every one a station suitable to the dignity of his character. Ranks will be then adjusted, and precedence set right.

Methinks we should have an ambition, if not to advance ourselves in another world, at least to preserve our post in it, and outshine our inferiors in virtue here, that they may not be put above us in a state which is to settle the distinction for eternity.

Men in scripture are called strangers and sojourners upon earth, and life a pilgrimage. Several heathen, as well as Christian authors, under the same kind of metaphor, have represented the world as an inn, which was only designed to furnish us with accommodations in this our passage. It is therefore very absurd to think of setting up our rest before we come to our journey's end, and not rather to take care of the reception we shall there meet, than to fix our thoughts on the little conveniences and advantages which we enjoy one above another in the way to it.

Epictetus makes use of another kind of allusion, which is very beautiful, and wonderfully proper to incline us to be satisfied with the post in which Providence has placed us. We are here, says he, as in a theatre, where every one has a part allotted to him. The great duty which lies upon a man is to act his part in perfection. We may indeed say, that our part does not suit us, and that we could act another better. But this, says the philosopher, is not our business. All that we are concerned in is, to excel in the part which is given us. If it be an improper one, the fault is not in us, but in Him who has cast our several parts, and is the great disposer of the drama.

The part that was acted by this philosopher himself was but a very indifferent one, for he lived and died a slave. His motive to contentment in this particular, receives a very great enforcement from the above-mentioned consideration, if we remember that our parts in the other world will be new cast, and that mankind will be there ranged in different stations of superiority and pre-eminence, in proportion as they have here excelled one another in virtue, and performed in their several posts of life the duties which belong to them.

There are many beautiful passages in the little apocryphal book, entitled, *The Wisdom of Solomon*, to set forth the vanity of Honour, and the like temporal blessings which are in so great repute among men, and to comfort those who have not the possession of them. It represents in very warm and noble terms this advancement of a good man in the other world, and the great surprise which it will produce among those who are his superiors in this. Then shall the righteous man stand in great boldness before the face of such as have afflicted him, and made no account of his labours. When they see it they shall be troubled with terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the strangeness of his sal-

vation, so far beyond all that they looked for. And they, repenting and groaning for anguish of spirit, shall say within themselves, This was he whom we had sometime in derision, and a proverb of reproach. We fools accounted his life madness, and his end to be without honour. How is he numbered among the children of God, and his lot is among the saints?!

If the reader would see the description of a life that is passed away in vanity and among the shadows of pomp and greatness, he may see it very finely drawn in the same place †. In the mean time, since it is necessary, in the present constitution of things, that order and distinction should be kept in the world, we should be happy, if those who enjoy the upper stations in it, would endeavour to surpass others in virtue, as much as in rank, and by their humanity and condescension make their superiority easy and acceptable to those who are beneath them; and if, on the contrary, those who are in meaner posts of life, would consider how they may better their condition hereafter, and by a just deference and submission to their superiors, make them happy in those blessings with which Providence has thought fit to distinguish them.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 220. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1711.

*Rumourous scriit caries*VIRG. *Æn.* xii. ver. 228.

A thousand rumours spreads.

SIR,

Why will you apply to my father for my love? I cannot help it if he will give you my person; but I assure you it is not in his power, nor even in my own, to give you my heart. Dear sir, do but consider the ill consequence of such a match; you are fifty-five, I twenty-one. You are a man of business, and mightily conversant in arithmetic and making calculations; be pleased therefore to consider what proportion your spirits bear to mine; and when you have made a just estimate of the necessary decay on one side, and the redundancy on the other, you will act accordingly. This perhaps is such language as you may not expect from a young lady; but my happiness is at stake, and I must talk plainly. I mortally hate you; and so, as you and my father agree, you may take me or leave me; but if you will be so good as never to see me more, you will for ever oblige,

SIR,

Your most humble servant,

HENRIETTA.

MR. SPECTATOR,

There are so many artifices and modes of false wit, and such a variety of humour discovers itself among its vetricaries, that it would be impossible to exhaust so fertile a subject, if you would think fit to resume it. The following instances may, if you think fit, be added by way of appendix to your discourses on that subject ‡.

That feat of poetical activity mentioned by Horace, of an author who could compose two hundred verses while he stood upon one leg, has been imitated (as I have heard) by a modern writer; who, priding himself on the hurry of his invention,

* *Wisd. ch. v. 1-5.*† *Id. ch. v. 8-14.*

‡ See Nos. 58 and 63.

* *Ezechiridon, or Manual of the Stoic Philosophy, chap. 23.*

to small addition to his fame to have minated with the exact number of hours out him in the composition. He could aise till he had acquainted you in how of time he had deserved it; and was led to an ostentation of his art, as of :

" ——— *Accipe, si vis, tabulas; detur nobis locus, hora, videamus uter plus scribere possit.*"

HOR. Sat. iv. l. 1. ver. 14.

en and ink, and time, and place; let's try, write most, and fastest, you or I."

CREECH.

the whole of his ambition; and there- not but think the flights of this rapid proper to be opposed to those labors which you have observed were the German wits, and in which they so rid of such a tedious quantity of their

known a gentleman of another turn of o, despising the name of an author, d his works, but contracted his talent, help of a very fine diamond which he little finger, was a considerable poet

He had a very good epigrammatic re was not a parlour or tavern-window isited or dined for some years, which ive some sketches or memorials of it. isfortune at last to lose his genius and a sharper at play, and he has not at- take a verse since.

ll contractions or expedients for wit, I of an ingenious projector whose book

This virtuoso, being a mathematician, ng to his taste, thrown the art of poetry t problem, and contrived tables, by ne without knowing a word of gram- e, may to his great comfort, be able to rather to erect Latin verses*. His

kind of poetical logarithms, which be- into several squares, and all inscribed y incoherent words, appear to the eye ke a fortune-telling screen. What a be to the unlearned operator to find ords being carefully collected and writ er according to the problem, start of nto hexameter and pentameter verses?

f mine, who is a student in astrology, h this book, performed the operation, there set down; he showed his verses of his acquaintance who happened to Latin; and, being informed they de- mpest of wind, very luckily prefixed her with a translation, to an almanack : then printing, and was supposed to d the last great storm†.

the only improvement beyond this, at which the late Duke of Buckingham ‡ to a stupid pretender to poetry, as a Dutch mechanic, viz. a mill to make is being the most compendious method have yet been proposed, may deserve of our modern virtuosi who are em- new discoveries for the public good; be worth the while to consider, whether

les will be found printed at the end of a vo- d, 'The Curiosity; or, Gentleman and Lady's no. 1739.

r 26, 1703. The loss that London alone suc- ceeded 1,000,000 L. sterling.

illiers, author of *The Rehearsal*.

in an island where few are content without being thought wits, it will not be a common benefit, that wit as well as labour should be made cheap.

' I am, SIR,

' Your humble servant, &c.*'

' MR. SPECTATOR,

' I OFTEN dine at a gentleman's house where there are two young ladies, in themselves very agreeable, but very cold in their behaviour, because they understand me for a person that is to "break my mind," as the phrase is, very suddenly to one of them. But I take this way to acquaint them that I am not in love with either of them, in hopes they will use me with that agreeable freedom and in- difference which they do all the rest of the world, and not to drink to one another only, but some- times cast a kind look, with their service to,

' SIR,

' Your humble servant.'

' MR. SPECTATOR,

' I AM a young gentleman, and take it for a piece of good breeding to pull off my hat when I see any thing peculiarly charming in any woman, whether I know her or not. I take care that there is nothing ludicrous or arch in my manner, as if I were to betray a woman into a salutation by way of jest or humour; and yet except I am acquainted with her, I find she ever takes it for a rule, that she is to look upon this civility and homage I pay to her supposed merit, as an impertinence or forwardness which she is to observe and neglect. I wish, sir, you would settle the business of salutation; and please to inform me how I shall resist the sudden impulse I have to be civil to what gives an idea of merit; or tell these creatures how to behave themselves in return to the esteem I have for them. My affairs are such, that your decision will be a favour to me, if it be only to save the unnecessary expense of wearing out my hat so fast as I do at present.

' I am, SIR,

' Yours,

T. D.

' P. S. There are some that do know me, and won't bow to me.'

Nº 221, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1711.

— Ab ovo

Usque ad mala —

HOR. Sat. III. l. 1. ver. 6.

From eggs, which first are set upon the board,
To apples ripe, with which it last is stor'd.

WHEN I have finished any of my speculations, it is my method to consider which of the ancient authors have touched upon the subject that I treat of. By this means I meet with some celebrated thought upon it, or a thought of my own expressed in better words, or some similitude for the illustration of my subject. This is what gives birth to the motto of a speculation, which I rather choose to take out of the poets than the prose-writers, as the former generally give a finer turn to a thought than the latter, and by couching it in few words, and in harmonious numbers, make it more portable to the memory.

My reader is therefore sure to meet with at least

* This letter by Hughes.

one good line in every paper, and very often finds his imagination entertained by a hint that awakens in his memory some beautiful passage of a classic author.

It was a saying of an ancient philosopher, which I find some of our writers have ascribed to Queen Elizabeth, who perhaps might have taken occasion to repeat it, that a good face is a letter of recommendation. It naturally makes the beholders inquisitive into the person who is the owner of it, and generally prepossesses them in his favour. A handsome motto has the same effect. Besides that it always gives a supernumerary beauty to a paper, and is sometimes in a manner necessary, when the writer is engaged in what may appear a paradox to vulgar minds, as it shows that he is supported by good authorities, and is not singular in his opinion.

I must confess, the motto is of little use to an unlearned reader *, for which reason I consider it only as 'a word to the wise.' But as for my unlearned friends, if they cannot relish the motto, I take care to make provision for them in the body of my paper. If they do not understand the sign that is hung out, they know very well by it, that they may meet with entertainment in the house; and I think I was never better pleased than with a plain man's compliment, who, upon his friend's telling him that he would like the Spectator much better if he understood the motto, replied, that 'good wine needs no bush.'

I have heard of a couple of preachers in a country town, who endeavoured which should outshine one another, and draw together the greatest congregation. One of them, being well versed in the Fathers, used to quote every now and then a Latin sentence to his illiterate hearers, who, it seems, found themselves so edified by it, that they flocked in greater numbers to this learned man than to his rival. The other, finding his congregation mouldering every Sunday, and hearing at length what was the occasion of it, resolved to give his parish a little Latin in his turn; but being unacquainted with any of the Fathers, he digested into his sermons the whole book of *Quæ Genus*, adding, however, such explications to it as he thought might be for the benefit of his people. He afterwards entered upon *As in Presenti*, which he converted in the same manner to the use of his parishioners. This in a very little time thickened his audience, filled his church, and routed his antagonist.

The natural love to Latin, which is so prevalent in our common people, makes me think that my speculations fare never the worse among them for that little scrap which appears at the head of them; and what the more encourages me in the use of quotations in an unknown tongue, is, that I hear the ladies, whose approbation I value more than that of the whole learned world, declare themselves in a more particular manner pleased with my Greek motto.

Designing this day's work for a dissertation upon the two extremities of my paper, and having already dispatched my motto, I shall, in the next place, discourse upon those single capital letters, which are placed at the end of it, and which have afforded great matter of speculation to the curious. I have heard various conjectures upon this subject. Some tell us that C is the mark of those papers that are written by the clergyman, though others ascribe them to the club in general: that the papers marked with R were written by my friend Sir

* The mottoes were not originally accompanied by translations.

Roger: that L signifies the lawyer, whom I have described in my second speculation; and that T stands for the trader or merchant. But the letter X, which is placed at the end of some few of my papers, is that which has puzzled the whole town, as they cannot think of any name which begins with that letter, except Xenophon and Xerxes, who can neither of them be supposed to have had any hand in these speculations.

In answer to these inquisitive gentlemen, who have many of them made inquiries of me by letter, I must tell them the reply of an ancient philosopher, who carried something hidden under his cloak. A certain acquaintance desiring him to let him know what it was he covered so carefully; 'I cover it,' says he, 'on purpose that you should not know.' I have made use of these obscure marks for the same purpose. They are, perhaps, little amulets or charms to preserve the paper against the fascination and malice of evil eyes; for which reason I would not have my reader surprised, if hereafter he sees any of my papers marked with a Q, a Z, a Y, an &c. or with the word Abracadabra *.

I shall, however, so far explain myself to the reader, as to let him know that the letters C, L, and X, are cabalistical, and carry more in them than it is proper for the world to be acquainted with. Those who are versed in the philosophy of Pythagoras, and swear by the Tetractys, that is the number four, will know very well that the number ten, which is signified by the letter X (and which has so much perplexed the town) has in it many particular powers; that it is called by Platonic writers the complete number; that one, two, three, and four, put together, make up the number ten; and that ten is all. But these are not mysteries for ordinary readers to be let into. A man must have spent many years in hard study before he can arrive at the knowledge of them.

We had a rabbinical divine in England, who was chaplain to the Earl of Essex in Queen Elizabeth's time, that had an admirable head for secrets of this nature. Upon his taking the doctor of divinity's degree, he preached before the university of Cambridge, upon the first verse of the first chapter of the first book of Chronicles, 'in which,' says he, 'you have the three following words:

'Adam, Seth, Enosh.'

He divided this short text into many parts, and by discovering several mysteries in each word, made a most learned and elaborate discourse. The name of this profound preacher was Dr. Alabaster, of whom the reader may find a more particular account in Dr. Fuller's book of English Worthies. This instance will, I hope, convince my readers that there may be a great deal of fine writing in the capital letters which bring up the rear of my paper, and give them some satisfaction in that particular. But as for the full explication of these matters, I must refer them to time, which discovers all things †.

ADDISON.

C.

* An Hebrew word, superstitiously esteemed a charm or amulet. A particular account of this word will be found in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica.'

† In Steele's dedication of 'The Drummer' to Mr. Congreve, we find the following passage: 'The editor (of Addison's Works, in 4to. Mr. Thomas Tichell) will not let me at any body else obey Mr. Addison's commands, in doing any thing he desires should be concealed. The circumstance of marking *As Spectators* (which I did not know till I had done with the work) I made my own act; because I thought it too

EDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1711.

*ter fratrum cœsum, et ludere, at angli,
at Herodis palmatis pinguisbus*

MOR. Ep. II. l. 2. ver. 183.

two brothers, one his pleasure loves,
his sports to Herod's fragrant groves.
CREECH.

CTATOR,

One thing I have often looked for in
, and have as often wondered to find
pointed; the rather, because I think it
cry way agreeable to your design, and
it unattempted by others, it seems re-
proper employment for you; I mean a
from whence it proceeds that men of
t parts, and most comprehensive genius,
furnished with talents for any province
airs; such as by their wise lessons of
others have made it evident that they
steal notions of life, and of true sense
out of it——; from what unhappy
us cause it proceeds, that persons thus
nature and by art should so often fail
gement of that which they so well un-
d want the address to make a right
of their own rules. This is certainly a
nconsistency in behaviour, and makes
figure in morals, as a monstrous birth
with this difference only, which greatly
he wonder, that it happens much more
and what a blemish does it cast upon wit
in the general account of the world?
disadvantageous a light does it ex-
the busy class of mankind, that there
many instances of persons who have
d their lives in spite of these transcen-
ages, as neither to be happy in them-
selves to their friends; when every
was entirely in their own power to be
both these characters? For my part, I
is no reflection more astonishing, than
one of these gentlemen spending a fair
ning in every body's debt without the
ension of a future reckoning, and at
not only his own children, but possi-
other people, by his means, in starv-
stances; while a fellow, whom one
e suspect to have a human soul, shall
e a vast estate out of nothing, and be
of a family capable of being very con-
their country, and doing many illu-
s to it. That this observation is just,
has put beyond all dispute. But though
so evident and glaring, yet the causes
ill in the dark; which makes me per-
lf, that it would be no unacceptable
ertainment to the town, to inquire into
sources of so unaccountable an evil.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble servant.'

s correspondent wonders at, has been
miration ever since there was any such

bility in my friend, and thought it, since it
ter to be supposed marked by me than the
f, the real state of which this zealot rashly
exposes. I ask the reader, whether any thing
ness to disparage me could provoke the editor
Mr. Addison to say, that he marked it out of
at me, when I had taken upon me to say it was
out of tenderness to him.' It may be hence con-
Steele put the *fig* as a mark to distinguish
ers in the *Gazette*.

thing as human life. Horace reflects upon this in-
consistency very agreeably in the character of Ti-
gellius*, whom he makes a mighty pretender to
economy, and tells you, you might one day hear
him speak the most philosophic things imaginable
concerning being contented with a little, and his
contempt of every thing but mere necessities; and
in half a week after spend a thousand pounds. When
he says this of him with relation to expense, he de-
scribes him as unequal to himself in every other
circumstance of life. And indeed, if we consider
lavish men carefully, we shall find it always pro-
ceeds from a certain incapacity of possessing them-
selves, and finding enjoyment in their own minds.
Mr. Dryden has expressed this very excellently in
the character of Zimri †:

'A man so various, that he seem'd to be
Not one, but all mankind's epitome.
Stiff in opinion, always in the wrong;
Was every thing by starts, and nothing long;
But in the course of one revolving moon,
Was chymist, fiddler, statesman, and buffoon.
Then all for women, painting, rhyming, drinking,
Besides ten thousand freaks, that died in thinking;
Bless'd madman, who could every hour employ
In something new to wish, or to enjoy!
In squandering wealth was his peculiar art,
Nothing went unrewarded but desert.'

This loose state of the soul hurries the extrava-
gant from one pursuit to another; and the reason
that his expenses are greater than another's, is,
that his wants are also more numerous. But what
makes so many go on in this way to their lives'
end, is, that they certainly do not know how con-
temptible they are in the eyes of the rest of man-
kind, or rather, that indeed they are not so con-
temptible as they deserve. Tully says, it is the
greatest of wickedness to lessen your paternal estate.
And if a man would thoroughly consider how
much worse than banishment it must be to his
child, to ride by the estate which should have been
his had it not been for his father's injustice to him,
he would be smitten with the reflection more
deeply than can be understood by any but one who
is a father. Sure there can be nothing more af-
flicting, than to think it had been happier for his
son to have been born of any other man living than
himself.

It is not perhaps much thought of, but it is cer-
tainly a very important lesson, to learn how to
enjoy ordinary life, and to be able to relish your
being without the transport of some passion, or
gratification of some appetite. For want of this
capacity, the world is filled with whetters, tipplers,
cutters, sippers, and all the numerous train of
those who, for want of thinking, are forced to be
ever exercising their feeling, or tasting. It would
be hard on this occasion to mention the harmless
smokers of tobacco, and takers of snuff.

The slower part of mankind, whom my corre-
spondent wonders should get estates, are the more
immediately formed for that pursuit. They can
expect distant things without impatience, because
they are not carried out of their way either by
violent passion, or keen appetite to any thing. To
men addicted to delights, business is an interrup-
tion; to such as are cold to delights, business is an
entertainment. For which reason it was said to
one who commended a dull man for his applica-
tion, 'No thanks to him; if he had no business, he
would have nothing to do.'

STEELE.

T.

* Hor. Sat. III. lib. 1.

† Intended to characterize the Duke of Buckingham.

N° 223. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1711.

*O suavis anima! qualem te dicam bonam
Amphac fuisse, tales cum sint reliquis!*
PHÆDR. Fab. i. l. 3. ver. 5.

O sweet soul! how good must you have been heretofore,
when your remains are so delicious!

WHEN I reflect upon the various fate of those multitudes of ancient writers who flourished in Greece and Italy, I consider time as an immense ocean, in which many noble authors are entirely swallowed up, many very much shattered and damaged, some quite disjointed and broken into pieces, while some have wholly escaped the common wreck; but the number of the last is very small.

'Apparent rari nantes in gurgite vasto.'
VIRG. ÆN. l. ver. 122.

'One here and there floats on the vast abyss.'

Among the mutilated poets of antiquity there is none whose fragments are so beautiful as those of Sappho. They give us a taste of her way of writing, which is perfectly conformable with that extraordinary character we find of her in the remarks of those great critics who were conversant with her works when they were entire. One may see by what is left of them, that she followed nature in all her thoughts, without descending to those little points, conceits, and turns of wit with which many of our modern lyrics are so miserably infected. Her soul seems to have been made up of love and poetry. She felt the passion in all its warmth, and described it in all its symptoms. She is called by ancient authors the tenth muse; and by Plutarch is compared to Cacus the son of Vulcan, who breathed out nothing but flame. I do not know by the character that is given of her works, whether it is not for the benefit of mankind that they are lost. They are filled with such bewitching tenderness and rapture, that it might have been dangerous to have given them a reading.

An inconstant lover called Phæon, occasioned great calamities to this poetical lady. She fell desperately in love with him, and took a voyage into Sicily, in pursuit of him, he having withdrawn himself thither on purpose to avoid her. It was in that island, and on this occasion, she is supposed to have made the hymn to Venus, with a translation of which I shall present my reader. Her hymn was ineffectual for procuring that happiness which she prayed for in it. Phæon was still obdurate, and Sappho so transported with the violence of her passion, that she was resolved to get rid of it at any price.

There was a promontory in Acarnania called Leucate, on the top of which was a little temple dedicated to Apollo. In this temple it was usual for despairing lovers to make their vows in secret, and afterwards to fling themselves from the top of the precipice into the sea, where they were sometimes taken up alive. This place was therefore called, The Lover's Leap; and whether or no the fright they had been in, or the resolution that could push them to so dreadful a remedy, or the bruises which they often received in their fall, banished all the tender sentiments of love, and gave their spirits another turn; those who had taken this leap were observed never to relapse into that passion. Sappho tried the cure, but perished in the experiment.

After having given this short account of Sappho,

so far as it regards the following Ode, I shall subjoin the translation of it as it was sent me by a friend*, whose admirable pastorals and winter-piece have been already so well received. The reader will find in it that pathetic simplicity which is so peculiar to him, and so suitable to the ode he has here translated. This ode in the Greek (besides those beauties observed by Madam Dacier) has several harmonious turns in the words, which are not lost in the English. I must further add, that the translation has preserved every image and sentiment of Sappho, notwithstanding it has all the ease and spirit of an original. In a word, if the ladies have a mind to know the manner of writing practised by the so much celebrated Sappho, they may here see it in its genuine and natural beauty, without any foreign or affected ornaments.

AN HYMN TO VENUS.

'O Venus, beauty of the skies,
To whom a thousand temples rise,
Gaily false in gentle smiles,
Full of love-perplexing wiles;
O goddess! from my heart remove
The wasting cares and pains of love.

'If ever thou hast kindly heard
A song in soft distress prefer'd,
Propitious to my tuneful vow,
O gentle goddess! hear me now.
Descend, thou bright, immortal guest,
In all thy radiant charms confest.

'Thou once didst leave almighty Jove,
And all the golden roofs above;
The car thy wanton sparrows drew,
Hov'ring in air they lightly flew;
As to my bower they wing'd their way,
I saw their quivering pinions play.

'The birds dismiss'd (while you remain)
Bore back their empty car again:
Then you, with looks divinely mild,
In ev'ry heav'nly feature smil'd,
And ask'd what new complaints I made,
And why I call'd you to my aid?

'What frenzy in my bosom rag'd,
And by what cure to be assuag'd?
What gentle youth I would allure,
Whom in my artful toils secure?
Who does thy tender heart subdue,
Tell me, my Sappho, tell me who!

'Tho' now he shuns thy longing arms,
He soon shall court thy slighted charms;
Tho' now thy off'rings he despise,
He soon to these shall sacrifice;
Tho' now he freeze, he soon shall burn,
And be thy victim in his turn.

'Celestial visitant, once more
Thy needful presence I implore!
In pity come, and ease my grief,
Bring my distemper'd soul relief,
Favour thy suppliant's hidden fires,
And give me all my heart desires.'

Madam Dacier observes, there is something very pretty in that circumstance of this ode, wherein Venus is described as sending away her chariot upon her arrival at Sappho's lodgings, to denote that it was not a short transient visit which she intended to make her. This ode was preserved by an eminent Greek critic†, who inserted it entire in his works, as a pattern of perfection in the structure of it.

Longinus has quoted another ode of this great poetess, which is likewise admirable in its kind, and has been translated by the same hand with the foregoing one. I shall oblige my reader with it

* Ambrose Phillips.

† Dionysius of Halicarnassus, de Structura Oratorum.

paper*. In the meanwhile, I cannot but think that these two finished pieces have attempted before by any of our own. But the truth of it is, the compositions, which have not in them any natural witticisms that are the delight of readers, are extremely difficult to render in another tongue, so as the beauties of the original do not appear weak and faded in the

C.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1711.

*ante trahit constrictos gloria curru
is ignotos generosis*

HOR. Sat. vi. l. 1. ver. 23.

's shining chariot swiftly draws
I whirl the noble and the base.

CREECH.

abroad upon the great multitude of men, endeavour to trace out the principle in every individual, it will, I think, be probable that ambition runs through all species, and that every man in proportion to his complexion is more or less of it. It is indeed no uncommon thing to see, who, by the natural bent of their mind and without the discipline of philosophy, not to the heights of power and grandeur set their hearts upon a numerous number of dependencies, nor other way of greatness; who are contented with ease, and will not molest their tranquillity in abundance. But it is not therefore to be deduced that such a man is not ambitious; they may have cut out another channel, and aim at other pursuits; the motive however is still the same; and in these cases like ambition may be equally pushed on with the distinction.

The pure consciousness of worthy actions, from the views of popular applause, becomes to the mind an ample reward, yet the decoration was doubtless implanted in our nature as an additional incentive to exert our utmost excellence.

It is, indeed, like all others, is frequently abused to evil and ignoble purposes; so that we may find for many of the excellencies and follies upon the same innate principle, to wit, the desire of being remarkable: for this, as it has been justly cultivated by education, study, and industry, it brings forth suitable effects, as it falls into a generous disposition, or a corrupt mind. It may accordingly express itself in acts of magnanimity, or selfish cunning, as it meets with a good or bad understanding. As it has been seen embellishing the mind, or adorning the person, it renders the man eminently praiseworthy. Ambition therefore is not to be ascribed to one passion or pursuit; for as the human mind is in constitutions otherwise different, it may be directed after different manners, so the same principle within us, sometimes breaks forth in one object, sometimes upon another, and may be doubted, but that there is as great a variety in a ring of wrestlers or cudgelmen as in any other more refined competition. No man that could avoid it, would

ever suffer his head to be broken but out of a principle of honour. This is the secret spring that pushes them forward; and the superiority which they gain above the undistinguished many, does more than repair those wounds they have received in the combat. It is Mr. Waller's opinion, that Julius Cæsar, had he not been master of the Roman empire, would in all probability have made an excellent wrestler:

'Great Julius on the mountains bred,
A flock perhaps or herd had led;
He that the world subdu'd had been
But the best wrestler on the green.'

That he subdued the world, was owing to the accidents of art and knowledge; had he not met with those advantages, the same sparks of emulation would have kindled within him, and prompted him to distinguish himself in some enterprise of a lower nature. Since therefore no man's lot is so unalterably fixed in this life, but that a thousand accidents may either forward or disappoint his advancement, it is, methinks, a pleasant and inoffensive speculation, to consider a great man as divested of all the adventitious circumstances of fortune, and to bring him down in one's imagination to that low station of life, the nature of which bears some distant resemblance to that high one he is at present possessed of. Thus one may view him exercising in miniature those talents of nature, which being drawn out by education to their full length, enable him for the discharge of some important employment. On the other hand, one may raise uneducated merit to such a pitch of greatness as may seem equal to the possible extent of his improved capacity.

Thus nature furnishes a man with a general appetite of glory, education determines it to this or that particular object. The desire of distinction is not, I think, in any instance more observable than in the variety of outbids and new appearances, which the modish part of the world are obliged to provide, in order to make themselves remarkable; for any thing glaring and particular, either in behaviour or apparel, is known to have this good effect, that it catches the eye, and will not suffer you to pass over the person so adorned without due notice and observation. It has likewise, upon this account, been frequently resented as a very great slight, to leave any gentleman out of a lampoon or satire, who has as much right to be there as his neighbour, because it supposes the person not eminent enough to be taken notice of. To this passionate fondness for distinction are owing various frolicsome and irregular practices, as saluting out into nocturnal exploits, breaking of windows, singing of catches, beating the watch, getting drunk twice a day, killing a great number of horses; with many other enterprises of the like fiery nature: for certainly many a man is more rakish and extravagant than he would willingly be, were there not others to look on, and give their approbation.

One very common, and at the same time the most absurd ambition that ever showed itself in human nature, is that which comes upon a man with experience and old age, the season when it might be expected he should be wisest; and therefore it cannot receive any of those lessening circumstances which do, in some measure, excuse the disorderly ferments of youthful blood: I mean the passion for getting money, exclusive of the character of the provident father, the affectionate husband, or the generous friend. It may be remarked,

* See N^o 229.

for the comfort of honest poverty, that this desire reigns most in those who have but few good qualities to recommend them. This is a weed that will grow in a barren soil. Humanity, good nature, and the advantages of a liberal education, are incompatible with avarice. It is strange to see how suddenly this abject passion kills all the noble sentiments and generous ambitions that adorn human nature; it renders the man who is overrun with it a peevish and cruel master, a severe parent, an unsociable husband, a distant and mistrustful friend. But it is more to the present purpose to consider it as an absurd passion of the heart, rather than as a vicious affection of the mind. As there are frequent instances to be met with of a proud humility, so this passion, contrary to most others, affects applause, by avoiding all show and appearance; for this reason it will not sometimes endure even the common decencies of apparel. 'A covetous man will call himself poor, that you may sooth his vanity by contradicting him.' Love and the desire of glory, as they are the most natural, so they are capable of being refined into the most delicate and rational passions. It is true, the wise man who strikes out of the secret paths of a private life, for honour and dignity, allured by the splendour of a court, and the unfeigned weight of public employment, whether he succeeds in his attempts or no, usually comes near enough to this painted greatness to discern the dawning; he is then desirous of extricating himself out of the hurry of life, that he may pass away the remainder of his days in tranquillity and retirement.

It may be thought then but common prudence in a man not to change a better state for a worse, nor ever to quit that which he knows he shall take up again with pleasure; and yet if human life be not a little moved with the gentle gales of hope and fear, there may be some danger of its stagnating in an unmanly indolence and security. It is a known story of Domitian, that after he had possessed himself of the Roman empire, his desires turned upon catching flies. Active and masculine spirits in the vigour of youth neither can nor ought to remain at rest. If they debar themselves from aiming at a noble object, their desires will move downwards, and they will feel themselves actuated by some low and abject passion. Thus if you cut off the top branches of a tree, and will not suffer it to grow any higher, it will not therefore cease to grow, but will quickly shoot out at the bottom. The man indeed who goes into the world only with the narrow views of self-interest, who catches at the applause of an idle multitude, as he can find no solid contentment at the end of his journey, so he deserves to meet with disappointments in his way: but he who is actuated by a noble principle; whose mind is so far enlarged as to take in the prospect of his country's good; who is enamoured with that praise which is one of the fair attendants of virtue, and values not those acclamations which are not seconded by the impartial testimony of his own mind; who repines not at the low station which Providence has at present allotted him, but yet would willingly advance himself by justifiable means to a more rising and advantageous ground; such a man is warmed with a generous emulation; it is a virtuous movement in him to wish and to endeavour that his power of doing good may be equal to his will.

The man who is fitted out by nature, and sent into the world with great abilities, is capable of doing great good or mischief in it. It ought therefore to be the care of education to infuse

into the untainted youth early notions of justice and honour, that so the possible advantages of good parts may not take an evil turn, nor be perverted to base and unworthy purposes. It is the business of religion and philosophy not so much to extinguish our passions, as to regulate and direct them to valuable well-chosen objects. When these have pointed out to us which course we may lawfully steer, it is no harm to set out all our sail: if the storms and tempests of adversity should rise upon us, and not suffer us to make the haven where we would be, it will however prove no small consolation to us in these circumstances, that we have neither mistaken our course, nor fallen into calamities of our own procuring.

Religion therefore (were we to consider it no further than as it interposes in the affairs of this life) is highly valuable, and worthy of great veneration; as it settles the various pretensions, and otherwise interfering interests of mortal men, and thereby consults the harmony and order of the great community; as it gives a man room to play his part, and exert his abilities; as it animates to actions truly laudable in themselves, in their effects beneficial to society; as it inspires rational ambition, correct love, and elegant desire.

NOVEMBER.

2

Nº 225. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1711.

Nullum munus abest ei sit prudentia.—

JUV. Sat. x. ver. 363.

Prudence supplies the want of every god.

I HAVE often thought if the minds of men were laid open, we should see but little difference between that of the wise man and that of the fool. There are infinite reveries, numberless extravagancies, and a perpetual train of vanities which pass through both. The great difference is, that the first knows how to pick and cull his thoughts for conversation, by suppressing some, and communicating others; whereas the other lets them all indifferently fly out in words. This sort of discretion, however, has no place in private conversation between intimate friends. On such occasions the wisest men very often talk like the weakest; for indeed the talking with a friend is nothing else but thinking aloud.

Tully has therefore very justly exposed a precept delivered by some ancient writers, that a man should live with his enemy in such a manner, as might leave him room to become his friend; and with his friend in such a manner, that if he became his enemy, it should not be in his power to hurt him. The first part of this rule, which regards our behaviour towards an enemy, is indeed very reasonable, as well as very prudential; but the latter part of it, which regards our behaviour towards a friend, savours more of cunning than of discretion, and would cut a man off from the greatest pleasures of life, which are the freedoms of conversation with a bosom friend. Besides that when a friend is turned into an enemy, and as the son of Sirach calls him, 'a bewrayer of secrets,' the world is just enough to accuse the perfidiousness of the friend, rather than the indiscretion of the person who confided in him.

Discretion does not only show itself in words, but in all the circumstances of action, and is like

ent of Providence, to guide and direct
linary concerns of life.

many more shining qualities in the
n, but there is none so useful as discre-
is indeed, which gives a value to all the
sets them at work in their proper times
and turns them to the advantage of the
is possessed of them. Without it,
pedantry, and wit impertinence; vir-
oks like weakness; the best parts only
an to be more sprightly in errors, and
own prejudice.

discretion only make a man the master
arts, but of other men's. The discreet
t the talent of those he converses with,
how to apply them to proper uses.
, if we look into particular commu-
visions of men, we may observe, that
rect man, not the witty, nor the learn-
brave, who guides the conversation,
esures to the society. A man with
, but void of discretion, is like Poly-
e fable, strong and blind, endued with
e force, which for want of sight is of
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man has all other perfections, and
tion, he will be of no great conse-
e world; but if he has this single in-
taction, and but a common share of
y do what he pleases in his particular
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me time that I think discretion the
alent a man can be master of, I look
g to be the accomplishment of little,
nerous minds. Discretion points out
nds to us, and pursues the most proper
e methods of attaining them. Cunning
rate selfish aims, and sticks at nothing
make them succeed. Discretion has
ended views, and, like a well-formed
nds a whole horizon. Cunning is a
t-sightedness, that discovers the mis-
s which are near at hand, but is not
rn things at a distance. Discretion,
is discovered, gives a greater autho-
rison who possesses it. Cunning, when
ected, loses its force, and makes a man
bringing about even those events which
e done, had he passed only for a plain
ation is the perfection of reason, and
in all the duties of life: cunning is a
net, that only looks out after our im-
rest and welfare. Discretion is only
n of strong sense and good under-
nning is often to be met with in brutes
nd in persons who are but the fewest
them. In short, cunning is only the
cretion, and may pass upon weak
same manner as vivacity is often mis-
t, and gravity for wisdom.

f mind which is natural to a discreet
him look forward into futurity, and
t will be his condition millions of ages
ll as what it is at present. He knows
ry or happiness which are reserved for
er world, lose nothing of their reality
ced at so great a distance from him.

do not appear little to him because
etc. He considers that those pleasures
which lie hid in eternity, approach
in every moment, and will be present
their full weight and measure, as much
as pleasures which he feels at this
. For this reason he is careful to se-

cure to himself that which is the proper happiness
of his nature, and the ultimate design of his being.
He carries his thoughts to the end of every action,
and considers the most distant as well as the most
immediate effects of it. He supercedes every little
prospect of gain and advantage which offers itself
here, if he does not find it consistent with his views
of an hereafter. In a word, his hopes are full of
immortality, his schemes are large and glorious,
and his conduct suitable to one who knows his true
interest, and how to pursue it by proper methods.

I have, in this essay upon discretion, considered
it both as an accomplishment and as a virtue, and
have therefore described it in its full extent; not
only as it is conversant about worldly affairs, but
as it regards our whole existence; not only as it is
the guide of a mortal creature, but as it is in ge-
neral the director of a reasonable being. It is in
this light that discretion is represented by the wise
man, who sometimes mentions it under the name of
discretion, and sometimes under that of wisdom.
It is indeed (as described in the latter part of this
paper) the greatest wisdom, but at the same time
in the power of every one to attain. Its advan-
tages are infinite, but its acquisition easy; or to
speak of her in the words of the apocryphal writer
whom I quoted in my last Saturday's paper*,
'Wisdom is glorious, and never fadeth away, yet
she is easily seen of them that love her, and found
of such as seek her. She preventeth them that de-
sire her, in making herself first known unto them.
He that seeketh her early, shall have no great tra-
vel: for he shall find her sitting at his doors.
To think therefore upon her is the perfection of wis-
dom, and whose watcheth for her shall quickly be
without care. For she goeth about seeking such
as are worthy of her, sheweth herself favourably
unto them in the ways, and meeteth them in every
thought.'

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 226. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1711.

Mutum est pictura poema.

A picture is a poem without words.

I HAVE very often lamented and hinted my sorrow
in several speculations, that the art of painting is
made so little use of to the improvement of our
manners. When we consider that it places the ac-
tion of the person represented in the most agree-
able aspect imaginable, that it does not only ex-
press the passion or concern as it sits upon him
who is drawn, but has under those features the
height of the painter's imagination, what strong
images of virtue and humanity might we not expect
would be instilled into the mind from the labours
of the pencil? There is a poetry which would be
understood with much less capacity, and less ex-
pense of time, than what is taught by writings;
but the use of it is generally perverted, and that
admirable skill prostituted to the basest and most
unworthy ends. Who is the better man for be-
holding the most beautiful Venus, the best wrought
Bacchanal, the images of sleeping Cupids, languish-
ing nymphs, or any of the representations of gods,
goddesses, demi-gods, satyrs, Polyphemos, sphynxes,
or fawns? But if the virtues and vices, which are
sometimes pretended to be represented under such
draughts, were given us by the painter in the cha-

* Wisdom of Solomon, ch. vi. 12—16.

acters of real life, and the persons of men and women, whose actions have rendered them laudable or infamous; we should not see a good history-piece without receiving an instructive lecture. There needs no other proof of this truth, than the testimony of every reasonable creature who has seen the cartoons in her majesty's gallery at Hampton-court. These are representations of no less actions than those of our blessed Saviour and his apostles. As I now sit and recollect the warm images which the admirable Raphael has raised, it is impossible even from the faint traces in one's memory of what one has not seen these two years, to be unmoved at the horror and reverence which appear in the whole assembly when the mercenary man fell down dead; at the amazement of the man born blind, when he first receives sight; or at the graceless indignation of the sorcerer when he is struck blind. The lame when they first find strength in their feet, stand doubtful of their new vigour. The heavenly apostles appear acting these great things, with a deep sense of the infirmities which they relieve, but no value of themselves who administer to their weakness. They know themselves to be but instruments; and the generous distress they are painted in when divine honours are offered to them, is a representation in the most exquisite degree of the beauty of holiness. When St. Paul is preaching to the Athenians, with what wonderful art are almost all the different tempers of mankind represented in that elegant audience? You see one credulous of all that is said; another wrapt up in deep suspense; another saying, there is some reason in what he says; another angry that the apostle destroys a favourite opinion which he is unwilling to give up; another wholly convinced, and holding out his hands in rapture; while the generality attend, and wait for the opinion of those who are of leading characters in the assembly. I will not pretend so much as to mention that chart on which is drawn the appearance of our blessed Lord after his resurrection. Present authority, late sufferings, humility and majesty, despotic command, and divine love, are at once seated in his celestial aspect. The figures of the eleven apostles are all in the same passion of admiration, but discover it differently according to their characters. Peter receives his Master's orders on his knees with an admiration mixed with a more particular attention: the two next with a more open ecstasy, though still constrained by the awe of the divine presence. The beloved disciple, whom I take to be the right of the two first figures, has in his countenance wonder drowned in love; and the last personage, whose back is towards the spectators, and his side towards the presence, one would fancy to be St. Thomas, as abashed by the conscience of his former diffidence; which perplexed concern it is possible Raphael thought too hard a task to draw, but by this acknowledgment of the difficulty to describe it.

The whole work is an exercise of the highest piety in the painter; and all the touches of a religious mind are expressed in a manner much more forcible than can possibly be performed by the most moving eloquence. These invaluable pieces are very justly in the hands of the greatest and most pious sovereign in the world; and cannot be the frequent object of every one at their own leisure: but as an engraver is to the painter what a printer is to an author, it is worthy her majesty's name, that she has encouraged that noble artist Monsieur Doriguy, to publish these works of Ra-

phael*. We have of this gentleman a piece of transfiguration, which I think is held a work second to none in the world.

Methinks it would be ridiculous in our people of condition, after their large bounties to foreigners of no name or merit, should they overlook this occasion of having, for a trifling subscription, a work which it is impossible for a man of sense to behold, without being warmed with the noblest sentiments that can be inspired by love, admiration, compassion, contempt of this world, and expectation of a better.

It is certainly the greatest honour we can do our country, to distinguish strangers of merit who apply to us with modesty and diffidence, which generally accompanies merit. No opportunity of this kind ought to be neglected; and a modest behaviour should alarm us to examine whether we do not lose something excellent under that disadvantage in the possessor of that quality. My skill in paintings, where one is not directed by the passion of the pictures, is so inconsiderable, that I am in very great perplexity when I offer to speak of any performances of painters of landscapes, buildings, or single figures. This makes me at a loss how to mention the pieces which Mr. Boul exposes to sale by auction on Wednesday next in Chandos-street: but having heard him commended by those who have bought of him heretofore for great integrity in his dealing, and overheard him himself (though a laudable painter) say, nothing of his own was fit to come into the room with those he had to sell, I feared I should lose an occasion of serving a man of worth, in omitting to speak of his auction.

STEELE.

T.

ADVERTISEMENT.

There is arrived from Italy a painter, who acknowledges himself the greatest master of the age in that art, and is willing to be as renowned in this island, as he declares he is in foreign parts. The doctor paints the poor for nothing.

Nº 227. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1711.

Ω μαι τω τῷ παθῶν; τὸ δὲ θυσιάζει; αὐτῇ ὑπομένει;
Ταῖς βασιταῖς ἀποδύς τις κυμάλῃ τῶν ἀντιμαῖ
Ἐπὶ τῶς θυσιᾶς σπονδίαζέτω Ὀλυσὶς δ' ἡγεμῆς
Κῆτος μὴ ἀποθάνῃ, το γὰρ μὲν τῶν ἀντιμαῖ ἐπὶ τῶν ἀντιμαῖ.

THEOCR.

In my last Thursday's paper*, I made mention of a place called The Lover's Leap, which I find has raised a great curiosity among several of my correspondents. I there told them, that this leap was used to be taken from a promontory of Leucas. This Leucas was formerly a part of Acarnania, being joined to it by a narrow neck of land, which the sea has by length of time overflowed and washed away; so that at present Leucas is divided from the continent, and is a little island in the Ionian sea. The promontory of this island, from whence the lover took his leap, was formerly called Leucate. If the reader has a mind to know both the island and the promontory by their modern titles, he will find in his map the ancient island of Leucas under the name of St. Mauro, and the an-

* This paper was intended by Steele to promote a proposed subscription to enable Signor Nicola Doriguy (who had been invited from Rome) to copy and engrave the cartoons of Raphael.

cient promontory of Leucate under the name of The Cape of St. Mauro.

Since I am engaged thus far in antiquity, I must observe, that Theocritus, in the motto prefixed to my paper, describes one of his despairing shepherds addressing himself to his mistress after the following manner: 'Alas! what will become of me! wretch that I am! Will you not hear me? I'll throw off my clothes, and take a leap into that part of the sea which is so much frequented by Olpis the fisherman. And though I should escape with my life, I know you will be pleased with it.' I shall leave it with the critics to determine whether the place, which this shepherd so particularly points out, was not the above-mentioned Leucate, or at least some other lover's leap, which was supposed to have had the same effect. I cannot believe, as all the interpreters do, that the shepherd means nothing further here than that he would drown himself, since he represents the issue of his leap as doubtful, by adding, that if he should escape with life, he knows his mistress would be pleased with it: which is according to our interpretation, that she would rejoice any way to get rid of a lover who was so troublesome to her.

After this short preface, I shall present my reader with some letters which I have received upon this subject. The first is sent me by a physician.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'The Lover's Leap, which you mention in your 223d paper, was generally, I believe, a very effectual cure for love, and not only for love, but for all other evils. In short, sir, I am afraid it was such a leap as that which Hero took to get rid of her passion for Leander. A man is in no danger of breaking his heart, who breaks his neck to prevent it. I know very well the wonders which ancient authors relate concerning this leap; and in particular, that very many persons who tried it, escaped not only with their lives but their limbs. If by this means they got rid of their love, though it may in part be ascribed to the reasons you give for it; why may not we suppose that the cold bath into which they plunged themselves, had also some share in their cure? A leap into the sea, or into any creek of salt waters, very often gives a new motion to the spirits, and a new turn to the blood; for which reason we prescribe it in distempers which no other medicine will reach. I could produce a quotation out of a very venerable author, in which the frenzy produced by love, is compared to that which is produced by the biting of a mad dog. But as this comparison is a little too coarse for your paper, and might look as if it were cited to ridicule the author who has made use of it; I shall only hint at it, and desire you to consider whether, if the frenzy produced by these two different causes be of the same nature, it may not very properly be cured by the same means.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble servant,

'and well-wisher,

'ÆSCULAPIUS.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I am a young woman crossed in love. My story is very long and melancholy. To give you the heads of it. A young gentleman, after having made his applications to me for three years together, and filled my head with a thousand dreams of happiness, some few days since married another. Pray tell me in what part of the world your promontory lies, which you call The Lover's Leap, and

whether one may go to it by land? But alas! I am afraid it has lost its virtue, and that a woman of our times would find no more relief in taking such a leap, than in singing an hymn to Venus*. So that I must cry out with Dido in Dryden's Virgil:

"Ah! cruel heav'n, that made no cure for love!"

'Your disconsolate servant,

'ATHENIAS.'

'MISTER SPICATATUR.

'My heart is so full of loves and passions for Mrs. Gwinifrid, and she is so peevish and overrun with cholers against me, that if I had the good happiness to have my dwelling (which is placed by my great-grandfather upon the pottom of an hill) no further distance but twenty mile from the Lofers Leap, I would indeed endeavour to break my neck upon it on purpose. Now, good Mister Spicatatur of Crete Pritain, you must know it, there is in Caernarvonshire a very pig mountain, the clory of all Wales, which is named Penmainmaure, and you must also know, it is no great journey on foot from me; but the road is stony and bad for shoes. Now, there is upon the forehead of this mountain a very high rock (like a parish steeple), that cometh a' huge deal over the sea; so when I am in my melancholies, and I do throw myself from it, I do desire my very good friend to tell me in his Spicatatur, if I shall be cure of my grieved loves; for there is the sea clear as glass, and as green as the leek. Then likewise if I be drown and break my neck, if Mrs. Gwinifrid will not love me afterwards. Pray be speedy in your answers, for I am in crete haste, and it is my tesires to do my business without loss of time. I remain with cordial affections, your ever loving friend,

'DAVYTH AP SHENKYN.

'P. S. My law-suits have brought me to London, but I have lost my causes; and so have made my resolutions to go down and leap before the frosts begin; for I am apt to take colds.'

Ridicule, perhaps, is a better expedient against love than sober advice; and I am of opinion, that Hudibras and Don Quixote may be as effectual to cure the extravagancies of this passion, as any of the old philosophers. I shall therefore publish very speedily the translation of a little Greek manuscript, which is sent me by a learned friend. It appears to have been a piece of those records which were kept in the temple of Apollo, that stood upon the promontory of Leucate. The reader will find it to be a summary account of several persons who tried the Lover's Leap, and of the success they found in it. As there seem to be in it some anachronisms, and deviations from the ancient orthography, I am not wholly satisfied myself that it is authentic, and not rather the production of one of those Grecian sophisters, who have imposed upon the world several spurious works of this nature. I speak this by way of precaution, because I know there are several writers of uncommon erudition, who would not fail to expose my ignorance, if they caught me tripping in a matter of so great moment.

ADDISON.

C

* See No 223. The Hymn to Venus.

N° 233. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1711.

Percunctatorem fugito, nam garrulus idem est.
HOR. Ep. xviii. l. i. ver. 69.

Shun the inquisitive and curious man;
For what he hears he will relate again.
POOLY.

THERE is a creature who has all the organs of speech, a tolerable good capacity for conceiving what is said to it, together with a pretty proper behaviour in all the occurrences of common life; but naturally very vacant of thought in itself, and therefore forced to apply itself to foreign assistances. Of this make is that man who is very inquisitive. You may often observe, that though he speaks as good sense as any man upon any thing with which he is well acquainted, he cannot trust to the range of his own fancy to entertain himself upon that foundation, but goes on still to new inquiries. Thus, though you know he is fit for the most polite conversation, you shall see him very well contented to sit by a jockey, giving an account of the many revolutions in his horse's health, what potion he made him take, how that agreed with him, how afterwards he came to his stomach and his exercise, or any the like impertinence; and be as well pleased as if you talked to him on the most important truths. This humour is far from making a man unhappy, though it may subject him to railery; for he generally falls in with a person who seems to be born for him, which is your talkative fellow. It is so ordered, that there is a secret bent, as natural as the meeting of different sexes, in these two characters, to supply each other's wants. I had the honour the other day to sit in a public room, and saw an inquisitive man look with an air of satisfaction upon the approach of one of these talkers. The man of ready utterance sat down by him, and rubbing his head, leaning on his arm, and making an uneasy countenance, he began; 'There is no manner of news to-day. I cannot tell what is the matter with me, but I slept very ill last night; whether I caught cold or no, I know not, but I fancy I do not wear shoes thick enough for the weather, and I have coughed all this week. It must be so, for the custom of washing my head winter and summer with cold water, prevents any injury from the season entering that way; so it must come in at my feet; but I take no notice of it; as it comes so it goes. Most of our evils proceed from too much tenderness; and our faces are naturally as little able to resist the cold as other parts. The Indian answered very well to an European, who asked him how he could go naked; "I am all face."

I observed this discourse was as welcome to my general inquirer as any other of more consequence could have been; but somebody calling our talker to another part of the room, the inquirer told the next man who sat by him, that Mr. Such-a-one, who was just gone from him, used to wash his head in cold water every morning; and so repeated almost verbatim all that had been said to him. The truth is, the inquisitive are the funnels of conversation; they do not take in any thing for their own use, but merely to pass it to another. They are the channels through which all the good and evil that is spoken in town are conveyed. Such as are offended at them, or think they suffer by their behaviour, may themselves mend that inconvenience; for they are not a malicious people, and if you

will supply them, you may contradict any thing they have said before by their own mouths. A further account of a thing is one of the gratefullest goods that can arrive to them; and it is seldom that they are more particular than to say, 'The town will have it, for I have it from a good hand;' so that there is room for the town to know the matter more particularly, and for a better hand to contradict what was said by a good one.

I have not known this humour more ridiculous than in a father, who has been earnestly solicitous to have an account how his son has passed his leisure hours; if it be in a way thoroughly insignificant, there cannot be a greater joy than an inquirer discovers in seeing him follow so hopefully his own steps. But this humour among men is most pleasant when they are saying something which is not wholly proper for a third person to hear, and yet is in itself indifferent. The other day there came in a well-dressed young fellow, and two gentlemen of this species immediately fell a whispering his pedigree. I could overhear, by breaks, 'She was his aunt;' then an answer, 'Ay, she was of the mother's side;' then again in a little lower voice, 'His father wore generally a darker wig.' Answer, 'Not much, but this gentleman wears higher heels to his shoes.'

As the inquisitive, in my opinion, are such merely from a vacancy in their own imaginations, there is nothing, methinks, so dangerous as to communicate secrets to them; for the same temper of inquiry makes them as impertinently communicative: but no man, though he converses with them, need put himself in their power, for they will be contented with matters of less moment as well. When there is fuel enough, no matter what it is.—Then the ends of sentences in the news-papers, as, 'This wants confirmation,'—'This occasions many speculations,'—and 'Time will discover the event,' are read by them, and considered not as mere expletives.

One may see now and then this humour accompanied with an insatiable desire of knowing what passes, without turning it to any use in the world but merely their own entertainment. A mind which is gratified this way is adapted to humour and pleasantry, and formed for an unconcerned character in the world; and, like myself to be a mere Spectator. This curiosity, without malice or self-interest, lays up in the imagination a magazine of circumstances which cannot but entertain when they are produced in conversation. If one were to know, from the man of the first quality to the meanest servant, the different intrigues, sentiments, pleasures, and interests of mankind, would it not be the most pleasing entertainment imaginable to enjoy so constant a farce, as the observing mankind much more different from themselves in their secret thoughts and public actions, than in their night-caps and long periwigs?

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'PLUTARCH tells us, that Caius Gracchus, the Roman, was frequently hurried by his passions into so loud and tumultuous a way of speaking, and so strained his voice, as not to be able to proceed. To remedy this excess, he had an ingenious servant, by name Licinius, always attending him with a pitch-pipe, or instrument to regulate the voice; who, whenever he heard his master begin to be high, immediately touched a soft note, at which, 'tis said, Caius would presently abate and grow calm.

'Upon recollecting this story, I have frequently

at this useful instrument should have discontinued; especially since we find d office of Licinius has preserved his many hundred years, which, methinks, encouraged some one to have revived the public good, yet for his own credit. bjected, that our loud talkers are so own noise, that they would not take checked by their servants. But grant- true, surely any of their hearers have title to play a soft note in their own be short, no Licinius appearing, and creasing, I was resolved to give this ation to the good of my country; and ighth, by the assistance of an ingenious works for the Royal Society, almost y design, and shall be ready in a short ish the public with what number of nents they please, either to lodge at , or carry for their own private use. time I shall pay that respect to seve- n, who I know will be in danger of ainst this instrument, to give them no- y private letters, in which I shall only a Licinius."

now trouble you no longer, but that I clude without desiring you to accept pipea, which shall be left for you with id which I hope will be serviceable to s you are silent yourself, you are most insults of the noisy.

'I am, sir, &c.

'w. a.

most forgot to inform you, that as an t in this instrument, there will be a te, which I call a hush-note; and this e use of against a long story, swearing, and the like.'

T.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1711.

*Spirat adhuc amor,
stque commisit calor
solis felibus puella.*

HOR. Od. ix. l. iv. ver. 10.

appho's charming lyre
reserves her soft desire,
unes our ravish'd souls to love.
CREECH.

many famous pieces of antiquity which e seen at Rome, there is the trunk of ch has lost the arms, legs, and head; s such an exquisite workmanship in s of it, that Michael Angelo declared sed his whole art from it. Indeed he attentively, that he made most of his l even his pictures, in that gusto, to f the Italian phrase; for which reason statue is still called Michael Angelo's

nt of Sappho, which I design for the this paper, is in as great reputation poets and critics, as the mutilated : mentioned is among the statumies and Several of our countrymen, and Mr. articular, seem very often to have co- it in their dramatic writings, and in upon love.

r might have been the occasion of this glish reader will enter into the beau- be supposes it to have been written in

the person of a lover sitting by his mistress. I shall set to view three different copies of this beautiful original: the first is a translation by Catullus, the second by Monsieur Boileau, and the last by a gentleman whose translation of the Hymn to Venus has been so deservedly admired*.

AD LEBNIAM.

*' Ille mi par esse Deo videtur,
Ille, si fas est, superare divos,
Qui sedens adocerus identidem te
Spectat, et ausus.*

*' Dulce ridentem; misero quod omnes
Eripit sensus mihi: nam, simul te,
Lebia, asperi, nihil est super mi
Quod loquar amens.*

*' Lingua sed torpet: tenuis sub artus
Flamma demanat: sentis suapte
Tintinnant aures: gemina teguntur
Lumina nocte.'*

My learned reader will know very well the reason why one of these verses is printed in Roman letters; and if he compares this translation with the original, will find that the three first stanzas are rendered almost word for word, and not only with the same elegance, but with the same short turn of expression which is so remarkable in the Greek, and so peculiar to the Sapphic ode. I cannot imagine for what reason Madam Dacier has told us, that this ode of Sappho is preserved entire in Longinus, since it is manifest to any one who looks into that author's quotation of it, that there must at least have been another stanza, which is not transmitted to us.

The second translation of this fragment which I shall here cite, is that of Monsieur Boileau.

*' Heureux! qui pres de toi, pour toi seule soupire:
Qui jouit du plaisir de t'entendre parler:
Qui te voit quelquefois doucement lui sourire.
Les dieux, dans son bonheur, peussent-ils le regretter!*

*' Je sens de veine en veine une subtile flamme
Courir par tout mon corps, si-tôt que je te vois:
Et dans les doux transports, ou regère mon ame,
Je ne saurois trouver de langue, ni de voix.*

*' Un nuage confus se repand sur ma vue,
Je n'entens plus, je tombe en de douces langueurs;
Et pais, sans haleine, interdite, expirée,
Un frisson me saisit, je tremble, je me meurs.'*

The reader will see that this is rather an imitation than a translation. The circumstances do not lie so thick together, and follow one another with that vehemence and emotion as in the original. In short, Monsieur Boileau has given us all the poetry, but not all the passion of this famous fragment. I shall, in the last place, present my reader with the English translation.

*' Bless'd as th' immortal gods is he,
The youth who fondly sits by thee,
And hears and sees thee all the while
Softly speak and sweetly smile.*

*' 'Twas this depriv'd my soul of rest,
And rais'd such tumults in my breast;
For while I gaz'd, in transport lost,
My breath was gone, my voice was lost:*

* Ambrose Philips. See Nos. 393 and 366.

† This Adonic line is wanting in Catullus; the words here substituted by the Spectator are those of Parthenius. Vulpius informs us, that in some MSS. found at a library in Verona, the supplied Adonic, and the preceding line, stand thus:

*Lebia, asperi, nihil est suprema
Voce locuta.*

Horace, lib. 1. od. xxii. (toward the end) has imitated the first stanza of this ode.

'My bosom glow'd; the subtle flame
Ran quick through all my vital frame;
O'er my dim eyes a darkness hung;
My ears with hollow murmurs rung.

'In dewy damps my limbs were chill'd;
My blood with gentle horrors thrill'd;
My feeble pulse forgot to play;
I fainted, sunk, and dy'd away.'

Instead of giving any character of this last translation, I shall desire my learned reader to look into the criticisms which Longinus has made upon the original. By that means he will know to which of the translations he ought to give the preference. I shall only add, that this translation is written in the very spirit of Sappho, and as near the Greek as the genius of our language will possibly suffer.

Longinus has observed, that this description of love in Sappho is an exact copy of nature, and that all the circumstances which follow one another in such an hurry of sentiments, notwithstanding they appear repugnant to each other, are really such as happen in the phrenesies of love.

I wonder, that not one of the critics or editors, through whose hands this ode has passed, has taken occasion from it to mention a circumstance related by Plutarch. That author, in the famous story of Antiochus, who fell in love with Stratonice, his mother-in-law, and (not daring to discover his passion) pretended to be confined to his bed by sickness, tells us, that Erasistratus, the physician, found out the nature of his distemper by those symptoms of love which he had learnt from Sappho's writings. Stratonice was in the room of the love-sick prince, when these symptoms discovered themselves to his physician; and it is probable, that they were not very different from those which Sappho here describes in a lover sitting by his mistress. The story of Antiochus is so well known, that I need not add the sequel of it, which has no relation to my present subject.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 230. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1711.

Homines ad deos nulla re propius accedunt, quam salutem hominibus dando.

TULL.

Men resemble the gods in nothing so much, as in doing good to their fellow-creatures.

HUMAN nature appears a very deformed, or a very beautiful object, according to the different lights in which it is viewed. When we see men of inflamed passions, or of wicked designs, tearing one another to pieces by open violence, or undermining each other by secret treachery; when we observe base and narrow ends pursued by ignominious and dishonest means; when we behold men mixed in society as if it were for the destruction of it; we are even ashamed of our species, and out of humour with our own being. But in another light, when we behold them mild, good, and benevolent, full of a generous regard for the public prosperity, compassionating each other's distresses, and relieving each other's wants, we can hardly believe they are creatures of the same kind. In this view they appear gods to each other, in the exercise of the noblest power, that of doing good; and the greatest compliment we have ever been able to make to our own being, has been by calling this disposition of mind humanity. We cannot but observe a pleasure arising in our

own breast upon the seeing or hearing of a generous action, even when we are wholly disinterested in it. I cannot give a more proper instance of this, than by a letter from Pliny, in which he recommends a friend in the most handsome manner, and methinks it would be a great pleasure to know the success of this epistle, though each party concerned in it has been so many hundred years in his grave.

TO MAXIMUS.

'WHAT I should gladly do for any friend of yours, I think I may now with confidence request for a friend of mine. Arrianus Maturius is the most considerable man of his country: when I call him on, I do not speak with relation to his fortune, though that is very plentiful, but to his integrity, justice, gravity, and prudence; his advice is useful to me in business, and his judgment in matters of learning. His fidelity, truth, and good understanding, are very great; besides this, he loves me as you do, than which I cannot say any thing that signifies a warmer affection. He has nothing that's aspiring; and, though he might rise to the highest order of nobility, he keeps himself in an inferior rank; yet I think myself bound to use my endeavours to serve and promote him; and would therefore find the means of adding something to his honours while he neither expects nor knows it, may, though he should refuse it. Something, in short, I would have for him that may be honourable, but not troublesome; and I entreat that you will procure him the first thing of this kind that offers, by which you will not only oblige me, but him also; for, though he does not covet it, I know he will be as grateful in acknowledging your favour as if he had asked it.'

MR. SPECTATOR,

'THE reflections in some of your papers on the servile manner of education now in use, have given birth to an ambition, which, unless you discountenance it, will, I doubt, engage me in a very difficult, though not ungrateful adventure. I am about to undertake, for the sake of the British youth, to instruct them in such a manner, that the most dangerous page in Virgil or Homer may be read by them with much pleasure, and with perfect safety to their persons.

'Could I prevail so far as to be honoured with the protection of some few of them (for I am not hero enough to rescue many) my design is to retire with them to an agreeable solitude, though within the neighbourhood of a city, for the convenience of their being instructed in music, dancing, drawing, designing, or any other such accomplishments, which it is conceived may make as proper diversions for them, and almost as pleasant, as the little sordid games which dirty schoolboys are so much delighted with. It may easily be imagined, how such a pretty society, conversing with none beneath themselves, and sometimes admitted, as perhaps not unentertaining parties, amongst better company, commended and cared for their little performances, and turned by such conversations to a certain gallantry of soul, might be brought early acquainted with some of the most polite English writers. This having given them some tolerable taste of books, they would make themselves masters of the Latin tongue by methods far easier than those in Lilly, with as little difficulty or reluctance as young ladies learn to speak French, or to sing

So far was written by Hughes.

as. When they had advanced thus far, time to form their taste something by. One that had any true relish of fine art, with great pleasure both to himself and over together with them the best orators, poets, and orators, and point out the remarkable beauties; give them a little of chronology, a little view of general history, astronomy, or what else might best satisfy inquisitive humour so natural to that of them as had the least spark of genius was once awakened by the shining of great sentiments of those admired did not, I believe, be easily withheld that more difficult sister-language, and beauties they would have heard so stated as the pride and wonder of the world. In the meanwhile, it would to exercise their style in writing any but ask more of fancy than of judgment that frequently in their native language every one methinks should be most cultivate, especially letters, in which must have so frequent occasions to disengage itself. A set of genteel good-natured into such a manner of life, would a little academy, and doubtless prove acceptable companions, as might not a wiser man to mingle himself in their and draw them into such serious sports have nothing less instructing than the same. I doubt not but it might be made a favourite plays, to contend which of recite a beautiful part of a poem or gracefully, or sometimes to join in the of Terence, Sophocles, or our own. The cause of Milo might again be more favourable judges, Caesar a one taught to tremble, and another race be afresh enraged at the ambition of Pompey. Amidst these noble amusements, to see the early dawns of their daily brighten into sense, their innocence into virtue, and their unexperienced directed to a generous love of their

'I am, &c.'

T.

FURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1711.

> pudor! O pietas!

MART.

> modesty! O pietas!

For the letters which I have lately received from my correspondents, I met with the following, which is written with such a spirit, that I could not but be very much interested myself, and question not but it will be to the reader.

ATOR,
are no stranger to public assemblies, have observed the awe they often strike: obliged to exert any talent before a sort of elegant distress, to which ends are the most liable, and may serve some remarks in your paper.

* By Hughes.

Many a brave fellow, who has put his enemy to flight in the field, has been in the utmost disorder upon making a speech before a body of his friends at home. One would think there was some kind of fascination in the eyes of a large circle of people, when darting all together upon one person. I have seen a new actor in a tragedy so bound up by it as to be scarce able to speak or move, and have expected he would have died above three acts before the dagger or cup of poison were brought in. It would not be amiss, if such an one were at first introduced as a ghost, or a statue, till he recovered his spirits, and grew fit for some living part.

As this sudden desertion of one's self shows a diffidence, which is not displeasing, it implies at the same time the greatest respect to an audience that can be. It is a sort of mute eloquence, which pleads for their favour much better than words could do; and we find their generosity naturally moved to support those who are in so much perplexity to entertain them. I was extremely pleased with a late instance of this kind at the opera of *Almahide*, in the encouragement given to a young singer, whose more than ordinary concern on her first appearance, recommended her no less than her agreeable voice and just performance. Mere bashfulness without merit is awkward; and merit without modesty insolent. But modest merit has a double claim to acceptance, and generally meets with as many patrons as beholders.

'I am, &c.'

It is impossible that a person should exert himself to advantage in an assembly, whether it be his part either to sing or speak, who lies under too great oppressions of modesty. I remember, upon talking with a friend of mine concerning the force of pronunciation, our discourse led us into the enumeration of the several organs of speech which an orator ought to have in perfection, as the tongue, the teeth, the lips, the nose, the palate, and the wind-pipe. 'Upon which,' says my friend, 'you have omitted the most material organ of them all, and that is the forehead.'

But notwithstanding an excess of modesty obstructs the tongue, and renders it unfit for its office, a due proportion of it is thought so requisite to an orator, that rhetoricians have recommended it to their disciples as a particular in that art. Cicero tells us, that he never liked an orator, who did not appear in some little confusion at the beginning of his speech, and confesses that he himself never entered upon an oration without trembling and concern. It is indeed a kind of deference which is due to a great assembly, and seldom fails to raise a benevolence in the audience towards the person who speaks. My correspondent has taken notice that the bravest men often appear timorous on these occasions, as indeed we may observe, that there is generally no creature more impudent than a coward:

*Lingua melior, sed frigida bello
Dextera*

VIRG. *Æn.* xi. ver. 338:

— Bold at the council-board;
But cautious in the field, he shunn'd the sword.
DRYDEN.

A bold tongue and a feeble arm are the qualifications of Drances in Virgil; as Homer, to express a man both timorous and saucy, makes use of a kind of point, which is very rarely to be met with

N N

in his writings; namely, that he had the eyes of a dog, but the heart of a deer *.

A just and reasonable modesty does not only recommend eloquence, but sets off every great talent which a man can be possessed of. It heightens all the virtues which it accompanies; like the shades in paintings, it raises and rounds every figure, and makes the colours more beautiful, though not so glaring as they would be without it.

Modesty is not only an ornament, but also a guard to virtue. It is a kind of quick and delicate feeling in the soul, which makes her shrink and withdraw herself from every thing that has danger in it. It is such an exquisite sensibility, as warns her to shun the first appearance of every thing which is hurtful.

I cannot at present recollect either the place or time of what I am going to mention; but I have read somewhere in the history of ancient Greece, that the women of the country were seized with an unaccountable melancholy, which disposed several of them to make away with themselves. The senate, after having tried many expedients to prevent this self-murder, which was so frequent among them, published an edict, that if any woman whatever should lay violent hands upon herself, her corpse should be exposed naked in the street, and dragged about the city in the most public manner. This edict immediately put a stop to the practice which was before so common. We may see in this instance the strength of female modesty, which was able to overcome even the violence of madness and despair. The fear of shame in the fair sex, was in those days more prevalent than that of death.

If modesty has so great an influence over our actions, and is in many cases so impregnable a fence to virtue; what can more undermine morality than that politeness which reigns among the unthinking part of mankind, and treats as unfashionable the most ingenious part of our behaviour; which recommends impudence as good-breeding, and keeps a man always in countenance, not because he is innocent, but because he is shameless?

Seneca thought modesty so great a check to vice, that he prescribes to us the practice of it in secret, and advises us to raise it in ourselves upon imaginary occasions, when such are real do not offer themselves; for this is the meaning of his precept, That when we are by ourselves, and in our greatest solitudes, we should fancy that Cato stands before us, and sees every thing we do. In short, if you banish modesty out of the world, she carries away with her half the virtue that is in it.

After these reflections on modesty, as it is a virtue; I must observe, that there is a vicious modesty, which justly deserves to be ridiculed, and which those persons very often discover, who value themselves most upon a well-bred confidence. This happens when a man is ashamed to act up to his reason, and would not upon any consideration be surprised in the practice of those duties, for the performance of which he was sent into the world. Many an impudent libertine would blush to be caught in a serious discourse, and would scarce be able to show his head, after having disclosed a religious thought. Decency of behaviour, all outward show of virtue, and abhorrence of vice, are carefully avoided by this set of shamefaced people, as what would disparage their gaiety of temper, and infallibly bring them to dishonour. This is

such a poorness of spirit, such a despicable cowardice, such a degenerate abject state of mind, as one would think human nature incapable of, did we not meet with frequent instances of it in ordinary conversation.

There is another kind of vicious modesty which makes a man ashamed of his person, his birth, his profession, his poverty, or the like misfortunes, which it was not in his choice to prevent, and is not in his power to rectify. If a man appears ridiculous by any of the afore-mentioned circumstances, he becomes much more so by being out of countenance for them. They should rather give him occasion to exert a noble spirit, and to palliate those imperfections which are not in his power, by those perfections which are; or, to use a very witty allusion of an eminent author, he should imitate Cæsar, who, because his head was bald, covered that defect with laurels.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 232. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1711.

Nihil largiundo gloriam adeptus est.

BALLUST.

By bestowing nothing he acquired glory.

My wise and good friend, Sir Andrew Freeport, divides himself almost equally between the town and the country. His time in town is given up to the public, and the management of his private fortune; and after every three or four days spent in this manner, he retires for as many to his seat within a few miles of the town, to the enjoyment of himself, his family, and his friend. Thus business and pleasure, or rather, in Sir Andrew, labour and rest, recommend each other. They take their turns with so quick a vicissitude, that neither becomes a habit, or takes possession of the whole man; nor is it possible he should be surfeited with either. I often see him at our club in good humour, and yet sometimes too with an air of care in his looks: but in his country retreat he is always unbent, and such a companion as I could desire; and therefore I seldom fail to make one with him when he is pleased to invite me.

The other day, as soon as we were got into his chariot, two or three beggars on each side hung upon the doors, and solicited our charity with the usual rhetoric of a sick wife or husband at home, three or four helpless little children, all starving with cold and hunger. We were forced to part with some money to get rid of their importunities; and then we proceeded on our journey with the blessings and acclamations of these people.

'Well then,' says Sir Andrew, 'we go off with the prayers and good wishes of the beggars, and perhaps, too, our healths will be drunk at the next ale-house: so all we shall be able to value ourselves upon is, that we have promoted the trade of the victualler and the excises of the government. But how few ounces of wool do we see upon the backs of these poor creatures? And when they shall next fall in our way, they will hardly be better dressed; they must always live in rags, to look like objects of compassion. If their families, too, are such as they are represented, 'tis certain they cannot be better clothed, and must be a great deal worse fed. One would think potatoes should be all their bread, and their drink the pure element; and then what goodly customers are the farmers like to have

* *Iliad*, Book 1.

ool, corn, and cattle? Such customers, consumption, cannot choose but add interest, and hold up the rents of en.

all men living, we merchants who live adselling, ought never to encourage beggards which we export are indeed the the lands, but much the greatest part of is the labour of the people: but how these people's labour shall we export re them to sit still? The very alms they as, are the wages of idleness. I have it that no man should be permitted to from the parish, or to ask it in the e has first purchased as much as posown livelihood by the labour of his own then the public ought only to be taxed od the deficiency. If this rule was rved, we should see every where such of new labourers, as would, in all produce the prices of all our manufactures. y life of merchandise to buy cheap and the merchant ought to make his outp as possible, that he may find the it upon his returns; and nothing will to do this like the reduction of the our upon all our manufactures. This e the ready way to increase the numreign markets. The abatement of the manufacture would pay for the carriage distant countries; and this consequence qually beneficial both to the landed interests. As so great an addition of nds would produce this happy conse- to the merchant and the gentleman, y to common beggars, and every other o the increase of labourers, must be icious to both.'

w then went on to affirm, that the re- he prices of our manufactures, by the so many new hands, would be no in- to any man; but observing I was tartled at the assertion, he made a and then resumed the discourse. 'It says he, 'a paradox, that the price of d be reduced without an abatement of at wages can be abated without any e to the labourer, and yet nothing is i than that both these things may hapages of the labourers make the greatest price of every thing that is useful; and tion with the wages the prices of all should be abated, every labourer with ould still be able to purchase as many of life; where then would be the incon- but the price of labour may be reduced ion of more hands to a manufacture, wages of persons remain as high as admirable Sir William Petty has given

this in some of his writings; one of emember, is that of a watch, which I our to explain so as shall suit my pre- . It is certain, that a single watch : made so cheap in proportion by one s a hundred watches by a hundred; for st variety in the work, no one person y suit himself to all the parts of it; the : would be tedious, and at last but rformed. But if a hundred watches ade by a hundred men, the cases may to one, the dials to another, the wheels the springs to another, and every other oper artist. As there would be no plexing any one person with too much

variety, every one would be able to perform his single part with greater skill and expedition; and the hundred watches would be finished in one-fourth part of the time of the first one, and every one of them at one-fourth part of the cost, though the wages of every man were equal. The reduction of the price of the manufacture would increase the demand of it, all the same hands would be still employed, and as well paid. The same rule will hold in the clothing, the shipping, and all other trades whatsoever. And thus an addition of hands to our manufactures will only reduce the price of them; the labourer will still have as much wages, and will consequently be enabled to purchase more conveniences of life; so that every interest in the nation would receive a benefit from the increase of our working people.

'Besides, I see no occasion for this charity to common beggars, since every beggar is an inhabitant of a parish, and every parish is taxed to the maintenance of their own poor. For my own part, I cannot be mightily pleased with the laws which have done this, which have provided better to feed than employ the poor. We have a tradition from our forefathers, that after the first of those laws was made, they were insulted with that famous song:

"Hang sorrow, and cast away care,
The parish is bound to find us," &c.

And if we will be so good-natured as to maintain them without work, they can do no less in return than sing us 'The Merry Beggars.'

'What then? Am I against all acts of charity? God forbid! I know of no virtue in the gospel that is in more pathetic expressions recommended to our practice. "I was hungry and ye gave me no meat, thirsty and ye gave me no drink, naked and ye clothed me not, a stranger and ye took me not in, sick and in prison and ye visited me not." Our blessed Saviour treats the exercise and neglect of charity towards a poor man, as the performance or breach of this duty towards himself. I shall endeavour to obey the will of my lord and master: and therefore, if an industrious man shall submit to the hardest labour and coarsest fare, rather than endure the shame of taking relief from the parish, or asking it in the street, this is the hungry, the thirsty, the naked; and I ought to believe, if any man is come hither for shelter against persecution or oppression, this is the stranger, and I ought to take him in. If any countryman of our own is fallen into the hands of infidels, and lives in a state of miserable captivity, this is the man in prison, and I should contribute to his ransom. I ought to give to an hospital of invalids, to recover as many useful subjects as I can; but I shall bestow none of my bounties upon an alms-house of idle people; and for the same reason I shall not think it a reproach to me if I had withheld my charity from those common beggars. But we prescribe better rules than we are able to practise; we are ashamed not to give into the mistaken manners of our country: but at the same time, I cannot but think it a reproach worse than that of common swearing, that the idle and the abandoned are suffered, in the name of heaven and all that is sacred, to extort from Christian and tender minds a supply to a profligate way of life, that is always to be supported, but never relieved.'

MARTYN.

Z.

N^o 233. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1711.

— *Tantum hæc sint nostri medicina furoris,
Aut Deus ille malis hominum miscere dicitur.*
VIRG. Ecl. x. ver. 60.

As if by these, my sufferings I could ease;
Or by my pains the God of Love appease.
DRYDEN.

I SHALL, in this paper, discharge myself of the promise I have made to the publick, by obliging them with a translation of the little Greek manuscript, which is said to have been a piece of those records that were preserved in the temple of Apollo, upon the promontory of Leucate. It is a short history of the Lover's Leap, and is inscribed, An account of persons, male and female, who offered up their vows in the temple of the Pythian Apollo, in the forty-sixth Olympiad, and leaped from the promontory of Leucate into the Ionian Sea, in order to cure themselves of the passion of love.

This account is very dry in many parts, as only mentioning the name of the lover who leaped, the person he leaped for, and relating, in short, that he was either cured, or killed, or maimed by the fall. It indeed gives the names of so many who died by it, that it would have looked like a bill of mortality, had I translated it at full length; I have therefore made an abridgment of it, and only extracted such particular passages as have something extraordinary, either in the case, or the cure, or in the fate of the person who is mentioned in it. After this short preface, take the account as follows:

Battus, the son of Menalcas the Sicilian, leaped for Bombyca the musician: got rid of his passion with the loss of his right leg and arm, which were broken in the fall.

Melissa, in love with Daphnis, very much bruised, but escaped with life.

Cynisca, the wife of Æschines, being in love with Lycus; and Æschines her husband being in love with Eurilla; (which had made this married couple very uneasy to one another for several years) both the husband and the wife took the leap by consent; they both of them escaped, and have lived very happily together ever since.

Larissa, a virgin of Thessaly, deserted by Plexippus, after a courtship of three years; she stood upon the brow of the promontory for some time, and after having thrown down a ring, a bracelet, and a little picture, with other presents which she had received from Plexippus, she threw herself into the sea, and was taken up alive.

N. B. Larissa, before she leaped, made an offering of a silver Cupid in the temple of Apollo.

Simetha, in love with Daphnis, the Myndian, perished in the fall.

Charixus, the brother of Sappho, in love with Rhodope the courtesan, having spent his whole estate upon her, was advised by his sister to leap in the beginning of his amour; but would not hearken to her till he was reduced to his last talent; being forsaken by Rhodope, at length resolved to take the leap. Perished in it.

Eridemus, a beautiful youth of Epirus, in love with Praxinoë, the wife of Theopis, escaped without damage, saving only that two of his fore-teeth were struck out, and his nose a little flattened.

Cleora, a widow of Ephesus, being inconsolable for the death of her husband, was resolved to take this leap in order to get rid of her passion for his memory; but being arrived at the promontory, she there met with Dimmachus the Milesian, and, after a short conversation with him, laid aside the thoughts of her leap, and married him in the temple of Apollo.

N. B. Her widow's weeds are still seen hanging up in the western corner of the temple.

Olphis, the fisherman, having received a box on the ear from Thestylis the day before, and being determined to have no more to do with her, leaped, and escaped with life.

Atalanta, an old maid, whose cruelty had several years before driven two or three despairing lovers to this leap; being now in the fifty-fifth year of her age, and in love with an officer of Sparta, broke her neck in the fall.

Hipparchus, being passionately fond of his own wife, who was enamoured of Bathyllus, leaped, and died of his fall: upon which his wife married her gallant.

Tettyx, the dancing-master, in love with Olympia, an Athenian matron, threw himself from the rock with great agility, but was crippled in the fall.

Diagoras, the usurer, in love with his cook-maid; he peeped several times over the precipice, but his heart misgiving him, he went back, and married her that evening.

Cinædus, after having entered his own name in the Pythian records, being asked the name of the person whom he leaped for, and being ashamed to discover it, he was set aside, and not suffered to leap.

Eunica, a maid of Paphos, aged nineteen, in love with Eurybates. Hurt in the fall, but recovered.

N. B. This was the second time of her leaping: Hesperus, a young man of Tarentum, in love with his master's daughter. Drowned, the boat not coming in soon enough to his relief.

Sappho, the Lesbian, in love with Phaon; arrived at the temple of Apollo, habited like a bride, in garments as white as snow. She wore a garland of myrtle on her head, and carried in her hand the little musical instrument of her own invention. After having sung an hymn to Apollo, she hung up her garland on one side of his altar, and her harp on the other. She then tucked up her vestments like a Spartan virgin, and amidst thousands of spectators, who were anxious for her safety, and offered up vows for her deliverance, marched directly forwards to the utmost summit of the promontory, where, after having repeated a stanza of her own verses, which we could not hear, she threw herself off the rock with such an intrepidity as was never before observed in any who had attempted that dangerous leap. Many who were present related, that they saw her fall into the sea, from whence she never rose again; though there were others who affirmed that she never came to the bottom of her leap, but that she was changed into a swan as she fell, and that they saw her hovering in the air under that shape. But whether or no the whiteness and fluttring of her garments might not deceive those who looked upon her, or whether she might not really be metamorphosed into that musical and melancholy bird, is still a doubt among the Lesbians.

Alceus, the famous lyric poet, who had for some time been passionately in love with Sappho, arrived at the promontory of Leucate that very even

er to take the leap upon her account; that Sappho had been there before that her body could be no where found, seriously lamented her fall, and is said to have written his hundred and twenty-fifth ode on this occasion.

SLAPED IN THIS OLYMPIAD 250.

Males.....124
Females.....126

URKED.....120

Males..... 51
Females..... 69

C.

EDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1711.

in amicitia sic erroremus.

HOR. Sat. lib. 1. l. 1. ver. 41.

this error in our friendship reign'd.
CREECH.

often hear people, after a story has been some entertaining circumstances, tell it with particulars that destroy the jest, get into the truth of the narration. This city, though it is impertinent, has something in it, because it proceeds from the truth, even in frivolous occasions. If such judgments do not promise an agreeable, they do a sincere friend; for which should allow them so much of our time, into their company, as to set us right in what we can do us no manner of harm, whether it be one way or the other. Lies which are of arrogance and ostentation, a man ought to be in his own defence, because he should be laughed over. Lies which are told out to expose, both for his own sake and the rest of mankind, because every man rises against a common enemy: but a liar, many have argued, is to be excused, if it does some man good, and no man harm. A man who made more than ordinary use of a fight in which the Athenians were defeated told them they had obtained a victory, and put the whole city into the utmost exultation, was checked by the master of his falsehood, but excused himself by saying, 'Athenians! am I your enemy because I told you two happy days?' This fellow did to people what an acquaintance of mine does to parsons. He is ever lying people into good humour, as Plato said, it was allowable in a physician to lie to their patients to keep up their spirits, and a man half doubtful whether my friend's is not as excusable. His manner is, to be himself surprised at the cheerful countenance whom he observes disquiet of him; generally by that means makes his lie a will, as if he did not know any thing of the circumstance, ask one whom he knows of it with another, what is the meaning that you are so merry, naming his adversary, does not mix with that heartiness which formerly was in him? 'He said, indeed,' continues he, 'but have that man for my friend than in England; but for an enemy'—This person he talks to, who expected nothing but railery from that side. Accord-

ing as he sees his practice succeed, he goes to the opposite party, and tells him, he cannot imagine how it happens that some people know one another so little: 'You spoke with so much coldness of a gentleman who said more good of you, than let me tell you, any man living deserves.' The success of one of these incidents was, that the next time that one of the adversaries spied the other, he came after him in the public street, and they must crack a bottle at the next tavern, that need to turn out of the other's way to avoid one another's eye-shot. He will tell one beauty she was commended by another, nay, he will say she gave the woman he speaks to the preference in a particular for which she herself is admired. The pleasantest confusion imaginable is made through the whole town by my friend's indirect offices. You shall have a visit returned after half a year's absence, and mutual railing at each other every day of that time. They meet with a thousand lamentations for so long a separation, each party naming herself for the greatest delinquent, if the other can possibly be so good as to forgive her, which she has no reason in the world, but from the knowledge of her goodness, to hope for. Very often a whole train of railers of each side tire their horses in setting matters right which they have said during the war between the parties; and a whole circle of acquaintance are put into a thousand pleasing passions and sentiments, instead of the pangs of anger, envy, detraction, and malice.

The worst evil I ever observed this man's falsehood occasion, has been, that he turned detraction into flattery. He is well skilled in the manners of the world, and by overlooking what men really are, he grounds his artifices upon what they have a mind to be. Upon this foundation, if two distant friends are brought together, and the cement seems to be weak, he never rests till he finds new appearances to take off all remains of ill-will, and that by new misunderstandings they are thoroughly reconciled.

' TO THE SPECTATOR.

SIR,

Devonshire, Nov. 14, 1711.

' THERE arrived in this neighbourhood two days ago one of your gay gentlemen of the town, who being attended at his entry with a servant of his own, besides a countryman he had taken up for a guide, excited the curiosity of the village to learn whence and what he might be. The countryman (to whom they applied as most easy of access) knew little more than that the gentleman came from London to travel and see fashions, and was, as he heard say, a free-thinker*. What religion that might be, he could not tell; and for his own part, if they had not told him the man was a free-thinker, he should have guessed, by his way of talking, he was little better than a heathen; excepting only that he had been a good gentleman to him, and made him drunk twice in one day, over and above what they had bargained for.

' I do not look upon the simplicity of this, and several odd inquiries with which I shall not trouble you, to be wondered at, much less can I think that our youths of fine wit, and enlarged understandings, have any reason to laugh. There is no necessity that every squire in Great Britain should know what the word Free-thinker stands for; but it were much to be wished, that they who value themselves upon that conceited title, were a little better instructed in what it ought to stand for;

* Meaning, we suppose, railing.

* It has been thought that this alluded to Mr. Toland.

and that they would not persuade themselves a man is really and truly a free-thinker, in any tolerable sense, merely by virtue of his being an atheist, or an infidel of any other distinction. It may be doubted with good reason, whether there ever was in nature a more abject, slavish, and bigotted generation, than the tribe of beaux esprits at present so prevailing in this island. Their pretension to be free-thinkers, is no other than rakes have to be free-livers, and savages to be free-men; that is, they can think whatever they have a mind to, and give themselves up to whatever conceit the extravagancy of their inclination, or their fancy, shall suggest; they can think as wildly as they talk and act, and will not endure that their wit should be controlled by such formal things as decency and common sense. Deduction, coherence, consistency, and all the rules of reason they accordingly disdain, as too precise and mechanical for men of a liberal education.

'This, as far as I could ever learn from their writings, or my own observation, is a true account of the British free-thinker. Our visitant here, who gave occasion to this paper, has brought with him a new system of common sense, the particulars of which I am not yet acquainted with, but will lose no opportunity of informing myself whether it contain any thing worth Mr. Spectator's notice. In the mean time, sir, I cannot but think it would be for the good of mankind, if you would take this subject into your consideration, and convince the hopeful youth of our nation, that licentiousness is not freedom; or, if such a paradox will not be understood, that a prejudice towards atheism is not impartiality.'

I am, sir,

Your most humble servant,

'PHILONOUS.'

T.

STEEL.

Nº 235. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1711.

Populares
Vincetum strepitibus

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 81.

Awes the tumultuous noises of the pit,
ROSCOMMON.

THERE is nothing which lies more within the province of a Spectator than public shows and diversions; and as among these there are none which can pretend to vie with those elegant entertainments that are exhibited in our theatres, I think it particularly incumbent on me to take notice of every thing that is remarkable in such numerous and refined assemblies.

It is observed, that of late years there has been a certain person in the upper-gallery of the play-house, who when he is pleased with any thing that is acted upon the stage, expresses his approbation by a loud knock upon the benches or the wainscot, which may be heard over the whole theatre. The person is commonly known by the name of the 'Trunk-maker in the Upper-gallery.' Whether it be that the blow he gives on these occasions resembles that which is often heard in the shops of such artisans, or that he was supposed to have been a real trunk-maker, who after the finishing of his day's work used to unbend his mind at these public diversions with his hammer in his hand, I cannot certainly tell. There are some, I know, who have been foolish enough to imagine it is a spirit which haunts the upper-gallery, and from time to time makes those strange noises; and the rather,

because he is observed to be louder than ordinary every time the ghost of Hamlet appears. Others have reported, that it is a dumb man, who has chosen this way of uttering himself when he is transported with any thing he sees or hears. Others will have it to be the playhouse thunderer, that exerts himself after this manner in the upper-gallery, when he has nothing to do upon the roof.

But having made it my business to get the best information I could in a matter of this moment, I find that the trunk-maker, as he is commonly called, is a large black man, whom nobody knows. He generally leans forward on a huge oaken plant with great attention to every thing that passes upon the stage. He is never seen to smile; but upon hearing any thing that pleases him, he takes up his staff with both hands, and lays it upon the next piece of timber that stands in his way with exceeding vehemence: after which, he composes himself in his former posture, till such time as something new sets him again at work.

It has been observed, his blow is so well timed, that the most judicious critic could never except against it. As soon as any shining thought is expressed in the poet, or any uncommon grace appears in the actor, he smites the bench or wainscot. If the audience does not concur with him, he smites a second time, and if the audience is not yet awakened, looks round him with great wrath, and repeats the blow a third time, which never fails to produce the clap. He sometimes lets the audience begin the clap of themselves, and at the conclusion of their applause ratifies it with a single thwack.

He is of so great use to the playhouse, that it is said a former director of it, upon his not being able to pay his attendance by reason of sickness, kept one in pay to officiate for him until such time as he recovered; but the person so employed, though he laid about him with incredible violence, did it in such wrong places, that the audience soon found out that it was not their old friend the trunk-maker.

It has been remarked, that he has not yet exerted himself with vigour this season. He sometimes plies at the opera; and upon Nicolini's first appearance, was said to have demolished three benches in the fury of his applause. He has broken half a dozen oaken plants upon Dogget's, and seldom goes away from a tragedy of Shakspeare, without leaving the wainscot extremely shattered.

The players do not only connive at his obstreperous approbation, but very cheerfully repair at their own cost whatever damages he makes. They had once a thought of erecting a kind of wooden anvil for his use, that should be made of a very sounding plank, in order to render his strokes more deep and mellow; but as this might not have been distinguished from the music of a kettle-drum, the project was laid aside.

In the meanwhile, I cannot but take notice of the great use it is to an audience, that a person should thus preside over their heads like the director of a concert, in order to awaken their attention, and beat time to their applauses; or to raise my simile, I have sometimes fancied the trunk-maker in the upper-gallery to be like Virgil's ruler of the winds, seated upon the top of a mountain, who when he struck his sceptre upon the

* An admirable comic actor, many years joint-manager of the play-house with Wilkes and Cibber; and known to the present day, by the annual coat-and-badge, which he bequeathed as a prize to be rowed for by young watermen of the river Thames, on the first of August.

roused an hurricane, and set the whole in uproar*.

ain, the trunk-maker has saved many a and brought many a graceful actor into who would not otherwise have been e of. It is very visible, as the audience le abashed, if they find themselves be- a clap, when their friend in the upper- s not come into it; so the actors do not selves upon the clap, but regard it as a n fulmen, or empty noise, when it has nd of the oaken plank in it. I know it ven out by those who are enemies to the r, that he has sometimes been bribed to interest of a bad poet, or a vicious t this is a surmise which has no founda- rokes are always just, and his admoni- able: he does not deal about his blows but always hits the right nail upon the inexpressible force wherewith he lays licently shows the evidence and strength iction. His zeal for a good author is ageous, and breaks down every fence on, every board and plank, that stands expression of his applause.

ot care for terminating my thoughts in ulations, or in reports of pure matter hout drawing something from them for ge of my countrymen, I shall take the ake an humble proposal, that whenever akey shall depart this life, or whenever e lost the spring of his arm by sickness, irmitry, or the like, some able-bodied l be advanced to this post, and have a alary settled on him for life, to be fur- bamboos for operas, crab-tree cudgels es, and oaken plants for tragedy, at xpense. And to the end that this place lways disposed of according to merit, ve none preferred to it, who has not ncing proofs both of a sound judgment, g arm, and who could not, upon occa- knock down an ox, or write a com- Horace's Art of Poetry. In short, I him a due composition of Hercules and d so rightly qualified for this important the Trunk-maker may not be misled by y.

C.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1711.

— *Dare jura maritæ.*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 398.

laws connubial tyrants to restrain.

CTATOR,

not spoken in so direct a manner upon of marriage, as that important case de- would not be improper to observe upon erty in the youth of Great Britain, of laughing at that institution; and when to it, from a profligate habit of mind, sible of the satisfaction in that way of eating their wives with the most barba- ect.

lar circumstances, and cast of temper, a man the probability of mighty unea- hat state (for unquestionably some there ury dispositions are strangely averse to

conjugal friendship); but no one, I believe, is by his own natural complexion prompted to tease and torment another for no reason but being nearly allied to him. And can there be any thing more base, or serve to sink a man so much below his own distinguishing characteristic (I mean reason), than returning evil for good in so open a manner, as that of treating an helpless creature with unkindness, who has had so good an opinion of him as to believe what he said relating to one of the greatest concerns of life, by delivering her happiness in this world to his care and protection? Must not that man be abandoned even to all manner of humanity, who can deceive a woman with appearances of affection and kindness, for no other end but to torment her with more ease and authority? Is any thing more unlike a gentleman, than when his honour is engaged for the performing his promises, because nothing but that can oblige him to it, to become afterwards false to his word, and be alone the occasion of misery to one whose happiness he but lately pretended was dearer to him than his own? Ought such a one to be trusted in his common affairs? or treated but as one whose honesty consisted only in his incapacity of being otherwise?

There is one cause of this usage no less absurd than common, which takes place among the more unthinking men; and that is, the desire to appear to their friends free and at liberty, and without those trammels they have so much ridiculed. To avoid this they fly into the other extreme, and grow tyrants that they may seem masters. Because an uncontrollable command of their own actions is a certain sign of entire dominion, they won't so much as recede from the government even in one muscle of their faces. A kind look they believe would be fawning, and a civil answer yielding the superiority. To this must we attribute an austerity they betray in every action. What but this can put a man out of humour in his wife's company, though he is so distinguishingly pleasant every where else? The bitterness of his replies, and the severity of his frowns, to the tenderness of wives, clearly demonstrate, that an ill-grounded fear of being thought too submissive, is at the bottom of this, as I am willing to call it, affected moroseness; but if it be such, only put on to convince his acquaintance of his entire dominion, let him take care of the consequence, which will be certain, and worse than the present evil; his seeming indifference will by degrees grow into real contempt, and if it doth not wholly alienate the affections of his wife for ever from him, make both him and her more miserable than if it really did so.

However inconsistent it may appear, to be thought a well-bred person has no small share in this clownish behaviour. A discourse therefore relating to good-breeding towards a loving and a tender wife, would be of great use to this sort of gentlemen. Could you but once convince them, that to be civil at least is not beneath the character of a gentleman, nor even tender affection towards one who would make it reciprocal, betrays any softness or effeminacy that the most masculine disposition need be ashamed of; could you satisfy them of the generosity of voluntary civility, and the greatness of soul that is conspicuous in benevolence without immediate obligations; could you recommend to people's practice the saying of the gentleman quoted in one of your speculations, "That he thought it incumbent upon him to make the inclinations of a woman of merit go along with her duty:" could you, I say, persuade these men

* Æneid, book i.

of the beauty and reasonableness of this sort of behaviour, I have so much charity, for some of them at least, to believe you would convince them of a thing they are only ashamed to allow. Besides, you would recommend that state in its truest, and consequently its most agreeable colours; and the gentlemen, who have for any time been such professed enemies to it, when occasion should serve, would return you their thanks for assisting their interest in prevailing over their prejudices. Marriage in general would by this means be a more easy and comfortable condition; the husband would be no where so well satisfied as in his own parlour, nor the wife so pleasant as in the company of her husband. A desire of being agreeable in the lover would be increased in the husband, and the mistress be more amiable by becoming the wife. Besides all which, I am apt to believe we should find the race of men grow wiser as their progenitors grew kinder, and the affection of their parents would be conspicuous in the wisdom of their children; in short, men would in general be much better humoured than they are, did not they so frequently exercise the worst turns of their temper where they ought to exert the best.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,
' I AM a woman who left the admiration of this whole town to throw myself (for love of wealth) into the arms of a fool. When I married him, I could have had any one of several men of sense who languished for me; but my case is just. I believed my superior understanding would form him into a tractable creature. But, alas! my spouse has cunning and suspicion, the inseparable companions of little minds; and every attempt I make to divert, by putting on an agreeable air, a sudden cheerfulness, or kind behaviour, he looks upon as the first act towards an insurrection against his undeserved dominion over me. Let every one who is still to choose, and hopes to govern a fool, remember

'TRISTIMA.'

'MR. SPECTATOR, St. Martin's, Nov. 25.
' THIS is to complain of an evil practice which I think very well deserves a redress, though you have not as yet taken any notice of it: if you mention it in your paper, it may perhaps have a very good effect. What I mean is, the disturbance some people give to others at church, by their repetition of the prayers after the minister; and that not only in the prayers, but also the absolution; and the commandments fare no better, which are in a particular manner the priest's office: this I have known done in so audible a manner, that sometimes their voices have been as loud as his. As little as you would think it, this is frequently done by people seemingly devout. This irreligious inadvertency is a thing extremely offensive: but I do not recommend it as a thing I give you liberty to ridicule, but hope it may be amended by the bare mention.

'SIR,

'Your very humble servant,

'T. S.'

STEELE.

T.

Nº 237. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1711.

Finu caritatem magna pars veri latet.

SENECA in CEdip.

Truth is in a great measure concealed from the blind.

It is very reasonable to believe, that part of the pleasure which happy minds shall enjoy in a future state, will arise from an enlarged contemplation of the divine wisdom in the government of the world, and a discovery of the secret and amazing steps of Providence, from the beginning to the end of time. Nothing seems to be an entertainment more adapted to the nature of man, if we consider that curiosity is one of the strongest and most lasting appetites implanted in us, and that admiration is one of our most pleasing passions; and what a perpetual succession of enjoyments will be afforded to both these, in a scene so large and various as shall then be laid open to our view in the society of superior spirits, who perhaps will join with us in so delightful a prospect!

It is not impossible, on the contrary, that part of the punishment of such as are excluded from bliss, may consist not only in their being denied this privilege, but in having their appetites at the same time vastly increased without any satisfaction afforded to them. In these, the vain pursuit of knowledge shall, perhaps, add to their infelicity, and bewilder them into labyrinths of error, darkness, distraction, and uncertainty of every thing but their own evil state. Milton has thus represented the fallen angels reasoning together in a kind of respite from their torments, and creating to themselves a new disquiet amidst their very amusements; he could not properly have described the sports of condemned spirits, without that cast of horror and melancholy he has so judiciously mingled with them:

'Others apart sat on a hill retired,
In thoughts more elevate, and reason'd high
Of providence, foreknowledge, will, and fate,
Fixt fate, freewill, foreknowledge absolute,
And found no end in wandering mazes lost*.'

In our present condition, which is a middle state, our minds are, as it were, chequered with truth and falsehood; and as our faculties are narrow, and our views imperfect, it is impossible but our curiosity must meet with many repulses. The business of mankind in this life being rather to act than to know, their portion of knowledge is dealt to them accordingly.

From hence it is, that the reason of the inquisitive has so long been exercised with difficulties, in accounting for the promiscuous distribution of good and evil to the virtuous and the wicked in this world. From hence come all those pathetic complaints of so many tragical events, which happen to the wise and the good; and of such surprising prosperity, which is often the reward of the guilty and the foolish; that reason is sometimes puzzled, and at a loss what to pronounce upon so mysterious a dispensation.

Plato expresses his abhorrence of some fables of the poets, which seem to reflect on the gods as the authors of injustice; and lays it down as a principle, that whatever is permitted to befall a just man, whether poverty, sickness, or any of those things which seem to be evil, shall either in life or

* Paradise Lost, b. li.

duce to his good. My reader will ob- agreeable this maxim is to what we red by a greater authority. Seneca has discourse purposely on this subject; in takes pains, after the doctrine of the show that adversity is not in itself an mentions a noble saying of Demetrius, ing would be more unhappy than a man never known affliction.* He compares to the indulgence of a fond mother to a h often proves his ruin; but the affection ine Being to that of a wise father, who his sons exercised with labour, disap- and pain, that they may gather strength re their fortitude. On this occasion, the rises into that celebrated sentiment, is not on earth a spectacle more worthy of a Creator intent on his works, than n superior to his sufferings; to which he it must be a pleasure to Jupiter himself wn from heaven, and see Cato amidst his country preserving his integrity. ight will appear yet more reasonable, if r human life as a state of probation, and the post of honour in it, assigned often and most select spirits. I would chiefly insist on here, is, that at present in a proper situation to judge ncils by which Providence acts; since rives at our knowledge, and even that discern imperfectly; or according to the ure in holy writ, 'We see but in part, glass darkly *.' It is to be considered, ence in its economy regards the whole me and things together, so that we can r the beautiful connection between ich lie widely separate in time; and by any links of the chain, our reasonings ken and imperfect. Thus those parts al world which have not an absolute, re a relative beauty, in respect of some concealed from us, but open to His eye m 'past,' 'present,' and 'to come,' are in one point of view: and those events, on of which seems now to accuse his ay in the consummation of things both goodness, and exalt his wisdom. And h to check our presumption, since it is apply our measures of regularity to hich we know neither the antecedents sequents, the beginning nor the end. lieve my readers from this abstracted relating here a Jewish tradition con- ses, which seems to be a kind of pa- rating what I have last mentioned, prophet, it is said, was called up by a eaven to the top of a mountain; where, nce with the Supreme Being, he was o propose to him some questions con- administration of the universe. In the divine colloquy he was commanded to n the plain below. At the foot of the ere issued out a clear spring of water, oldier alighted from his horse to drink, sooner gone than a little boy came to ice, and finding a purse of gold which ad dropped, took it up and went away mediate after this came an infirm old with age and travelling, and, having s thirst, sat down to rest himself by the spring. The soldier missing his purse arch for it, and demands it of the old

man, who affirms he had not seen it, and appeals to heaven in witness of his innocence. The soldier, not believing his protestations, kills him. Moses fell on his face with horror and amazement, when the divine voice thus prevented his expostulation: 'Be not surprised, Moses, nor ask why the Judge of the whole earth has suffered this thing to come to pass. The child is the occasion that the blood of the old man is spilt; but know, that the old man whom thou sawest was the murderer of that child's father.'

RUGER.

Nº 238. MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1711.

Nepotusquam populo bibulas donaveris aures;
Resque quod non es —

PERSIUS, Sat. iv. ver. 50.

Please not thyself the flattering crowd to hear;
'Tis fulsome stuff, to please thy itching ear.
Survey thy soul, not what thou dost appear,
But what thou art. —

DRYDEN.

AMONG all the diseases of the mind, there is not one more epidemical or more pernicious than the love of flattery. For as where the juices of the body are prepared to receive a malignant influence, there the disease rages with most violence; so in this distemper of the mind, where there is ever a propensity and inclination to suck in the poison, it cannot be but that the whole order of reasonable action must be overturned; for, like music, it

— So softens and disarms the mind,
That not one arrow can resistance find.*

First we flatter ourselves, and then the flattery of others is sure of success. It awakens our self-love within, a party which is ever ready to revolt from our better judgment, and join the enemy without. Hence it is, that the profusion of favours we so often see poured upon the parasite, are represented to us by our self-love, as justice done to the man who so agreeably reconciles us to ourselves. When we are overcome by such soft insinuations and insinuating compliances, we gladly recompence the artifices that are made use of to blind our reason, and which triumph over the weaknesses of our temper and inclinations.

But were every man persuaded from how mean and low a principle this passion is derived, there can be no doubt but the person who should attempt to gratify it, would then be as contemptible as he is now successful. It is the desire of some quality we are not possessed of, or inclination to be something we are not, which are the causes of our giving ourselves up to that man, who bestows upon us the characters and qualities of others; which perhaps suit us as ill, and were as little designed for our wearing, as their clothes. Instead of going out of our own complexional nature into that of others, it were a better and more laudable industry to improve our own, and instead of a miserable copy become a good original; for there is no temper, no disposition so rude and untractable, but may in its own peculiar cast and turn be brought to some agreeable use in conversation, or in the affairs of life. A person of a rougher deportment, and less tied up to the usual ceremonies of behaviour, will, like Manly in the play*, please by the grace which nature gives to every action wherein

* 1 Cor. xiii. 12.

* The Plain Dealer, by Wycherley.

she is complied with; the brisk and lively will not want their admirers, and even a more reserved and melancholy temper may at some times be agreeable.

When there is not vanity enough awake in a man to undo him, the flatterer stirs up that dormant weakness, and inspires him with merit enough to be a coxcomb. But if flattery be the most sordid act that can be complied with, the art of praising justly is as commendable: for it is laudable to praise well; as poets at one and the same time give immortality, and receive it themselves for a reward. Both are pleased; the one whilst he receives the recompence of merit, the other whilst he shows he knows how to discern it; but above all, that man is happy in this art, who, like a skilful painter, retains the features and complexion, but still softens the picture into the most agreeable likeness.

There can hardly, I believe, be imagined a more desirable pleasure, than that of praise unmixed with any possibility of flattery. Such was that which Germanicus enjoyed, when, the night before a battle, desirous of some sincere mark of the esteem of his legions for him, he is described by Tacitus listening in a disguise to the discourse of a soldier, and wrapt up in the fruition of his glory, whilst with an undesigned sincerity they praised his noble and majestic mien, his affability, his valour, conduct, and success in war. How must a man have his heart full-blown with joy in such an article of glory as this? What a spur and encouragement still to proceed in those steps which had already brought him to so pure a taste of the greatest of mortal enjoyments?

It sometimes happens, that even enemies and envious persons bestow the sincerest marks of esteem when they least design it. Such afford a greater pleasure, as extorted by merit, and freed from all suspicion of favour or flattery. Thus it is with Malvolio; he has wit, learning, and discernment, but tempered with an alloy of envy, self-love, and detraction. Malvolio turns pale at the mirth and good-humour of the company, if it center not in his person; he grows jealous and displeased when he ceases to be the only person admired, and looks upon the commendations paid to another as a detraction from his merit, and an attempt to lessen the superiority he affects; but by this very method, he bestows such praise as can never be suspected of flattery. His uneasiness and distastes are so many sure and certain signs of another's title to that glory he desires, and has the mortification to find himself not possessed of.

A good name is fitly compared to a precious ointment*; and when we are praised with skill and decency, it is indeed the most agreeable perfume; but if too strongly admitted into a brain of a less vigorous and happy texture, it will, like too strong an odour, overcome the senses, and prove pernicious to those nerves it was intended to refresh. A generous mind is of all others the most sensible of praise and dispraise; and a noble spirit is as much invigorated with its due proportion of honour and applause, as it is depressed by neglect and contempt. But it is only persons far above the common level who are thus affected with either of these extremes; as in a thermometer, it is only the purest and most sublimated spirit that is either contracted or dilated by the benignity or inclemency of the season.

* Ecclesiastes vii. 1.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘THE translations which you have lately given us from the Greek, in some of your last papers, have been the occasion of my looking into some of those authors; among whom I chanced on a collection of letters which pass under the name of Aristænetus. Of all the remains of antiquity, I believe there can be nothing produced of an air so gallant and polite; each letter contains a little novel or adventure, which is told with all the beauties of language, and heightened with a luxuriance of wit. There are several of them translated: but with such wide deviations from the original, and in a style so far differing from the author's, that the translator seems rather to have taken hints for the expressing his own sense and thoughts, than to have endeavoured to render those of Aristænetus. In the following translation, I have kept as near the meaning of the Greek as I could, and have only added a few words to make the sentences in English sit together a little better than they would otherwise have done. The story seems to be taken from that of Pygmalion and the statue in Ovid: some of the thoughts are of the same turn, and the whole is written in a kind of poetical prose.’

PHILOPINAX TO CHROMATION.

“NEVER was man more overcome with so fantastical a passion as mine. I have painted a beautiful woman, and am despairing, dying for the picture. My own skill has undone me; it is not the dart of Venus, but my own pencil has thus wounded me. Ah, me! with what anxiety am I necessitated to adore my own idol? How miserable am I, whilst every one must as much pity the painter as he praises the picture, and own my torment more than equal to my art. But why do I thus complain? Have there not been more unhappy and unnatural passions than mine? Yes, I have seen the representations of Phædra, Narcissus, and Pasiphaë. Phædra was unhappy in her love; that of Pasiphaë was monstrous; and whilst the other caught at his beloved likeness, he destroyed the watery image, which ever eluded his embraces. The fountain represented Narcissus to himself, and the picture both that and him, thirsting after his adored image. But I am yet less unhappy, I enjoy her presence continually, and if I touch her, I destroy not the beautiful form, but she looks pleased, and a sweet smile sits in the charming space which divides her lips. One would swear that voice and speech were issuing out, and that one's ears felt the melodious sound. How often have I, deceived by a lover's credulity, hearkened if she had not something to whisper me? and when frustrated of my hopes, how often have I taken my revenge in kisses from her cheeks and eyes, and softly woo'd her to my embrace, whilst she (as to me it seemed) only withheld her tongue the more to inflame me. But, madman that I am, shall I be thus taken with the representation only of a beautiful face, and flowing hair, and thus waste myself and melt to tears for a shadow? Ah, sure it is something more, it is a reality! for see her beauties shine out with new lustre, and she seems to upbraid me with unkind reproaches. Oh may I have a living mistress of this form, that when I shall compare the work of nature with that of art, I may be still at a loss which to choose, and be long perplexed with the pleasing uncertainty.”

STEEL.

T.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1711.

— *Bella, horrida bella!*
VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 86.
— Wars, horrid wars!
DRYDEN.

metimes amused myself with considering
methods of managing a debate which
in the world.

aces of mankind used to dispute, as our
people do now-a-days, in a kind of wild
tivated by rules of art.

introduced a catechetical method of ar-
e would ask his adversary question upon
until he had convinced him out of his
h, that his opinions were wrong. This
bating drives an enemy up into a corner,
he passes through which he can make an
d forces him to surrender at discretion.
e changed this method of attack, and in-
grat variety of little weapons, called

As in the Socratic way of dispute
to every thing which your opponent ad-
the Aristotelic, you are still denying
adicting some part or other of what he
rater: conquers you by stratagem, Aris-
totele. The one takes the town by sap,
word in hand.

versities of Europe, for many years, car-
eir debates by syllogism, inasmuch that
knowledge of several centuries laid on
ions and answers, and all the good sense
cut and minced into almost an infinitude
ons.

ur universities found that there was no
angling this way, they invented a kind of
which is not reducible to any mood or
ristotle. It was called the Argumentum
(others write it *Bacilinum* or *Baculinum*),
retty well expressed in our English word

When they were not able to confute
onist, they knocked him down. It was
od in these polemical debates, first to
their syllogisms, and afterwards to be-
velves to their clubs, till such time as they
ay or other confounded their gainsayers.

Oxford a narrow defile (to make use of
term), where the partisans used to en-
or which reason it still retains the name
ine. I have heard an old gentleman, a
make his boasts, that when he was a
w, he marched several times at the head
of Scots^{*}, and cudgelled a body of
s f, half the length of High-street, till
ispersed themselves for shelter into their
garrisons.

nour, I find, went very far in Erasmus's
r that author tells us, that upon the re-
reck letters, most of the universities in
ere divided into Greeks and Trojans.
were those who bore a mortal enmity to
ge of the Grecians, inasmuch that if they
any who understood it, they did not fail
im as a foe. Erasmus himself had, it
misfortune to fall into the hands of a
Trojans, who laid him on with so many
buffets that he never forgot their hosti-
s dying day.

The followers of Duns Scotus.
The followers of Martin Smiglecius.

There is a way of managing an argument not
much unlike the former, which is made use of by
states and communities, when they draw up an
hundred thousand disputants on each side, and con-
vince one another by dint of sword. A certain
grand monarch^{*} was so sensible of his strength in
this way of reasoning, that he writ upon his great
guns—*Ratio ultima regum*, 'The logic of kings';
but, God be thanked, he is now pretty well baffled
at his own weapons. When one has to do with a
philosopher of this kind, one should remember the
old gentleman's saying, who had been engaged in
an argument with one of the Roman emperors†.
Upon his friend's telling him, that he wondered he
would give up the question, when he had visibly
the better of the dispute; 'I am never ashamed,'
says he, 'to be confuted by one who is master of
fifty legions.'

I shall but just mention another kind of reason-
ing, which may be called arguing by poll; and
another which is of equal force, in which wagers
are made use of as arguments, according to the
celebrated line in *Hudibras*‡.

But the most notable way of managing a contro-
versy, is that which we may call arguing by torture.
This is a method of reasoning which has been made
use of with the poor refugees, and which was so
fashionable in our country during the reign of
Queen Mary, that in a passage of an author
quoted by Monsieur Bayle, it is said the price of
wood was raised in England, by reason of the
executions that were made in Smithfield. These
disputants convince their adversaries with a sorites§,
commonly called a pile of faggots. The rack is also
a kind of syllogism which has been used with good
effect, and has made multitudes of converts. Men
were formerly disputed out of their doubts, recon-
ciled to truth by force of reason, and won over to
opinions by the candour, sense, and ingenuity of
those who had the right on their side; but this meth-
od of conviction operated too slowly. Pain was
found to be much more enlightening than reason.
Every scruple was looked upon as obstinacy, and
not to be removed but by several engines invented
for that purpose. In a word, the application of
whips, racks, gibbets, gallies, dungeons, fire and
faggot, in a dispute, may be looked upon as popish
refinements upon the old heathen logic.

There is another way of reasoning which seldom
fails, though it be of a quite different nature to
that I have last mentioned. I mean, convincing a
man by ready money, or, as it is ordinarily called,
bribing a man to an opinion. This method has
often proved successful, when all the others have
been made use of to no purpose. A man who is
furnished with arguments from the mint, will con-
vince his antagonist much sooner than one who
draws them from reason and philosophy. Gold is
a wonderful clearer of the understanding; it dis-
sipates every doubt and scruple in an instant;
accommodates itself to the meanest capacities;
silences the loud and clamorous, and brings over
the most obstinate and inflexible. Philip of Ma-
cedon was a man of most invincible reason this
way. He refuted by it all the wisdom of Athens,
confounded their statesmen, struck their orators
dumb, and at length argued them out of all their
liberties.

* Louis XIV.

† Adrian.

‡ Quoth she, I've heard old cunning stagers
Say, Fools for arguments use wagers.

§ And. Ammonius.

† An argument in rhetoric, in which one proposition or
argument is accumulated on another.

Having here touched upon the several methods of disputing, as they have prevailed in different ages of the world, I shall very suddenly give my reader an account of the whole art of cavilling; which shall be a full and satisfactory answer to all such papers and pamphlets as have yet appeared against the Spectator.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 240. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1711.

— *Aliter non fit, avide, liber.*

MART. Ep. xvii. l. 1.

Of such materials, sir, are books composed.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,
‘I AM of one of the most genteel trades in the city, and understand thus much of liberal education, as to have an ardent ambition of being useful to mankind, and to think that the chief end of being, as to this life. I had these good impressions given me from the handsome behaviour of a learned, generous and wealthy man towards me, when I first began the world. Some dissatisfaction between me and my parents made me enter into it with less relish of business than I ought; and to turn off this uneasiness I gave myself to criminal pleasures, some excesses, and a general loose conduct. I know not what the excellent man above mentioned saw in me, but he descended from the superiority of his wisdom and merit, to throw himself frequently into my company. This made me soon hope that I had something in me worth cultivating, and his conversation made me sensible of satisfactions in a regular way, which I had never before imagined. When he was grown familiar with me, he opened himself like a good angel, and told me, he had long laboured to ripen me into a preparation to receive his friendship and advice, both which I should daily command, and the use of any part of his fortune, to apply the measures he should propose to me, for the improvement of my own. I assure you, I cannot recollect the goodness and confusion of the good man when he spoke to this purpose to me, without melting into tears; but in a word, sir, I must hasten to tell you, that my heart burns with gratitude towards him, and he is so happy a man, that it can never be in my power to return him his favours in kind, but I am sure I have made him the most agreeable satisfaction I could possibly, in being ready to serve others to my utmost ability, as far as is consistent with the prudence he prescribes to me. Dear Mr. Spectator, I do not owe to him only the good-will and esteem of my own relations (who are people of distinction), the present ease and plenty of my circumstances, but also the government of my passions, and regulation of my desires. I doubt not, sir, but in your imagination such virtues as these of my worthy friend, bear as great a figure as actions which are more glittering in the common estimation. What I would ask of you, is to give us a whole Spectator upon heroic virtue in common life, which may incite men to the same generous inclinations, as have by this admirable person been shown to, and raised in,

‘SIR,

‘Your most humble servant.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,
‘I AM a country gentleman, of a good plentiful estate, and live as the rest of my neighbours with

great hospitality. I have been ever reckoned among the ladies the best company in the world, and have access as a sort of favourite. I never came in public but I saluted them, though in great assemblies, all around; where it was seen how gratefully I avoided hampering my spurs in their petticoats, whilst I moved amongst them; and on the other side how prettily they curtsied and received me, standing in proper rows, and advancing as fast as they saw their elders, or their betters, dispatched by me. But so it is, Mr. Spectator, that all our good-breeding is of late lost by the unhappy arrival of a courtier, or town gentleman, who came lately among us. This person whenever he came into a room made a profound bow, and fell back, then recovered with a soft air, and made a bow to the next, and so to one or two more, and then took the gross of the room, by passing by them in a continued bow till he arrived at the person he thought proper particularly to entertain. This he did with so good a grace and assurance, that it is taken for the present fashion; and there is no young gentleman within several miles of this place has been kissed ever since his first appearance among us. We country gentlemen cannot begin again and learn these fine and reserved airs; and our conversation is at a stand, till we have your judgment for or against kissing by way of civility or salutation; which is impatiently expected by your friends of both sexes, but by none so much as

‘Your humble servant,

‘RUSTIC SPRIGHTLY.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘December 3, 1711.

‘I WAS the other night at Philaster, where I expected to hear your famous trunk-maker*, but was unhappily disappointed of his company, and saw another person who had the like ambition to distinguish himself in a noisy manner, partly by vociferation or talking loud, and partly by his bodily agility. This was a very lusty fellow, but withal a sort of beam, who getting into one of the side-boxes on the stage before the curtain drew, was disposed to show the whole audience his activity by leaping over the spikes: he passed from thence to one of the entering doors, where he took snuff with a tolerable good grace, displayed his fine clothes, made two or three feint passes at the curtain with his cane, then faced about and appeared at t’other door. Here he affected to survey the whole house, bowed and smiled at random, and then showed his teeth, which were some of them indeed very white. After this he retired behind the curtain, and obliged us with several views of his person from every opening.

‘During the time of acting he appeared frequently in the prince’s apartment, made one at the hunting-match, and was very forward in the rebellion. If there were no injunctions to the contrary, yet this practice must be confemed to diminish the pleasure of the audience, and for that reason presumptuous and unwarrantable: but since her majesty’s late command has made it criminal†, you have authority to take notice of it.

‘SIR,

‘Your humble servant,

‘CHARLES EAST.’

T.

STEEL.

* See Nº 235.

† About this time there was this clause in the play-bills: ‘By her Majesty’s command, no person to be admitted behind the scenes.’

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1711.

— *Semperque relinquit
i. semper longam incomitata videtur*
—

VIRG. *Æn.* iv. ver. 466.

— She seems alone
Her in her sleep through ways unknown,
Is and dark.

DRYDEN.

SPECTATOR,
You have considered virtuous love in its extremes, I do not remember that you say any dissertation upon the absence of it; and down any methods how they should behave themselves under those long separations which are sometimes forced to undergo. I am in this unhappy circumstance, having the best of husbands, who is abroad the greater part of his country, and may not possibly come home some years. His warm and generous nature and we were together, with the tenderness expressed to me at parting, make almost insupportable. I think of him at the end of the day, and meet him every night in my dreams. Every thing I see puts me in mind of him. I apply myself with more than ordinary diligence to the care of his family and his business, instead of relieving me, gives me occasions of wishing for his return. I am in rooms where I used to converse with him; meeting him there, sit down in his chair, and weep. I love to read the books which he used to read, and to converse with the persons whom he used to visit. I visit his picture a hundred times a day, and place myself over-against it whole hours. I pass a great part of my time in my bed; I used to lean upon his arm, and my mind the discourses which have passed between us: I look over the several points of view which we used to survey, I fix my eye upon the objects which he used to take notice of, and call to mind the agreeable remarks which he has made on them. I write to him by every conveyance, contrary to other people, am always in the way when an east wind blows, because it brings me a letter from him. Let me, sir, to give me your advice upon this, and to let me know how I may relieve this my widowhood.

I am, sir,

Your very humble servant,
ASTORIA.

What the poets call death in love, is an occasion to abundance of beautiful things in those authors who have treated of it in verse. Ovid's *Epistles* are full of it. My *Monimia* talks very tenderly upon

— It was not kind
To me like a turtle, here alone,
To mourn the absence of my mate.
You art from me, every place is desert;
I think, an savage and forlorn.
Hence only 'tis can make me blest,
Unquiet mind, and tune my soul.

relations of lovers on these occasions are ordinary. Besides those mentioned by me, there are many other motives of comfort made use of by absent lovers.

I remember in one of Scudery's romances, a couple of honourable lovers agreed at their parting to set aside one half hour in the day to think of each other during a tedious absence. The romance tells us, that they both of them punctually observed the time thus agreed upon; and that whatever company or business they were engaged in, they left it abruptly as soon as the clock warned them to retire. The romance further adds, that the lovers expected the return of this stated hour with as much impatience, as if it had been a real assignation, and enjoyed an imaginary happiness, that was almost as pleasing to them as what they would have found from a real meeting. It was an inexpressible satisfaction to these divided lovers, to be assured that each was at the same time employed in the same kind of contemplation, and making equal returns of tenderness and affection.

If I may be allowed to mention a more serious expedient for the alleviating of absence, I shall take notice of one which I have known two persons practise, who joined religion to that elegance of sentiment with which the passion of love generally inspires its votaries. This was, at the return of such an hour, to offer up a certain prayer for each other, which they had agreed upon before their parting. The husband, who is a man that makes a figure in the polite world, as well as in his own family, has often told me, that he could not have supported an absence of three years without this expedient.

Strada, in one of his *Prolusions**, gives an account of a chimerical correspondence between two friends, by the help of a certain loadstone, which had such virtue in it, that if it touched two several needles, when one of the needles so touched began to move, the other, though at never so great a distance, moved at the same time, and in the same manner. He tells us, that the two friends being each of them possessed of one of these needles, made a kind of a dial-plate, inscribing it with the four and twenty letters, in the same manner as the hours of the day are marked upon the ordinary dial-plate. They then fixed one of the needles on each of these plates in such a manner, that it could move round without impediment, so as to touch any of the four and twenty letters. Upon their separating from one another into distant countries, they agreed to withdraw themselves punctually into their closets at a certain hour of the day, and to converse with one another by means of this their invention. Accordingly, when they were some hundred miles asunder, each of them shut himself up in his closet at the time appointed, and immediately cast his eye upon his dial-plate. If he had a mind to write any thing to his friend, he directed his needle to every letter that formed the words which he had occasion for, making a little pause at the end of every word or sentence, to avoid confusion. The friend, in the mean while, saw his own sympathetic needle moving of itself to every letter which that of his correspondent pointed at. By this means they talked together across a whole continent, and conveyed their thoughts to one another in an instant over cities or mountains, seas or deserts.

If Monsieur Scudery, or any other writer of romance, had introduced a necromancer, who is generally in the train of a knight-errant, making a present to two lovers of a couple of those above-mentioned needles, the reader would not have been a little pleased to have seen them corresponding

* Book II. prol. 6.

with one another when they were guarded by spies and watches, or separated by castles and adventures.

In the mean while, if ever this invention should be revived or put in practice, I would propose, that upon the lover's dial-plate there should be written not only the four and twenty letters, but several entire words which have always a place in passionate epistles, as flames, darts, die, language, absence, Cupid, heart, eyes, hang, drown, and the like. This would very much abridge the lover's pains in this way of writing a letter, as it would enable him to express the most useful and significant words with a single touch of the needle.

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 942. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1711.

*Creditur, ex medio quibus res arcessit, habere
Sudoris minimum*—

HOR. Ep. l. 1. 2. ver. 166.

To write on vulgar themes, is thought an easy task.

MR. SPECTATOR,

Your speculations do not so generally prevail over men's manners as I could wish. A former paper of your's concerning the misbehaviour of people, who are necessarily in each other's company in travelling, ought to have been a lasting admonition against transgressions of that kind. But I had the fate of your quaker, in meeting with a rude fellow in a stage-coach, who entertained two or three women of us (for there was no man besides himself) with language as indecent as ever was heard upon the water. The impertinent observations which the coxcomb made upon our shame and confusion were such, that it is an unspeakable grief to reflect upon them. As much as you have declaimed against duelling, I hope you will do us the justice to declare, that if the brute has courage enough to send to the place where he saw us all alight together to get rid of him, there is not one of us but has a lover who shall avenge the insult. It would certainly be worth your consideration, to look into the frequent misfortunes of this kind, to which the modest and innocent are exposed, by the licentious behaviour of such as are as much strangers to good-breeding as to virtue. Could we avoid hearing what we do not approve, as easily as we can seeing what is disagreeable, there were some consolation; but since in a box at a play, in an assembly of ladies, or even in a pew at church, it is in the power of a gross coxcomb to utter what a woman cannot avoid hearing, how miserable is her condition who comes within the power of such impertinents? and how necessary is it to repeat invectives against such a behaviour? If the licentious had not utterly forgot what it is to be modest, they would know that offended modesty labours under one of the greatest sufferings to which human life can be exposed. If one of these brutes could reflect thus much, though they want shame they would be moved by their pity, to abhor an impudent behaviour in the presence of the chaste and innocent. If you will oblige us with a Spectator on this subject, and procure it to be pasted against every stage-coach in Great Britain as the law of the journey, you will highly oblige the whole sex, for which you have professed so great

an esteem; and, in particular, the two ladies my late fellow-sufferers, and,

SIR,
'Your most humble servant,
'REBECCA RIDINGHOOD.'

MR. SPECTATOR,

THE matter which I am now going to send you, is an unhappy story in low life, and will recommend itself, so that you must excuse the manner of expressing it. A poor idle drunken weaver in Spitalfields has a faithful laborious wife, who by her frugality and industry had laid by her as much money as purchased her a ticket in the present lottery. She had hid this very privately in the bottom of a trunk, and had given her number to a friend and confidant, who had promised to keep the secret, and bring her news of the success. The poor adventurer was one day gone abroad, when her careless husband, suspecting she had saved some money, searches every corner, till at length he finds this same ticket; which he immediately carries abroad, sells, and squanders away the money without the wife's suspecting any thing of the matter. A day or two after this, this friend, who was a woman, comes and brings the wife word, that she had a benefit of five hundred pounds. The poor creature, overjoyed, flies up stairs to her husband, who was then at work, and desires him to leave his loom for that evening, and come and drink with a friend of his and her's below. The man received this cheerful invitation as bad husbands sometimes do, and, after a cross word or two, told her he wouldn't come. His wife with tenderness renewed her importunity, and at length said to him, "My love! I have within these few months, unknown to you, scraped together as much money as has bought us a ticket in the lottery, and now here is Mrs. Quick come to tell me, that it is come up this morning a five hundred pound prize." The husband replies immediately, "You lie, you slut, you have no ticket, for I have sold it." The poor woman upon this faints away in a fit, recovers, and is now run distracted. As she had no design to defraud her husband, but was willing only to participate in his good fortune, every one pities her, but thinks her husband's punishment but just. This, sir, is matter of fact, and would, if the persons and circumstances were greater, in a well-wrought play be called Beautiful Distress. I have only sketched it out with chalk, and know a good hand can make a moving picture with worse materials.

SIR, &c.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I AM what the world calls a warm fellow, and by good success in trade I have raised myself to a capacity of making some figure in the world; but no matter for that. I have now under my guardianship a couple of nieces, who will certainly make me run mad; which you will not wonder at, when I tell you they are female virtuosses, and during the three years and a half that I have had them under my care, they never in the least inclined their thoughts towards any one single part of the character of a notable woman. Whilst they should have been considering the proper ingredients for a sack-pommet, you should hear a dispute concerning the magnetic virtue of the loadstone, or perhaps the pressure of the atmosphere. Their language is peculiar to themselves, and they scorn to express themselves on the meanest trifle with words that

Latin derivation. But this were sup-ill, would they suffer me to enjoy an ed ignorance; but unless I fall in with ed ideas of things (as they call them) expect to smoke one pipe in quiet. In f the gout I complained of the pain of per, when my niece Kitty begged leave ; that, whatever I might think, several ophers, both ancient and modern, were that both pleasure and pain were im- nctions, and that there was no such ither in *rerum natura*. I have often affirm, that the fire was not hot; and en I, with the authority of an old fel- one of them to put my blue cloke on he answered, "Sir, I will reach the take notice, I do not do it as allowing ption; for it might as well be called ue; for colour is nothing but the vari- ns of the rays of the sun." Miss Molly e day, that to say snow was white, is vulgar error; for as it contains a great nitrous particles, it might more re- supposed to be black. In short, the s would persuade me, that to believe a sure way to be deceived; and have d me, by no means to trust any thing as my senses. What I have to beg of to turn one speculation to the due re- female literature, so far at least, as to assist with the quiet of such whose be liable to its insults; and to tell us ice between a gentleman that should cakes and raise paste, and a lady that e, and understands the mathematica. ou will extremely oblige

'Your hearty friend,
'and humble servant,
'ABRAHAM THRIFTY.'

T.

ATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1711.

idem ipsam, Marce fili, et tanquam faciem uidet: quæ si oculis cerneretur, mirabiles ut ait Plato) excitaret sapientiam.

TULL. Offic.

son Marcus, the very shape and countenance, of virtue; which, if it could be made the sight, would (as Plato says) excite in us a won- of wisdom.

ember to have read any discourse writ-ly upon the beauty and loveliness of out considering it as a duty, and as f making us happy both now and here- sign therefore this speculation as an that subject, in which I shall consider rther than as it is in itself of an ami- , after having premised, that I under- word virtue such a general notion as o it by the writers of morality, and devout men generally goes under the eligion, and by men of the world under f Honour.

y itself does great honour, or rather eligion, and tacitly acknowledges it to nent to human nature. The hypocrite be at so much pains to put on the ap- f virtue, if he did not know it was the r and effectual means to gain the love of mankind.

from Hierocles, it was a common say-

ing among the heathens, that the wise man hates nobody, but only loves the virtuous.

Tully has a very beautiful gradation of thoughts to show how amiable virtue is. 'We love a vir- tuous man,' says he, 'who lives in the remotest parts of the earth, though we are altogether out of the reach of his virtue, and can receive from it no manner of benefit.' Nay, one who died several ages ago, raises a secret fondness and benevolence for him in our minds, when we read his story. Nay, what is still more, one who has been the enemy of our country, provided his wars were regulated by justice and humanity, as in the instance of Pyrrhus, whom Tully mentions on this occasion in opposition to Hannibal. Such is the natural beauty and loveliness of virtue.

Stoicism, which was the pedantry of virtue, ascribes all good qualifications of what kind so- ever to the virtuous man. Accordingly Cato, in the character Tully has left of him, carried mat- ters so far, that he would not allow any one but a virtuous man to be handsome. This indeed looks more like a philosophical rant than the real opinion of a wise man; yet this was what Cato very seri- ously maintained. In short, the Stoics thought they could not sufficiently represent the excellence of virtue, if they did not comprehend in the notion of it all possible perfections; and therefore did not only suppose, that it was transcendently beau- tiful in itself, but that it made the very body ami- able, and banished every kind of deformity from the person in whom it resided.

It is a common observation, that the most aban- doned to all sense of goodness, are apt to wish those who are related to them of a different char- acter: and it is very observable, that none are more struck with the charms of virtue in the fair sex, than those who by their very admiration of it are carried to a desire of ruining it.

A virtuous mind in a fair body is indeed a fine picture in a good light, and therefore it is no wonder that it makes the beautiful sex all over charms.

As virtue in general is of an amiable and lovely nature, there are some particular kinds of it which are more so than others, and these are such as dis- pose us to do good to mankind. Temperance and abstinence, faith and devotion, are in themselves perhaps as laudable as any other virtues; but those which make a man popular and beloved, are jus- tice, charity, munificence, in short, all the good qualities that render us beneficial to each other. For which reason even an extravagant man, who has nothing else to recommend him but a false ge- nerosity, is often more beloved and esteemed than a person of a much more finished character, who is defective in this particular.

The two great ornaments of virtue, which show her in the most advantageous views, and make her altogether lovely, are cheerfulness and good-na- ture. These generally go together, as a man can- not be agreeable to others who is not easy within himself. They are both very requisite in a virtu- ous mind, to keep out melancholy from the many serious thoughts it is engaged in, and to hinder its natural hatred of vice from soaring into severity and censoriousness.

If virtue is of this amiable nature, what can we think of those who can look upon it with an eye of hatred and ill-will, or can suffer their aversion for a party to blot out all the merit of the person who is engaged in it? A man must be excessively stupid, as well as uncharitable, who believes that there is no virtue but on his own side, and that

there are not men as honest as himself who may differ from him in political principles. Men may oppose one another in some particulars, but ought not to carry their hatred to those qualities which are of so amiable a nature in themselves, and have nothing to do with the points in dispute. Men of virtue, though of different interests, ought to consider themselves as more nearly united with one another, than with the vicious part of mankind, who embark with them in the same civil concerns. We should bear the same love towards a man of honour who is a living antagonist, which Tully tells us, in the forementioned passage, every one naturally does to an enemy that is dead. In short, we should esteem virtue though in a foe, and abhor vice though in a friend.

I speak this with an eye to those cruel treatments which men of all sides are apt to give the characters of those who do not agree with them. How many persons of undoubted probity and exemplary virtue, on either side, are blackened and defamed? How many men of honour exposed to public obloquy and reproach? Those therefore who are either the instruments or abettors in such infernal dealings, ought to be looked upon as persons who make use of religion to promote their cause, not of their cause to promote religion.

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 244. MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1711.

— *Judex ex callidus audit.*

HOR. Sat. vii. l. 2. ver. 101.

A judge of painting you, and man of skill.
CREECH.

‘MR. SPECTATOR, Covent Garden, Dec. 7.

‘I CANNOT, without a double injustice, forbear expressing to you the satisfaction which a whole clan of virtuosos have received from those hints which you have lately given the town on the cartoons of the inimitable Raphael *. It should be, methinks, the business of a Spectator to improve the pleasures of sight; and there cannot be a more immediate way to it than recommending the study and observation of excellent drawings and pictures. When I first went to view those of Raphael which you have celebrated, I must confess I was but barely pleased; the next time I liked them better; but at last as I grew better acquainted with them, I fell deeply in love with them; like wise speeches, they sunk deep into my heart: for, you know, Mr. Spectator, that a man of wit may extremely affect one for the present, but if he has not discretion, his merit soon vanishes away: while a wise man that has not so great a stock of wit, shall nevertheless give you a far greater and more lasting satisfaction. Just so it is in a picture that is smartly touched, but not well studied; one may call it a witty picture, though the painter in the mean time may be in danger of being called a fool. On the other hand, a picture that is thoroughly understood in the whole, and well performed in the particulars, that is begun on the foundation of geometry, carried on by the rules of perspective, architecture, and anatomy, and perfected by a good harmony, a just and natural colouring, and such passions and expressions of the mind as are almost peculiar to Raphael; this is what you may justly style a wise picture, and which seldom fails to strike us dumb, till we can assemble all our faculties

ties to make but a tolerable judgment upon it. Other pictures are made for the eyes only, as rattles are made for children’s ears; and certainly that picture that only pleases the eye, without representing some well-chosen part of nature or other, does but show what fine colours are to be sold at the colour-shop, and mocks the works of the Creator. If the best imitator of nature is not to be esteemed the best painter, but he that makes the greatest show and glare of colours; it will necessarily follow, that he who can array himself in the most gaudy draperies is best dressed, and he that can speak loudest the best orator. Every man when he looks on a picture should examine it according to that share of reason he is master of, or he will be in danger of making a wrong judgment. If men when they walk abroad would make more frequent observations on those beauties of nature which every moment present themselves to their view, they would be better judges when they saw her well imitated at home. This would help to correct those errors which most pretenders fall into, who are over hasty in their judgments, and will not stay to let reason come in for a share in the decision. It is for want of this that men mistake in this case, and in common life, a wild extravagant pencil for one that is truly bold and great, an impudent fellow for a man of true courage and bravery, hasty and unreasonable actions for enterprises of spirit and resolution, gaudy colouring for that which is truly beautiful, a false and insinuating discourse for simple truth elegantly recommended. The parallel will hold through all the parts of life and painting too; and the virtuosos above-mentioned will be glad to see you draw it with your terms of art. As the shadows in a picture represent the serious or melancholy, so the lights do the bright and lively thoughts. As there should be but one forcible light in a picture which should catch the eye and fall on the hero, so there should be but one object of our love, even the Author of nature. These and the like reflections, well improved, might very much contribute to open the beauty of that art, and prevent young people from being poisoned by the ill gusto of an extravagant workman that should be imposed upon us.

‘I am, sir,
‘Your most humble servant.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘THOUGH I am a woman, yet I am one of those who confess themselves highly pleased with a speculation you obliged the world with some time ago *, from an old Greek poet you call Simonides, in relation to the several natures and distinctions of our own sex. I could not but admire how justly the characters of women in this age fall in with the times of Simonides, there being no one of those sorts I have not at some time or other of my life met with a sample of. But, sir, the subject of this present address are a set of women comprehended, I think, in the ninth species of that speculation, called the Apes; the description of whom I find to be, “That they are such as are both ugly and ill-natured, who have nothing beautiful themselves, and endeavour to detract from, or ridicule every thing that appears so in others.” Now, sir, this sect, as I have been told, is very frequent in the great town where you live; but as my circumstance of life obliges me to reside altogether in the country, though not many miles from Lon-

It have met with a great number of deed is it a desirable acquaintance, as I have found by experience. You must not be at the beginning of this summer as these Apes came and settled for the winter from the place where I live. As rangers in the country, they were violators about them, of whom I was one, a sanity usual in those that pass most of a solitude. The Apes lived with us only our own way till towards the end of the year, when they began to bethink themselves of returning to town; then it was, Mr. Doodle, that they began to set themselves about distinguishing business of their character as it is said of evil spirits, that they try away a piece of the house they leave, the Apes, without regard to civility, or gratitude, thought fit to soil foul on the faces, dress, and behaviour of innocent neighbours, bestowing abuses, and disgraceful appellations, called nick-names, on all of them; and, true fine ladies, made their honest sincerity matter of ridicule. I could not but point you with these grievances, as well as of all the parties injured, as from my own. I hope, sir, if you cannot propose to reform this evil, you will take such notice of some of your future speculations, as deserving part of our sex on their part these creatures; and at the same time may be sensible, that this sort of diversion from an innocent diversion, that it is not degree that vice which is said to all others*.

'I am, sir,
'Your humble servant,
'CONSTANTIA FIELD.'
T.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1711.

talis causa est proxima veris.
HOR. Ars Poet. v. 338.
please, should wear the face of truth.

thing which one regards so much with contempt and pity as innocence, when it has been so long folly. At the same time that one is virtuous, one is tempted to laugh at the folly which accompanies it. When a man is as silly as the dove, without the least serpent in his composition, he becomes many circumstances of life, and performs his best actions. The Cordeliers and their founder St. Francis, that as he reclined in the dusk of the evening, he was a young fellow with a maid in a corner, the good man, say they, lifted up his heart to heaven with a secret thanksgiving, still so much Christian charity in the innocence of the saint made him misinterpret the lover for a salute of charity, concerned when I see a virtuous man ignorant of the world; and my use in these my papers, it is this, representing vice under any false name, they give my reader an insight into

men their wearing a cord, by way of girdle.

the ways of men, and represent human nature in all its changeable colours. The man who has not been engaged in any of the follies of the world, or, as Shakspeare expresses it, 'hackney'd in the ways of men,' may here find a picture of his follies and extravagancies. The virtuous and the innocent may know in speculation what they could never arrive at by practice, and by this means avoid the snares of the crafty, the corruptions of the vicious, and the reasonings of the prejudiced. Their minds may be opened without being vitiated.

It is with an eye to my following correspondent, Mr. Timothy Doodle, who seems a very well-meaning man, that I have written this short preface, to which I shall subjoin a letter from the said Mr. Doodle.

SIR,
'I could heartily wish that you would let us know your opinion upon several innocent diversions which are in use among us, and which are very proper to pass away a winter night for those who do not care to throw away their time at an opera, or at the play-house. I would gladly know, in particular, what notion you have of hot-cockles*; as also, whether you think that questions and commands, mottoes, similes, and cross purposes, have not more mirth and wit in them than those public diversions which are grown so very fashionable among us. If you would recommend to our wives and daughters, who read your papers with a great deal of pleasure, some of those sports and pastimes that may be practised within doors, and by the fire-side, we who are masters of families should be hugely obliged to you. I need not tell you that I would have these sports and pastimes not only merry but innocent; for which reason I have not mentioned either whisk or lantern-loo, nor indeed so much as one-and-thirty. After having communicated to you my request upon this subject, I will be so free as to tell you how my wife and I pass away these tedious winter evenings with a great deal of pleasure. Though she be young and handsome, and good-humoured to a miracle, she does not care for gadding abroad like others of her sex. There is a very friendly man, a colonel in the army, whom I am mightily obliged to for his civilities, that comes to see me almost every night; for he is not one of those giddy young fellows that cannot live out of a playhouse. When we are together, we very often make a party at Blind-man's Buff, which is a sport that I like the better, because there is a good deal of exercise in it. The colonel and I are blinded by turns, and you would laugh your heart out to see what pains my dear takes to hoodwink us, so that it is impossible for us to see the least glimpse of light. The poor colonel sometimes hits his nose against a post, and makes us die with laughing. I have generally the good luck not to hurt myself, but am very often above half an hour before I can catch either of them: for, you must know, we hide ourselves up and down in corners, that we may have the more sport. I only give you this hint as a sample of such innocent diversions as I would have you recommend; and am,

'Most esteemed sir,
'Your ever loving friend,
'TIMOTHY DOODLE.'

* Of this diversion Dr. Ash gives the following definition. — "A play in which one covers his eyes, lays his hand on his back, and guesses who strikes him." It is derived from the French *haut* (high) *coquilles* (shells).

The following letter was occasioned by my last Thursday's paper* upon the absence of lovers, and the methods therein mentioned of making such absence supportable.

SIR,

'Among the several ways of consolation which absent lovers make use of while their souls are in that state of departure, which you say is death in love, there are some very material ones that have escaped your notice. Among these, the first and most received is a crooked shilling, which has administered great comfort to our forefathers, and is still made use of on this occasion with very good effect in most parts of her majesty's dominions. There are some, I know, who think a crown piece cut into two equal parts, and preserved by the distant lovers, is of more sovereign virtue than the former. But since opinions are divided in this particular, why may not the same persons make use of both? The figure of a heart, whether cut in stone or cast in metal, whether bleeding upon an altar, stuck with darts, or held in the hand of a Cupid, has always been looked upon as talismanic in distresses of this nature. I am acquainted with many a brave fellow, who carries his mistress in the lid of his snuff-box, and by that expedient has supported himself under the absence of a whole campaign. For my own part, I have tried all these remedies, but never found so much benefit from any as from a ring, in which my mistress's hair is platted together very artificially in a kind of true-lover's-knot. As I have received great benefit from this secret, I think myself obliged to communicate it to the public for the good of my fellow-subjects. I desire you will add this letter as an appendix to your consolations upon absence, and am,

Your very humble servant,

T. B.

I shall conclude this paper with a letter from an university gentleman, occasioned by my last Tuesday's paper †, wherein I gave some account of the great feuds which happened formerly in those learned bodies, between the modern Greeks and Trojans.

SIR,

'This will give you to understand, that there is at present in the society whereof I am a member, a very considerable body of Trojans, who, upon a proper occasion, would not fail to declare ourselves. In the meanwhile we do all we can to annoy our enemies by stratagem, and are resolved by the first opportunity to attack Mr. Joshua Barnes ‡, whom we look upon as the Achilles of the opposite party. As for myself, I have had the reputation ever since I came from school, of being a trusty Trojan, and am resolved never to give quarter to the smallest particle of Greek, wherever I chance to meet it. It is for this reason I take it very ill of you, that you sometimes hang out Greek colours at the head of your paper, and sometimes give a word of the enemy even in the body of it. When I meet with any thing of this nature, I throw down your speculations upon the table, with that form of words which we make use of when we declare war upon an author,

Oracum est, non potest legi.

* N° 241.

† N° 239.

‡ Then Greek professor at Cambridge.

I give you this hint, that you may for the future abstain from any such hostilities at your peril.

TAOUCO.

ADDISON.

C.

N° 246. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1711.

— Οὐκ ἄρα οὐ γὰρ παῖδες ἐν ἰστορίᾳ Πάριος,
Οὐδὲ Θέτις μῆτις, γλαυκὴ δὲ σ' ἰτιάσθ' Ὀδυσσεύ,
Μετὰ τ' ἀνέμοιοι, βεῖ τοι νεῖον ἔστιν ἀνέμων.
HOM. *Iliad* xvi. 53.

No amorous hero ever gave thee birth,
Nor ever tender goddess brought thee forth.
Some rugged rock's hard entrails gave thee form,
And raging seas produc'd thee in a storm:
A soul well suited thy tempestuous kind,
So rough thy manners, so untam'd thy mind.

POPE.

'MR SPECTATOR,

'As your paper is part of the equipage of the tea-table, I conjure you to print what I now write to you; for I have no other way to communicate what I have to say to the fair sex on the most important circumstance of life, even "the care of children." I do not understand that you profess your paper is always to consist of matters which are only to entertain the learned and polite, but that it may agree with your design to publish some which may tend to the information of mankind in general; and when it does so, you do more than writing wit and humour. Give me leave then to tell you, that all the abuses that ever you have as yet endeavoured to reform, certainly not one wasted so much your assistance as the abuse in nursing of children. It is unmerciful to see, that a woman endowed with all the perfections and blessings of nature, can, as soon as she is delivered, turn off her innocent, tender, and helpless infant, and give it up to a woman that is (ten thousand to one) neither in health nor good condition, neither sound in mind nor body, that has neither honour nor reputation, neither love nor pity for the poor babe, but more regard for the money than for the whole child, and never will take further care of it than what by all the encouragement of money and presents she is forced to; like *Æsop's* earth, which would not nurse the plant of another ground, although never so much improved, by reason that plant was not of its own production. And since another's child is no more natural to a nurse, than a plant to a strange and different ground, how can it be supposed that the child should thrive; and if it thrives, must it not imbibe the gross humours and qualities of the nurse, like a plant in a different ground, or like a graft upon a different stock? Do not we observe, that a lamb sucking a goat changes very much its nature, nay even its skin and wool into the goat kind? The power of a nurse over a child, by infusing into it with her milk her qualities and disposition, is sufficiently and daily observed. Hence came that old saying concerning an ill-natured and malicious fellow, that "he had imbibed his malice with his nurse's milk, or that some brute or other had been his nurse." Hence *Romulus* and *Remus* were said to have been nursed by a wolf; *Telephus* the son of *Hercules* by a hind; *Pelias* the son of *Neptune* by a mare; and *Ægiphus* by a goat; not that they had actually sucked such creatures, as some simpletons have imagined, but that their nurses had been of such a nature and temper, and infused such into them.

'Many instances may be produced from good authorities and daily experience, that children ac-

in the several passions and depraved inclinations of their nurses, as anger, malice, fear, sadness, desire, and aversion. This is the 2. witness, when he speaks, saying, the emperor's nurse had been very much drinking; which habit Nero received from her, and was so very particular in this, that he took so much notice of it, as in the case of Nero, they called him Biberius: the same Diodorus also relates of Caligula's nurse, that his nurse used to suckle him frequently with her nipples of her breast frequently with her nipples. Caligula take the better hold of her, says Diodorus, was the cause that he was so blood-thirsty and cruel all his life: that he not only committed frequent murders on his own hand, but likewise wished that he might wear but one neck, that he might have pleasure to cut it off. Such like degenerate the parents, who, not knowing the child can take, see one to incline another to drinking, cruelty, stupidity; they are not minded. Nay, it is easy to see, that a child, although it be born from parents, may be corrupted by an ill nurse. How many children do we see brought into fits, consumptions, rickets, &c. sucking their nurses when in a passion at indeed almost any disorder of the mother to the child, and few nurses can be found in this town but what labour under some other. The first question that is asked of a young woman that wants to be a nurse is, should be a nurse to other people's children, answered, by her having an ill husband, that she must make shift to live. I think this very answer is enough to give any man who is duly considered; for an ill husband or ten to one if he does not, bring his wife an ill distemper, or at least vexatious disturbance. Besides, as she takes the mere necessity, her food will be scarce else very coarse at best; whence procured and coarse food for the child; food, so is the milk; and hence I am assured proceeds the scurvy, the evil, the distempers. I beg of you for the many poor infants that may and will be weighing this case seriously, to exhort with the utmost vehemence, to let the children suck their own mothers, both for the mother and child. For the general rule, that a mother is weakened by giving suck to children, is vain and simple. I will say that the mother grows stronger by it, and she will find it the greatest cure for the vapours and future mischief beyond any other remedy whatsoever. Children will be like giants, whereas they are but living shadows, and like shadows; and certainly if a woman is strong enough to bring forth a child, she is beyond all doubt strong enough to nurse it afterwards. It is to observe and consider how many poor children are daily ruined by careless nurses; and how often they are to be of a poor infant, cast hurt or blow, especially upon the head, make it senseless, stupid, or otherwise cannot well leave this subject as yet; as to me very unnatural, that a woman should have a child as part of herself for nine months and have no desire to nurse it further,

when brought to light and before her eyes, and when by its cry it implores her assistance and the office of a mother. Do not the very cruellest of brutes tend their young ones with all the care and delight imaginable? For how can she be called a mother that will not nurse her young ones? The earth is called the mother of all things, not because she produces, but because she maintains and nurses what she produces. The generation of the infant is the effect of desire, but the care of it argues virtue and choice. I am not ignorant but that there are some cases of necessity, where a mother cannot give suck, and then out of two evils the least must be chosen; but there are so very few, that I am sure in a thousand there is hardly one real instance; for if a woman does but know that her husband can spare about three or six shillings a week extraordinary, (although this is but seldom considered) she certainly, with the assistance of her gossip, will soon persuade the good man to send the child to nurse, and easily impose upon him by pretending indisposition. This cruelty is supported by fashion, and nature gives place to custom.

'SIR,
'Your humble servant.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 247. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1711.

Τὸν δ' ἀνελκυστὶν ἄνθρωπος
ἐκ στήθεσσι νόσφι

HESIOD.

Their untir'd lips a wordy torrent pour.

We are told by some ancient authors, that Socrates was instructed in eloquence by a woman, whose name, if I am not mistaken, was Aspasia. I have indeed very often looked upon that art as the most proper for the female sex, and I think the universities would do well to consider whether they should not fill the rhetoric chairs with she-professors.

It has been said in the praise of some men, that they could talk whole hours together upon any thing; but it must be owned to the honour of the other sex, that there are many among them who can talk whole hours together upon nothing. I have known a woman branch out into a long extempore dissertation upon the edging of a petticoat, and chide her servant for breaking a china cup, in all the figures of rhetoric.

Were women admitted to plead in courts of judicature, I am persuaded they would carry the eloquence of the bar to greater heights than it has yet arrived at. If any one doubts this, let him but be present at those debates which frequently arise among the ladies of the British fishery.

The first kind therefore of female orators which I shall take notice of, are those who are employed in stirring up the passions; a part of rhetoric in which Socrates's wife had perhaps made a greater proficiency than his above-mentioned teacher.

The second kind of female orators are those who deal in invectives, and who are commonly known

* Luigi Tansillo's poem, called 'The Nurse,' has been elegantly translated by Mr. Roscoe, who thus turns the Italian lines on this subject:

'Shall the lov'd burthen that so long ye bore
Your alter'd kindness from its birth deplore?
Not half a mother she, whose pride denies
The streaming bev'rage to her infant's cries.'

by the name of the censorious. The imagination and elocution of this set of rhetoricians is wonderful. With what a fluency of invention, and copiousness of expression, will they enlarge upon every little slip in the behaviour of another? With how many different circumstances, and with what variety of phrases will they tell over the same story? I have known an old lady make an unhappy marriage the subject of a month's conversation. She blamed the bride in one place; pitied her in another; laughed at her in a third; wondered at her in a fourth; was angry with her in a fifth; and, in short, wore out a pair of coach-horses in expressing her concern for her. At length, after having quite exhausted the subject on this side, she made a visit to the new-married pair, praised the wife for the prudent choice she had made, told her the unreasonable reflections which some malicious people had cast upon her, and desired that they might be better acquainted. The censure and approbation of this kind of women are therefore only to be considered as helps to discourse.

A third kind of female orators may be comprehended under the word gossip. Mrs. Fiddle-faddle is perfectly accomplished in this sort of eloquence; she launches out into descriptions of christenings, runs divisions upon an head-dress, knows every dish of meat that is served up in her neighbourhood, and entertains her company a whole afternoon together with the wit of her little boy, before he is able to speak.

The coquette may be looked upon as a fourth kind of female orator. To give herself the larger field for discourse, she hates and loves in the same breath, talks to her lap-dog or parrot, is uneasy in all kinds of weather, and in every part of the room. She has false quarrels and feigned obligations to all the men of her acquaintance; sighs when she is not sad, and laughs when she is not merry. The coquette is in particular a great mistress of that part of oratory which is called action, and indeed seems to speak for no other purpose, but as it gives her an opportunity of stirring a limb, or varying a feature, of glancing her eyes, or playing with her fan.

As for news-mongers, politicians, mimics, story-tellers, with other characters of that nature which give birth to loquacity, they are as commonly found among the men as the women; for which reason I shall pass them over in silence.

I have often been puzzled to assign a cause why women should have this talent of a ready utterance in so much greater perfection than men. I have sometimes fancied that they have not a retentive power, or the faculty of suppressing their thoughts, as men have, but that they are necessitated to speak every thing they think; and if so, it would perhaps furnish a very strong argument to the Cartesianes for the supporting of their doctrine that the soul always thinks. But as several are of opinion that the fair sex are not altogether strangers to the art of dissembling and concealing their thoughts, I have been forced to relinquish that opinion, and have therefore endeavoured to seek after some better reason. In order to it, a friend of mine, who is an excellent anatomist, has promised me by the first opportunity to dissect a woman's tongue, and to examine whether there may not be in it certain juices which render it so wonderfully volatile or suppliant, or whether the fibres of it may not be made up of a finer or more pliant thread; or whether there are not in it some particular muscles which dart it up and down by such sudden glances and vibrations; or whether, in the last

place, there may not be certain undiscovered channels running from the head and the heart to this little instrument of loquacity, and conveying into it a perpetual affluency of animal spirits. Nor must I omit the reason which Hudibras has given*, why those who can talk on trifles speak with the greatest fluency; namely, that the tongue is like a race-horse, which runs the faster the lesser weight it carries.

Which of these reasons soever may be looked upon as the most probable, I think the Irishman's thought was very natural, who after some hours conversation with a female orator told her, that he believed her tongue was very glad when she was asleep, for that it had not a moment's rest all the while she was awake.

That excellent old ballad of *The Wanton Wife of Bath*†, has the following remarkable lines:

'I think, quoth Thomas, women's tongues
Of aspen leaves are made.'

And Ovid, though in the description of a very barbarous circumstance, tells us, that when the tongue of a beautiful female was cut out, and thrown upon the ground, it could not forbear muttering even in that posture:

'——— *Compressam forcipe linguam
Abtulit ens, ferro, radix micat ultima lingue.
Ipsa jacet, terraque tremens immurmurat alta;
Utque exire soles mutilata cauda colubra
Palpitat*———'

MET. lib. vi. ver. 556.

— The blade had cut
Her tongue sheer off, close to the trembling root;
The mangled part still quiver'd on the ground,
Murmuring with a faint imperfect sound;
And as a serpent writhes his wounded train,
Uneasy, panting, and possess'd with pain,
CROKAL.

If a tongue would be talking without a mouth, what could it have done when it had all its organs of speech, and accomplices of sound about it? I might here mention the story of the Pippin Woman, had I not some reason to look upon it as fabulous‡.

I must confess I am so wonderfully charmed with the music of this little instrument, that I would by no means discourage it. All that I aim at by this dissertation is, to cure it of several disagreeable notes, and in particular of those little jarrings and dissonances which arise from anger, censoriousness, gossiping, and coquetry. In short, I would always have it tuned by good-nature, truth, discretion, and sincerity.

ADDISON.

C.

* Part iii. canto 2. ver. 443.

— Still his tongue ran on the less
Of weight it bore, with greater ease.

† Reliques of Ancient English Poetry, vol. iii.

‡ This story of Doll, an apple-woman, who, when the Thames was frozen over, was said to have had her head cut off by the ice, is humorously told in Gay's Trivia:

'The crackling crystal yields; she sinks, she dies;
Her head, chapt off, from her lost shoulders flies;
Pippins she cry'd, but death her voice confounds,
And pip-pip-pip along the ice resounds.'

Book ii. ver. 389, &c.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1711.

ne officii est, ut quisque maxime opus indigeat, tutissimum optulerit.

TULL.

principal point of duty, to assist another most, when he is most in need of assistance.

There are none who deserve superiority over the esteem of mankind, who do not make themselves leavours to be beneficial to society; and all occasions which their circumstances administer, do not take a certain measure in conferring benefits of one kind. Those whose great talents and high birth set them in conspicuous stations of life, are sensibly obliged to exert some noble influence for the service of the world; or else such become misfortunes, and shade and deprive a more eligible portion. Where opportunities and inclinations are given to the same person, sometimes see sublime instances of virtue, dazzle our imaginations, that we look on all which in lower scenes of life we may be able to practise. But this is a way of thinking; and it bears some spice of madness, for a man to imagine that he may, by his own ambitious, or seek adventures, to be engaged in great actions. It is in every man's power to be above mere poverty, to do things worthy, but heroic. The great of civil virtue is self-denial; and he who is above the necessities of life, but has opportunity of exercising that noble quality, and such as his circumstances will bear for the convenience of other men; and he more than ordinary men practise upon occasions as occur in his life, deserves the esteem of his friends, as if he had done enterprises usually attended with the highest glory. Public spirit differs rather in their circumstances than in their virtue; and the man who does in a low station, is more a hero than he who sits any worthy action he is able to accomplish a great one. It is not many years ago, that a young man, in wrong of his elder brother, came to an estate by gift of his father, by reason of the bad behaviour of the first-born. Shame and reformation reformed the life of the disinherited; he became as remarkable for his good conduct formerly for his errors. Lapidus, who was his brother's amendment, sent him on a day in the morning, the following letter:

MY BROTHER,

I send you the deeds whereby my father has left this house and land. Had he lived till he could not have bestowed it in that manner, it from the man you were, and I return it to the man you are.

I am, sir,

Your affectionate brother,

and humble servant,

P. T.

And exalted spirits undertake the pious and exalted actions for the good of others, at times gratifying their passion for glory; they find in the domestic way of life many advantages, to satisfy a gentle passion, which they bear to their friends with distresses and calamities. Such names call stores of Providence, which are by a secret celestial influence to under-

value the ordinary gratifications of wealth, to give comfort to an heart loaded with affliction, to save a falling family, to preserve a branch of trade in their neighbourhood, and give work to the industrious, preserve the portion of the helpless infant, and raise the head of the mourning father. People whose hearts are wholly bent towards pleasure, or intent upon gain, never hear of the noble occurrences among men of industry and humanity. It would look like a city romance, to tell them of the generous merchant, who the other day sent this billet to an eminent trader under difficulties to support himself, in whose fall many hundreds besides himself had perished: but because I think there is more spirit and true gallantry in it than in any letter I have ever read from Strephon to Phillis, I shall insert it even in the mercantile honest style in which it was sent:

SIR,

I HAVE heard of the casualties which have involved you in extreme distress at this time; and knowing you to be a man of great good-nature, industry, and probity, have resolved to stand by you. Be of good cheer; the bearer brings with him five thousand pounds, and has my order to answer your drawing as much more on my account. I did this in haste, for fear I should come too late for your relief; but you may value yourself with me to the sum of fifty thousand pounds; for I can very cheerfully run the hazard of being so much less rich than I am now, to save an honest man whom I love. Your friend and servant,

W. S. S.

I think there is somewhere in Montaigne a mention made of a family-book, wherein all the occurrences that happened from one generation of that house to another were recorded. Were there such a method in the families which are concerned in this generosity, it would be an hard task for the greatest in Europe to give in their own, an instance of a benefit better placed, or conferred with a more graceful air. It has been heretofore urged, how barbarous and inhuman is any unjust step made to the disadvantage of a trader; and by how much such an act towards him is detestable, by so much an act of kindness towards him is laudable. I remember to have heard a bench of the Temple tell a story of a tradition in their house, where they had formerly a custom of choosing kings for such a season, and allowing him his expenses at the charge of the society. One of our kings, said my friend, carried his royal inclination a little too far, and there was a committee ordered to look into the management of his treasury. Among other things it appeared, that his majesty walking incognito in the cloister, had overheard a poor man say to another, 'Such a small sum would make me the happiest man in the world.' The king, out of his royal compassion, privately inquired into his character, and, finding him a proper object of charity, sent him the money. When the committee read the report, the house passed his accounts with a *plaudite* without further examination, upon the recital of this article in them:

For making a man happy £10 0 0.

STEEL

T.

* The merchant involved in distress by casualties was one Mr. Moreton, a linen-draper; and the generous merchant, here so justly celebrated, was Sir William Scawen.

† Montaigne's Essays, vol. i. 8vo. edit.

‡ See No 218.

§ Beau Nash, master of the ceremonies (with the title of King) at Bath. See his life in the Biographical Dictionary, vol. xi. edit. 1798.

Nº 249. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1711.

Τὸν αἰὶν ἐν ῥητορικοῖς δὲν ἔχουσιν.

Prag. Vet. Poet.

Mirth out of season is a grievous ill.

WHEN I make choice of a subject that has not been treated on by others, I throw together my reflections on it without any order or method, so that they may appear rather in the looseness and freedom of an essay, than in the regularity of a set discourse. It is after this manner that I shall consider laughter and ridicule in my present paper.

Man is the merriest species of the creation; all above and below him are serious. He sees things in a different light from other beings, and finds his mirth arising from objects that perhaps cause something like pity or displeasure in higher natures. Laughter is indeed a very good counterpoise to the spleen; and it seems but reasonable that we should be capable of receiving joy from what is no real good to us, since we can receive grief from what is no real evil.

I have in my forty-seventh paper raised a speculation on the notion of a modern philosopher*, who describes the first motive of laughter to be a secret comparison which we make between ourselves and the persons we laugh at; or, in other words, that satisfaction which we receive from the opinion of some pre-eminence in ourselves, when we see the absurdities of another, or when we reflect on any past absurdities of our own. This seems to hold in most cases, and we may observe that the vainest part of mankind are the most addicted to this passion.

I have read a sermon of a conventual in the church of Rome, on those words of the wise man, 'I said of laughter, it is mad; and of mirth, what does it?' Upon which he laid it down as a point of doctrine, that laughter was the effect of original sin, and that Adam could not laugh before the fall.

Laughter, while it lasts, slackens and unbraces the mind, weakens the faculties, and causes a kind of remissness and dissolution in all the powers of the soul; and thus far it may be looked upon as a weakness in the composition of human nature. But if we consider the frequent reliefs we receive from it, and how often it breaks the gloom which is apt to depress the mind and damp our spirits, with transient unexpected gleams of joy, one would take care not to grow too wise for so great a pleasure of life.

The talent of turning men into ridicule, and exposing to laughter those one converses with, is the qualification of little ungenerous tempers. A young man with this cast of mind cuts himself off from all manner of improvement. Every one has his flaws and weaknesses; nay, the greatest blemishes are often found in the most shining characters; but what an absurd thing is it to pass over all the valuable parts of a man, and fix our attention on his infirmities? to observe his imperfections more than his virtues? and to make use of him for the sport of others, rather than for our own improvement?

We therefore very often find, that persons the most accomplished in ridicule are those who are very shrewd at hitting a blot, without exerting any thing masterly in themselves. As there are many eminent critics who never writ a good line, there

are many admirable buffoons that animadvert upon every single defect in another, without ever discovering the least beauty of their own. By this means, these unlucky little wits often gain reputation in the esteem of vulgar minds, and raise themselves above persons of much more laudable characters.

If the talent of ridicule were employed to laugh men out of vice and folly, it might be of some use to the world; but instead of this, we find that it is generally made use of to laugh men out of virtue and good sense, by attacking every thing that is solemn and serious, decent and praise-worthy, in human life.

We may observe, that in the first ages of the world, when the great souls and master-pieces of human nature were produced, men shined by a noble simplicity of behaviour, and were strangers to those little embellishments which are so fashionable in our present conversation. And it is very remarkable, that notwithstanding we fall short at present of the ancients in poetry, painting, oratory, history, architecture, and all the noble arts and sciences which depend more upon genius than experience, we exceed them as much in doggrel, humour, burlesque, and all the trivial arts of ridicule. We meet with more raillery among the moderns, but more good sense among the ancients.

The two great branches of ridicule in writing are comedy and burlesque. The first ridicules persons by drawing them in their proper characters, the other by drawing them quite unlike themselves. Burlesque is therefore of two kinds; the first represents mean persons in the accoutrements of heroes; the other describes great persons acting and speaking like the basest among the people. Don Quixote is an instance of the first, and Lucian's gods of the second. It is a dispute among the critics, whether burlesque poetry runs best in heroic verse, like that of the *Dispensary*; or in doggrel, like that of *Hudibras*. I think, where the low character is to be raised, the heroic is the proper measure; but when an hero is to be pulled down and degraded, it is done best in doggrel.

If *Hudibras* had been set out with as much wit and humour in heroic verse as he is in doggrel, he would have made a much more agreeable figure than he does; though the generality of his readers are so wonderfully pleased with the double rhimes, that I do not expect many will be of my opinion in this particular.

I shall conclude this essay upon laughter with observing, that the metaphor of laughing, applied to fields and meadows when they are in flower, or to trees when they are in blossom, runs through all languages; which I have not observed of any other metaphor, excepting that of fire and burning when they are applied to love. This shows that we naturally regard laughter, as what is in itself both amiable and beautiful. For this reason likewise Venus has gained the title of *gelaia*, 'the laughter-loving dame,' as Waller has translated it, and is represented by Horace as the goddess who delights in laughter. Milton, in a joyous assembly of imaginary persons, has given us a very poetical figure of laughter. His whole band of mirth is so finely described, that I shall set down the passage at length:

'But come thou goddess fair and free,
In heav'n's upbraid Euphrosyne,
And by men, heart-easing Mirth,
Whom lovely Venus at a birth
With two sister Graces more,
To Ivy crowned Bacchus bore.

* Hobbes.

aste thee nymph, and bring with thee
 st and youthful jollity,
 ups, and cranks, and wanton wiles,
 ods, and beads, and wreathed smiles,
 ch as hang on Hebe's cheek,
 id love to live in dimple sleep;
 sort that wrinkled Care derides,
 id laughter holding both his sides.
 me, and trip it, as you go,
 a the light fantastic toe:
 id in thy right hand lead with thee
 e mountain nymph, sweet Liberty;
 id if I give thee honour due,
 rth, admit me of thy crew,
 live with her, and live with thee,
 unreproved pleasures free."

N.

C.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1711.

*docendus adhuc, quæ censeat amicus, ut si
 iter monstrare velit; tamen nescit si quid
 quod curæ proprium fecisset, loquatur.*
 HOR. Ep. xvii. l. 1. ver. 3.

ar what thy unskilful friend can say,
 ne blind pretends to show the way;
 a while, if what is fairly shown
 is, and such as you may make your own.
 CREECH.

SPECTATOR,

the nature of my request by the Latin
 ich I address to you. I am very sensible
 of to use many words to you, who are one
 r; but the following piece as it relates to
 n, in propriety of speech, being a curio-
 kind, begs your patience. It was found
 cal virtuoso's closet among his rarities;
 the several treatises of thumbs, ears, and
 re obliged the world, this of eyes is at
 ice.

irst eye of consequence (under the invis-
 or of all) is the visible luminary of the

This glorious Spectator is said never to
 eyes at his rising in a morning, without
 whole kingdom of adorers in Persian
 ng at his levee. Millions of creatures de-
 sight from this original, who, besides his
 great director of optics, is the surest test
 yes be of the same species with that of
 or that of an owl. The one he emboldens
 anly assurance to look, speak, act, or
 ore the faces of a numerous assembly;
 he dazzles out of countenance into a
 dejectedness. The sun-proof eye dares
 a dance in a full court; and without
 at the lustre of beauty, can distribute an
 oper complaisance to a room crowded
 any, each of which deserves particular
 rible the other sneaks from conversation,
 rful debtor who never dares to look out,
 he can see no body, and no body him.
 next instance of optics is the famous Ar-
 (to speak the language of Cambridge)
 if a hundred; and being used as a spy in
 of jealousy, was obliged to have all his
 it him. We have no account of the par-
 lours, casts, and turns of this body of
 as he was pimp for his mistress Juno, it
 le be used all the modern leers, sly glances,
 ocular activities to serve his purpose.
 k upon him as the then king at arms to
 enish deities; and make no more of him
 of so many spangles of his herald's coat.
 next upon the optic list is old Janus, who
 double-sighted capacity, like a person

placed betwixt two opposite looking-glasses, and so
 took a sort of retrospective cast at one view. Co-
 pies of this double-faced way are not yet out of
 fashion with many professions; and the ingenious
 artists pretend to keep up this species by double-
 headed canes and spoons*; but there is no mark
 of this faculty, except in the emblematical way of
 a wise general having an eye to both front and
 rear, or a pious man taking a review and prospect
 of his past and future state at the same time.

"I must own, that the names, colours, qualities,
 and turns of eyes, vary almost in every head; for,
 not to mention the common appellations of the
 black, the blue, the white, the grey, and the like;
 the most remarkable are those that borrow their
 titles from animals, by virtue of some particular
 quality of resemblance they bear to the eyes of
 the respective creatures; as that of a greedy rapa-
 cious aspect takes its name from the cat, that of a
 sharp piercing nature from the hawk, those of an
 amorous roguish look derive their title even from
 the sheep, and we say such a one has a sheep's eye,
 not so much to denote the innocence as the simple
 slyness of the cast. Nor is this metaphorical inocu-
 lation a modern invention, for we find Homer
 taking the freedom to place the eye of an ox, bull,
 or cow, in one of his principal goddesses, by that
 frequent expression of

ΒΟΟΪΣ ΟΥΤΩΤΙΑ ΗΓΩ

'The ox-eyed venerable Juno.'

"Now as to the peculiar qualities of the eye,
 that fine part of our constitution seems as much the
 receptacle and seat of our passions, appetites, and
 inclinations, as the mind itself; and at least it
 is the outward portal to introduce them to the
 house within, or rather the common thoroughfare to
 let our affections pass in and out. Love, anger,
 pride, and avarice, all visibly move in those little
 orbs. I know a young lady that cannot see a cer-
 tain gentleman pass by without showing a secret
 desire of seeing him again by a dance in her eye-
 balls; nay, she cannot, for the heart of her, help
 looking half a street's length after any man in a gay
 dress. You cannot behold a covetous spirit walk
 by a goldsmith's shop without casting a wishful eye
 at the heaps upon the counter. Does not a haughty
 person show the temper of his soul in the supercil-
 ious roll of his eye? and how frequently in the
 height of passion does that moving picture in our
 head start and stare, gather a redness and quick
 flashes of lightning, and make all its humours
 sparkle with fire, as Virgil finely describes it,

"— Ardentis ab ore
 Scintille abstinent: oculis micat scribis ignis."
 Æn. xii. ver. 101.

— "From his wide nostrils flies
 A fiery stream, and sparkles from his eyes."
 DRYDEN.

"As for the various turns of the eye-sight, such
 as the voluntary or involuntary, the half or the
 whole leer, I shall not enter into a very particular
 account of them; but let me observe, that oblique
 vision, when natural, was anciently the mark of
 bewitchery and magical fascination, and to this
 day it is a malignant ill look; but when it is forced
 and affected, it carries a wanton design, and in
 playhouses, and other public places, this ocular
 intimation is often an assignation for bad prac-

* Many old-fashioned spoons have ornamental figures
 carved on the handles, as a double face, one of the twelve
 apostles, &c. &c.

tices. But this irregularity in vision, together with such enormities as tipping the wink, the circum-spective roll, the side-peep through a thin hood or fan, must be put in the class of heteroptics, as all wrong notions of religion are ranked under the general name of heterodox. All the pernicious applications of sight are more immediately under the direction of a Spectator; and I hope you will arm your readers against the mischiefs which are daily done by killing eyes, in which you will highly oblige your wounded unknown friend,

"T. R."*

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'You professed in several papers your particular endeavours in the province of Spectator, to correct the offences committed by Starers, who disturb whole assemblies without any regard to time, place, or modesty. You complained also, that a Starer is not usually a person to be convinced by the reason of the thing, nor so easily rebuked as to amend by admonitions. I thought, therefore, fit to acquaint you with a convenient mechanical way, which may easily prevent or correct staring, by an optical contrivance of new perspective-glasses, short and commodious like opera-glasses, fit for short-sighted people as well as others, these glasses making the objects appear either as they are seen by the naked eye, or more distinct, though somewhat less than life, or bigger and nearer. A person may, by the help of this invention, take a view of another without the impertinence of staring; at the same time, it shall not be possible to know whom or what he is looking at. One may look towards his right or left hand, when he is supposed to look forwards. This is set forth at large in the printed proposals for the sale of these glasses, to be had at Mr. Dillon's in Long-acre, next door to the White-Hart. Now, sir, as your Spectator has occasioned the publishing of this invention for the benefit of modest spectators, the inventor desires your admonitions concerning the decent use of it; and hopes, by your recommendation, that for the future beauty may be beheld without the torture and confusion which it suffers from the insolence of Starers. By this means you will relieve the innocent from an insult which there is no law to punish, though it is a greater offence than many which are within the cognizance of justice.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble servant,

'ABRAHAM SPT.'

Q.

Nº 251. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1711.

— *Lingua centum sunt, oraque centum.*
Foras eos—

VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 625.

— A hundred mouths, a hundred tongues,
And throats of brass inspir'd with iron lungs.
DRYDEN.

THERE is nothing which more astonishes a foreigner, and frights a country squire, than the Cries of London. My good friend Sir Roger often declares, that he cannot get them out of his head, or go to sleep for them, the first week that he is in town. On the contrary, Will Honeycomb calls them the *ramage de la ville*, and prefers them to

the sounds of larks and nightingales, with all the music of the fields and woods. I have lately received a letter from some very odd fellow upon this subject, which I shall leave with my reader, without saying any thing further of it.

'SIR,

'I AM a man out of all business, and would willingly turn my head to any thing for an honest livelihood. I have invented several projects for raising many millions of money without burdening the subject, but I cannot get the parliament to listen to me, who look upon me, forsooth, as a crack, and a projector; so that despairing to enrich either myself or my country by this public-spiritedness, I would make some proposals to you relating to a design which I have very much at heart, and which may procure me a handsome subsistence, if you will be pleased to recommend it to the cities of London and Westminster.

'The post I would aim at, is to be comptroller-general of the London Cries, which are at present under no manner of rules or discipline. I think I am pretty well qualified for this place, as being a man of very strong lungs, of great insight into all the branches of our British trades and manufactures, and of a competent skill in music.

'The Cries of London may be divided into vocal and instrumental. As for the latter, they are at present under a very great disorder. A freeman of London has the privilege of disturbing a whole street for an hour together, with the twanking of a brass kettle or a frying-pan. The watchman's thump at midnight startles us in our beds, as much as the breaking in of a thief. The sawgelder's horn has indeed something musical in it, but this is seldom heard within the liberties. I would therefore propose, that no instrument of this nature should be made use of, which I have not tuned and licensed, after having carefully examined in what manner it may affect the ears of her majesty's liege subjects.

'Vocal cries are of a much larger extent, and indeed so full of incongruities and barbarisms, that we appear a distracted city to foreigners, who do not comprehend the meaning of such enormous outcries. Milk is generally sold in a note above E-la, and in sounds so exceeding shrill, that it often sets our teeth on edge. The chimney-sweeper is confined to no certain pitch; he sometimes utters himself in the deepest base, and sometimes in the sharpest treble; sometimes in the highest, and sometimes in the lowest note of the gamut. The same observation might be made on the retailers of small-coal, not to mention broken glasses, or brick-dust. In these, therefore, and the like cases, it should be my care to sweeten and mellow the voices of these itinerant tradesmen, before they make their appearance in our streets, as also to accommodate their cries to their respective wares; and to take care in particular, that those may not make the most noise who have the least to sell, which is very observable in the vendors of card-matches, to whom I cannot but apply that old proverb of "Mach cry, but little wool."

'Some of these last-mentioned musicians are so very loud in the sale of these trifling manufactures, that an honest splanetic gentleman of my acquaintance bargained with one of them never to come into the street where he lived. But what was the effect of this contract? Why, the whole tribe of card-match-makers which frequent that quarter, passed by his door the very next day, in hopes of being bought off after the same manner.

* Said to have been written by a Mr. Gouling. See Nº 252.

s another great imperfection in our London that there is no just time nor measure observed in them. Our news should indeed be published at a very quick time, because it is a commodity that will not keep cold. It should not, however, be cried with the same precipitation as if this is generally the case. A bloody alarm the town from one end to another in an instant. Every motion of the French is shed in so great a hurry, that one would think the enemy were at our gates. This likewise I take upon me to regulate in such a manner, there should be some distinction made between the announcing of a victory, a march, or an encampment, Dutch, a Portugal, or a Spanish mail. I omit under this head those excessive with which several bolsterous rustics infest the streets in turnip-season; and which are more ridiculous, because these are wares which are in need of cooling upon their hands.

There are others who affect a very slow time, in my opinion much more tuneable than the former. The cooper in particular swells his voice in an hollow voice, that is not without its use; nor can I forbear being inspired with a reasonable melancholy, when I hear that sad mellow air with which the public are very often lulled if they have any chairs to mend? Your memory may suggest to you many other lullaby ditties of the same nature, in which the wonderfully languishing and melodious.

I am always pleased with that particular time of year which is proper for the pickling of cucumbers; but, alas! this cry, like the note of the nightingale, is not heard above two or three times.

It would therefore be worth while to consider, whether the same air might not in some degree be adapted to other words.

It might likewise deserve our most serious consideration, how far, in a well regulated city, those cries are to be tolerated, who, not contented with traditional cries of their forefathers, have composed particular songs and tunes of their own: as, not many years since, the pastry-man,

commonly known by the name of the Colly-Molly-Puff*; and such as is at this day the vender of powder and wash-balls, who, if I am rightly informed, goes under the name of Powder-Watt.

I must not here omit one particular absurdity which runs through this whole vociferous generation, and which renders their cries very often not only inconvenient, but altogether useless to the public. I mean, that idle accomplishment which they all of them aim at, of crying so as not to be understood. Whether or no they have learned this from several of our affected singers, I will not take upon me to say; but most certain it is, that people know the wares they deal in rather by their tunes than by their words; inasmuch that I have sometimes seen a country boy run out to buy apples of a bellows-mender, and ginger-bread from a grinder of knives and scissars. Nay, so strangely infatuated are some very eminent artists of this particular grace in a cry, that none but their acquaintance are able to guess at their profession; for who else can know, that "work if I had it," should be the signification of a corn-cutter?

Forasmuch, therefore, as persons of this rank are seldom men of genius or capacity, I think it would be very proper that some man of good sense and sound judgment should preside over these public cries, who should permit none to lift up their voices in our streets, that have not tunable throats, and are not only able to overcome the noise of the crowd, and the rattling of coaches, but also to vend their respective merchandises in apt phrases, and in the most distinct and agreeable sounds. I do therefore humbly recommend myself as a person rightly qualified for this post; and if I meet with fitting encouragement, shall communicate some other projects which I have by me, that may no less conduce to the emolument of the public.

I am, sir, &c.

RALPH CROTCHET.

C.

ADDISON.

* There is a print of this man in the Set of London Cries, M. Lauron, del. P. Tempest, scul. as we learn from Granger's Biographical History of England.

THE SPECTATOR.

VOL. IV.

TO THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH*.

MY LORD,

As it is natural to have a fondness for what has cost us much time and attention to produce, I hope your Grace will forgive my endeavour to

* John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, and Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, one of the ablest statesmen, and most polite courtiers, as well as one of the greatest generals, and most illustrious heroes of his age, was the son of Sir Winston Churchill, of Wotton Bassett, in Wiltshire, and born at Aase, in Devonshire, June 24, 1650. He was at first page of honour to James Duke of York; but being strongly inclined to a military life, he obtained, at the age of sixteen, an ensign in the guards, and in that quality served against the Moors at Tangier. In the war with the Dutch in 1672, he served under the Duke of Monmouth in the French army, where he distinguished himself so much by his gallantry and conduct, that he received the thanks of the French monarch at the head of the army. The Duke of Monmouth too, at his return to England, declared to King Charles the Second, that 'he owed his life at the siege of Maestrich to the bravery of Captain Churchill.' This opened the way for his further advancement; and he was accordingly appointed lieutenant-colonel of Littleton's regiment, and gentleman of the bed-chamber, and master of the robes to James Duke of York. This prince he afterwards attended to the Low Countries, and to Scotland; and it was by the interest of his royal highness, that, in 1682, he was made Baron of Eymouth, and colonel of the third troop of guards. Upon the accession of King James to the throne, he was created Baron Churchill, of Sandridge, in the county of Hertford, and made brigadier-general of his majesty's army; and in this last capacity he had a considerable share in suppressing the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. Great, however, as were the obligations which he lay under to his sovereign, those which he owed to his country were, in his opinion, much greater; for when he saw King James taking strides toward destroying the religion and liberties of his country, he immediately deserted him, and went over to the Prince of Orange. In the subsequent reign he enjoyed the same influence which he had possessed in the preceding. He was sworn of the privy-council, made one of the gentlemen of the queen's bed-chamber, and created Earl of Marlborough. He afterwards served with great reputation, both in Flanders and in Ireland; but, in 1692, he was dismissed from all his employments, and even thrown into the tower on a suspicion of high treason. This suspicion, however, appearing, upon examination, to be altogether groundless, he was restored to favour, and appointed governor to the Duke of Gloucester, whom King William delivered into his hands with this remarkable expression, 'My lord, make him but what you are, and my nephew will be all that I wish to see him.' Upon the accession of Queen Anne to the throne, he was made a knight of the garter, and captain-general of her majesty's forces, and sent over to Holland with the character of ambassador extraordinary, and minister plenipotentiary. The states too, in compliment to the queen, and as a proof of their being sensible of the earl's own merits, constituted him captain-general of their forces, and assigned him a pen-

preserve this work from oblivion, by affixing to it your memorable name.

I shall not here presume to mention the illustrious passages of your life, which are celebrated by the whole age, and have been the subject of the most sublime pens; but if I could convey you to posterity in your private character, and de-

sion of one hundred thousand florins per annum. To relate all the achievements he performed during the ten years that ensued, i. e. from 1702 to 1712, would be almost to give a history of Queen Anne's reign. It may be sufficient here to observe, that he defeated the French armies, though headed by their ablest generals, and always superior to him in point of number, in several pitched battles, at Blenheim, at Ramillies, at Oudenard, at Malplaquet, &c.; that he reduced almost every place of importance in the French and Spanish Netherlands; saved the empire; secured the United Provinces; raised the glory and consequence of Great Britain; and humbled the pride of the French monarch to such a degree, that that ambitious prince, who, but a few years before, had seized, in imagination, the dominions of all his neighbours, now began, in earnest, to tremble for his own. In a word, it may be said of this general, what can hardly be said of any other, that he never fought a battle which he did not gain, nor ever besieged a town which he did not take. Even in the earlier part of his life, he gave evident signs of what he afterwards proved. Prince Vandemont, it is said, delivered himself to King William in the following terms: 'There is somewhat in the Earl of Marlborough, that I want words to express; he has all the fierceness of Kirke, all the judgment of Lanier, all the conduct of Mackay, and all the intrepidity of Colchester; and either my skill in fact deceives me, which yet it never did, or he will make a greater figure as a general, than any subject your majesty has.' The king smiled, and replied, 'Marlborough is obliged to you; but I really believe you will lose no credit by your prediction.' His great merit met with a suitable reward. He was honoured, six different times, with the thanks of the house of commons, was created a duke, had a pension of five thousand pounds a year settled upon him out of the post-office revenue, and was presented with the manor of Woodstock and the hundred of Wotton, where the queen caused to be erected for him a noble edifice, called Blenheim-house, in memory of the victory which he had gained at that place. He was likewise created a prince of the empire, by the title of Prince of Mildenheim, in the province of Swabia. His prudence and moderation were equal to his other great qualities. For when, upon the change of the ministry in 1710, he found his interest at court considerably diminished, or rather totally annihilated, he still continued to serve his country in his military capacity; and when stripped of his command about two years after, and even cruelly and unjustly persecuted, instead of embroiling the administration by his personal disputes, he retired into a foreign country, where he remained till the decease of Queen Anne; and returning to England at the accession of King George the First, he was by that prince re-instated in all his former employments. He died June 16, 1722, in the seventy-third year of his age, and was interred with great funeral pomp in Westminster-abbey.

e stature, the behaviour, and aspect of the Marlborough, I question not but it would reader with more agreeable images, and a more delightful entertainment, than be found in the following, or any other

annot, indeed, without offence to yourself, that you excel the rest of mankind in all, as well as the greatest endowments. It is a circumstance to be mentioned, if the great attractions of your person were not the eminence you have above others, which is not unobserved, by greater writers.

How pleasing would it be to those who shall be surprised with your ordinary life and death! How pleasing would it be to hear, that a man who carried fire and sword into the midst of all that had opposed the cause of liberty, struck a terror into the armies of France, in the midst of his high station, a behaviour as is usual in the first steps towards greatness, if it were possible to express that easily, which did at once persuade and command, would appear as clearly to those to come, as to his contemporaries, that all the great things which were brought to pass under the conduct of a well-governed a spirit, were the blessings of wisdom and valour; and all which were vouchsafed by divine permission, which it is not to search into.

How have you passed that year of life wherein you were a brave and fortunate captain, before your time, when you had lived enough both to nature and to glory, and your Grace may make that reflection with more justice. He spoke it after he had seen the empire by an usurpation upon those who had enslaved; but the Prince of Mind only rejoices in a sovereignty which was in him whose dominions he had preserved.

His establishment upon the uninterrupted success of his noble designs and actions, is not subject to decay; nor can any attempts prevail against the proportion which the narrow circuit of life bears to the unlimited extent of fame.

May I congratulate your Grace not only upon your achievements, but likewise upon the expiration of your command, by which your glory is put out of the power of fortune: and your person shall be so too, that the Author of all things may place you in that mansion of bliss and immortality which is reserved for good princes, law-givers, and heroes; in his due time removes them from the world, and mankind, is the hearty prayer of,

MY LORD,

Your Grace's most obedient,

Most devoted humble servant,

THE SPECTATOR.

Nº 252. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1711.

Errant, passimque oculos per cuncta ferenti.

VIRG. *Æn. li. ver. 570.*

Exploring ev'ry place with curious eyes.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I AM very sorry to find by your discourse upon the eye, that you have not thoroughly studied the nature and force of that part of a beautiful face. Had you ever been in love, you would have said ten thousand things, which it seems did not occur to you. Do but reflect upon the nonsense it makes men talk, the flames which it is said to kindle, the transport it raises, the dejection it causes in the bravest men; and if you do believe those things are expressed to an extravagance, yet you will own, that the influence of it is very great, which moves men to that extravagance. Certain it is, that the whole strength of the mind is sometimes seated there; that a kind look imparts all that a year's discourse could give you, in one moment. What matters it what she says to you? "See how she looks," is the language of all who know what love is. When the mind is thus summed up and expressed in a glance, did you never observe a sudden joy arise in the countenance of a lover? Did you never see the attendance of years paid, overpaid in an instant? You a Spectator, and not know that the intelligence of affection is carried on by the eye only; that good-breeding has made the tongue falsify the heart, and act a part of continual constraint, while nature has preserved the eyes to herself, that she may not be disguised, or misrepresented. The poor bride can give her hand, and say, "I do," with a languishing air, to the man she is obliged by cruel parents to take for mercenary reasons, but at the same time she cannot look as if she loved; her eye is full of sorrow, and reluctance sits in a tear, while the offering of a sacrifice is performed in what we call the marriage ceremony. Do you never go to plays? Cannot you distinguish between the eyes of those who go to see, from those who come to be seen? I am a woman turned of thirty, and am on the observation a little; therefore if you, or your correspondent, had consulted me in your discourse on the eye, I could have told you that the eye of Leonora is silly watchful while it looks negligent; she looks round her without the help of the glasses you speak of, and yet seems to be employed on objects directly before her. This eye is what affects chancemedley, and on a sudden, as if it attended to another thing, turns all its charms against an ogler. The eye of Lusitania is an instrument of premeditated murder; but the design being visible, destroys the execution of it; and with much more beauty than that of Leonora, it is not half so mischievous. There is a brave soldier's daughter in town, that by her eye has been the death of more than ever her father made fly before him. A beautiful eye makes silence eloquent, a kind eye makes contradiction an assent, an enraged eye makes beauty deformed. This little member gives life to every other part about us, and I believe the story of Argus implies no more, than that the eye is in every part; that is to say, every other part would be mutilated, were not its force represented more by the eye, than even by itself. But this is heathen Greek to those who have not conversed by glances. This,

sir, is a language in which there can be no deceit, nor can a skilful observer be imposed upon by looks, even among politicians and courtiers. If you do me the honour to print this among your speculations, I shall in my next make you a present of secret history, by translating all the looks of the next assembly of ladies and gentlemen into words, to adorn some future paper.

'I am, sir,

'Your faithful friend,

'MARY HEARTFREE.'

'DEAR MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE a sot of a husband that lives a very scandalous life, and wastes away his body and fortune in debaucheries; and is immovable to all the arguments I can urge to him. I would gladly know whether in some cases a cudgel may not be allowed as a good figure of speech, and whether it may not be lawfully used by a female orator.

'Your humble servant,

'BARBARA CRABTREE.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THOUGH I am a practitioner in the law of some standing, and have heard many eminent pleaders in my time, as well as other eloquent speakers of both universities, yet I agree with you, that women are better qualified to succeed in oratory than the men, and believe this is to be resolved into natural causes. You have mentioned only the volubility of their tongue; but what do you think of the silent flattery of their pretty faces, and the persuasion which even an insipid discourse carries with it when flowing from beautiful lips, to which it would be cruel to deny any thing? It is certain too, that they are possessed of some springs of rhetoric which men want, such as tears, fainting-fits, and the like, which I have seen employed upon occasion, with good success. You must know I am a plain man, and love my money; yet I have a spouse who is so great an orator in this way, that she draws from me what sums she pleases. Every room in my house is furnished with trophies of her eloquence, rich cabinets, piles of china, Japan screens, and costly jars; and if you were to come into my great parlour, you would fancy yourself in an India warehouse. Besides this she keeps a squirrel, and I am doubly taxed to pay for the china he breaks. She is seized with periodical fits about the time of the subscriptions to a new opera, and is drowned in tears after having seen any woman there in finer clothes than herself. These are arts of persuasion purely feminine, and which a tender heart cannot resist. What I would therefore desire of you, is, to prevail with your friend who has promised to dissect a female tongue, that he would at the same time give us the anatomy of a female eye, and explain the springs and sluices which feed it with such ready supplies of moisture; and likewise show by what means, if possible, they may be stopped at a reasonable expense. Or, indeed, since there is something so moving in the very image of weeping beauty, it would be worthy his art to provide, that these eloquent drops may no more be lavished on trifles, or employed as servants to their wayward wills; but reserved for serious occasions in life, to adorn generous pity, true penitence, or real sorrow

'I am, &c.'

STEELE.—This letter by HUGHES.

T.

Nº 259. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1711.

*Indignor quicquam reprehendi, non quia censeo
Compositum, illepidee putator, sed quia super.*

HOR. Ep. ii. l. 1. ver. 75.

I lose my patience, and I own it too,
When works are censur'd, not as bad, but new.

POPE.

THERE is nothing which more denotes a great mind than the abhorrence of envy and detraction. This passion reigns more among bad poets than among any other set of men.

As there are none more ambitious of fame, than those who are conversant in poetry, it is very natural for such as have not succeeded in it to depreciate the works of those who have. For since they cannot raise themselves to the reputation of their fellow-writers, they must endeavour to sink it to their own pitch, if they would still keep themselves upon a level with them.

The greatest wits that ever were produced in one age, lived together in so good an understanding, and celebrated one another with so much generosity, that each of them receives an additional lustre from his contemporaries, and is more famous for having lived with men of so extraordinary a genius, than if he had himself been the sole wonder of the age. I need not tell my reader, that I here point at the reign of Augustus; and I believe he will be of my opinion, that neither Virgil nor Horace would have gained so great a reputation in the world, had they not been the friends and admirers of each other. Indeed all the great writers of that age, for whom singly we have so great an esteem, stand up together as vouchers for one another's reputation. But at the same time that Virgil was celebrated by Gallus, Propertius, Horace, Varius, Tucca, and Ovid, we know that Bavius and Mævius were his declared foes and calumniators.

In our own country a man seldom sets up for a poet, without attacking the reputation of all his brothers in the art. The ignorance of the moderns, the scribblers of the age, the decay of poetry, are the topics of detraction with which he makes his entrance into the world: but how much more noble is the fame that is built on candour and ingenuity, according to those beautiful lines of Sir John Denham, in his poem on Fletcher's works!

'But whither am I stray'd! I need not raise
Trophies to thee from other men's dispraise:
Nor is thy fame on lesser ruins built,
Nor needs thy juster title the foul guilt
Of eastern kings, who, to secure their reigns,
Must have their brothers, sons, and kindred slain.'

I am sorry to find that an author*, who is very justly esteemed among the best judges, has admitted some strokes of this nature into a very fine poem; I mean The Art of Criticism, which was published some months since, and is a masterpiece in its kind. The observations follow one another like those in Horace's Art of Poetry, without that methodical regularity which would have been requisite in a prose author. They are some of them uncommon, but such as the reader must assent to, when he sees them explained with that elegance and perspicuity in which they are delivered. As for those which are the most known, and the most received, they are placed in so beautiful a light,

* Pope.

ted with such apt allusions, that they fill all the graces of novelty, and make who was before acquainted with them, convinced of their truth and solidity. We leave to mention what Monsieur so very well enlarged upon in the pre-works, that wit and fine writing do not much in advancing things that are new; things that are known an agreeable impossible for us, who live in the latter world, to make observations in criti-ty, or in any art or science, which have been made upon by others. We have little but to represent the common sense of more strong, more beautiful, or more lights. If a reader examines Horace's style, he will find but very few precepts he may not meet with in Aristotle, and not commonly known by all the poets of our age. His way of expressing and manner, not his invention of them, is what is to be admired.

For I think there is nothing in the same as the works of those critics who write in a positive dogmatic way, without either reason, or imagination. If the reader should see the best of the Latin critics wrote, their manner very beautifully described by the writers of Horace, Petronius, Quintilian, &c., as they are drawn in the essay of now speaking.

We have mentioned Longinus, who in his style is given us the same kind of sublime, serves in the several passages that occur; I cannot but take notice that our author has after the same manner exemplified of his precepts in the very precepts I shall produce two or three instances.

Speaking of the insipid smoothness of readers are so much in love with, he writes verses:

Equal syllables alone require,
The ear the open vowels tire,
Pleasures their feeble aid do join,
Low words oft creep in one dull line.*

Of the vowels in the second line, the 'lo' in the third, and the ten monosyllables in the fourth, give such a beauty to this passage as have been very much admired in poetry. The reader may observe the following in the view:

Alexandrine ends the song,
The wounded snake drags its slow length along.*

Words,

Though no harshness gives offence,
Just seem an echo to the sense.
Rain when Zephyr gently blows,
And the soft stream in smoother numbers flows;
And surges lash the sounding shore,
The hoarse, rough verse should like the torrent roar.
The strivings of some rock's vast weight to throw,
The labour, and the words move slow:
The swift Camilla scours the plain,
The unbending corn, and skims along the main.*

A beautiful distich upon Ajax in the foregoing is in mind of a description in Homer's which none of the critics have taken notice of, where Sisyphus is represented lifting up the hill, which is no sooner carried off it, but it immediately tumbles to the ground, his double motion of the stone is admitted in the numbers of these verses; as

in the four first it is heaved up by several spondaes intermixed with proper breathing places, and at last trundles down in a continual line of dactyls:

Και μιν Σίσυφον ησπιδόν, κρατερήν αλγύ' ἐχούσα,
Λααγ βαρυστόμα σπινθηροειδήσιν.
Ἦτοι δ' ἐμὴ σκληροκόμοτος χερσὶν τί ποσσὶν τί,
Λααγ ἀνω ὠθίσαι πρὸς λόφον· ἀλλ' ὅτι μύλλοι
Ἀχρὸν ὑπερβαλύν, τὸτ' ἀποσφριφάσκει Κράλαις,
Αὐτὸς πάλιν πιδόνει κυλινδρὸν λαας ἀναίδης.

ODYSS. 11.

'I turn'd my eye, and as I turn'd survey'd
A mournful vision! the Sisyphian shade:
With many a weary step, and many a groan,
Up the high hill he heaves a huge round stone:
The huge round stone, resulting with a bound,
Thunders impetuous down, and smokes along the ground.'

POPE.

It would be endless to quote verses out of Virgil which have this particular kind of beauty in the numbers: but I may take an occasion in a future paper to show several of them which have escaped the observation of others.

I cannot conclude this paper without taking notice that we have three poems in our tongue, which are of the same nature, and each of them a masterpiece in its kind; the Essay on Translated Verse*, the Essay on the Art of Poetry †, and the Essay upon Criticism ‡.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 254. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1711.

Σιμωνος εὖρος ἀρετῆς, ὃ δὲ κυπρίδος ἀσυχρὸς ἐφίλλει.

On love of virtue reverence attends,
But sensual pleasure in our ruin ends.

WHEN I consider the false impressions which are received by the generality of the world, I am troubled at none more than a certain levity of thought, which many young women of quality have entertained, to the hazard of their characters, and the certain misfortune of their lives. The first of the following letters may best represent the faults I would now point at; and the answer to it the temper of mind in a contrary character.

'MY DEAR HARRIOT,
'Is thou art she, but oh how fallen, how changed, what an apostate! how lost to all that is gay and agreeable! To be married I find is to be buried alive. I cannot conceive it more dismal to be shut up in a vault to converse with the shades of my ancestors, than to be carried down to an old manor-house in the country, and confined to the conversation of a sober husband, and an awkward chambermaid. For variety I suppose you may entertain yourself with madam in her program gown, the spouse of your parish vicar, who has by this time, I am sure, well furnished you with receipts for making salves and possets, distilling cordial waters, making syrups, and applying poultices.

'Blest solitude! I wish thee joy, my dear, of thy loved retirement, which, indeed, you would persuade me is very agreeable, and different enough from what I have here described: but, child, I am afraid thy brains are a little disordered with romances and novels. After six months marriage to hear thee talk of love, and paint the country

* By the Earl of Roscommon.

† By the Duke of Normandy.

‡ By Pope.

scenes so softly, is a little extravagant; one would think you lived the lives of sylvan deities, or roved among the walks of Paradise, like the first happy pair. But prythee leave these whimsies, and come to town in order to live, and talk like other mortals. However, as I am extremely interested in your reputation, I would willingly give you a little good advice at your first appearance under the character of a married woman. It is a little insolent in me, perhaps, to advise a matron; but I am so afraid you will make so silly a figure as a fond wife, that I cannot help warning you not to appear in any public places with your husband, and never to saunter about St. James's-park together: if you presume to enter the ring at Hyde-park together, you are ruined for ever; nor must you take the least notice of one another at the playhouse, or opera, unless you would be laughed at for a very loving couple, most happily paired in the yoke of wedlock. I would recommend the example of an acquaintance of ours to your imitation; she is the most negligent and fashionable wife in the world; she is hardly ever seen in the same place with her husband, and if they happen to meet, you would think them perfect strangers; she never was heard to name him in his absence, and takes care he shall never be the subject of any discourse that she has a share in. I hope you will propose this lady as a pattern, though I am very much afraid you will be so silly to think Portia, &c. Sabine and Roman wives, much brighter examples. I wish it may never come into your head to imitate those antiquated creatures so far as to come into public in the habit, as well as air, of a Roman matron. You make already the entertainment at Mrs. Modish's tea-table; she says, she always thought you a discreet person, and qualified to manage a family with admirable prudence; she dies to see what demure and serious airs wedlock has given you; but she says, she shall never forgive your choice of so gallant a man as Belamour to transform him to a mere sober husband; it was unpardonable. You see, my dear, we all envy your happiness, and no person more than

'Your humble servant,

'LYDIA.'

'Be not in pain, good madam, for my appearance in town; I shall frequent no public places, or make any visits where the character of a modest wife is ridiculous. As for your wild raillery on matrimony, it is all hypocrisy; you and all the handsome young women of your acquaintance show yourselves to no other purpose, than to gain a conquest over some man of worth, in order to bestow your charms and fortune on him. There is no indecency in the confession, the design is modest, and honourable, and all your affectation cannot disguise it.

'I am married, and have no other concern but to please the man I love; he is the end of every care I have; if I dream, it is for him; if I read a poem, or a play, it is to qualify myself for a conversation agreeable to his taste: he is almost the end of my devotions; half my prayers are for his happiness—I love to talk of him, and never hear him named but with pleasure and emotion. I am your friend, and wish you happiness; but am sorry to see by the air of your letter, that there are a set of women who are got into the common-place raillery of every thing that is sober, decent, and proper: matrimony and the clergy are the topics of people of little wit, and no understanding. I own to you, I have learned of the

vicar's wife all you tax me with. She is a discreet, ingenious, pleasant, pious woman; I wish she had the handling of you, and Mrs. Modish; you would find, if you were too free with her, she would soon make you as charming as ever you were; she would make you blush as much as if you never had been fine ladies. The vicar, madam, is so kind as to visit my husband, and his agreeable conversation has brought him to enjoy many sober happy hours when even I am shut out, and my dear master is entertained only with his own thoughts. These things, dear madam, will be lasting satisfactions, when the fine ladies, and the coxcombs, by whom they form themselves, are irreparably ridiculous, ridiculous in old age.

'I am, MADAM,

'Your most humble servant,

'MARY HOME.'

'DEAR MR. SPECTATOR,

'You have no goodness in the world, and are not in earnest in any thing you say that is serious, if you do not send me a plain answer to this. I happened some days past to be at the play, where, during the time of performance, I could not keep my eyes off from a beautiful young creature who sat just before me, and who I have been since informed has no fortune. It would utterly ruin my reputation for discretion to marry such a one, and by what I can learn she has a character of great modesty, so that there is nothing to be thought on any other way. My mind has ever since been wholly bent on her, that I am much in danger of doing something very extravagant, without your speedy advice to,

'MR,

'Your most humble servant.'

I am sorry I cannot answer this impatient gentleman, but by another question.

'DEAR CORRESPONDENT,

'Would you marry to please other people, or yourself?'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 255. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1711.

*Laude amore tunc / non certa placida, qua te
Ter pure lecto poterant recreare libello.*

HOR. Ep. l. i. l. ver. 36.

IMITATED.

Know there are rhymes, which (fresh and fresh apply'd)
Will cure the ardent puppy of his pride.

POPE.

THE soul, considered abstractedly from its passions, is of a remiss and sedentary nature, slow in its resolves, and languishing in its exertions. The use therefore of the passions is to stir it up, and to put it upon action, to awaken the understanding, to enforce the will, and to make the whole man more vigorous and attentive in the prosecution of his designs. As this is the end of the passions in general, so it is particularly of ambition, which pushes the soul to such actions as are apt to procure honour and reputation to the actor. But if we carry our reflections higher, we may discover further ends of Providence in implanting this passion in mankind.

It was necessary for the world, that arts should be invented and improved, books written and transmitted to posterity, nations conquered and civilized. Now since the proper and genuine motive

d the like great actions, would only in-ious minds; there would be but small is in the world, were there not some aciple of action working equally with d such a principle is ambition, or a me, by which great endowments are to lie idle and useless to the public, cious men are overreached, as it were, contrary to their natural inclinations, and laudable course of action. For her observe, that men of the greatest most fired with ambition; and that, on , mean and narrow minds are the least it: whether it be that a man's sense of apacities makes him despair of coming hat he has not enough range of thought or any good which does not more im-late to his interest or convenience; or nce, in the very frame of his soul, object him to such a passion as would the world, and a torment to himself. this desire of fame very strong, the obtaining it, and the danger of losing ined, would be sufficient to deter a vain pursuit.

are there who are furnished with abilit to recommend their actions to the f the world, and to distinguish them- the rest of mankind; Providence for t sets us upon a level, and observes a portion in its dispensations towards us. us perfect in one accomplishment, it ives us defective in another, and seems r of preserving every person from be- d deficient in his qualifications, than ny single one eminent or extraordi-

g those who are the most richly en- ture, and accomplished by their own w few are there whose virtues are not the ignorance, prejudice, or envy of rs! Some men cannot discern between a mean action. Others are apt to m to some false end or intention; and sely misrepresent, or put a wrong in- on them. But the more to enforce tion, we may observe, that those are st unsuccessful in their pursuit after re most desirous of obtaining it. It remark upon Cato, that the less he y, the more he acquired it*.

an ill-natured pleasure in crossing our and disappointing us in what our nost set upon. When therefore they red the passionate desire of fame in s man, (as no temper of mind is more itself) they become sparing and re- cir commendations, they envy him the of an applause, and look on their r as a kindness done to his person, bute paid to his merit. Others who n this natural perverseness of temper, in their praises of one who sets too e on them, lest they should raise him his own imagination, and by conse- ve him to a greater distance from

er, this desire of fame naturally be- nicious man into such indecencies as ng to his reputation. He is still afraid his actions should be thrown away in his deserts should be concealed from

the notice of the world, or receive any disadv- tage from the reports which others make of them. This often sets him on empty boasts and ostenta- tions of himself, and betrays him into vain fan- tistical recitals of his own performances. His discourse generally leans one way, and whatever is the subject of it, tends obliquely either to the detracting from others, or to the extolling of him- self. Vanity is the natural weakness of an ambi- tious man, which exposes him to the secret scorn and derision of those he converses with, and ruins the character he is so industrious to advance by it. For though his actions are never so glorious, they lose their lustre when they are drawn at large, and set to show by his own hand; and as the world is more apt to find fault than to commend, the boast will probably be censured, when the great action that occasioned it is forgotten.

Besides, this very desire of fame is looked on as a meanness and imperfection in the greatest cha- racter. A solid and substantial greatness of soul looks down, with a generous neglect, on the ce- sures and applauses of the multitude, and places a man beyond the little noise and strife of tongues. Accordingly we find in ourselves a secret awe and veneration for the character of one who moves above us, in a regular and illustrious course of vir- tue, without any regard to our good or ill opinions of him, to our reproaches or commendations. As on the contrary it is usual for us, when we would take off from the fame and reputation of an ac- tion, to ascribe it to vainglory, and a desire of fame in the actor. Nor is this common judgment and opinion of mankind ill-founded: for certainly it denotes no great bravery of mind, to be worked up to any noble action by so selfish a motive, and to do that out of a desire of fame, which we could not be prompted to by a disinterested love to mankind, or by a generous passion for the glory of him that made us.

Thus is fame a thing difficult to be obtained by all, but particularly by those who thirst after it, since most men have so much either of ill-nature, or of wariness, as not to gratify or soothe the va- nity of the ambitious man; and since this very thirst after fame naturally betrays him into such indecencies as are a lessening to his reputation, and is itself looked upon as a weakness in the greatest characters.

In the next place, fame is easily lost, and as dif- ficult to be preserved as it was at first to be ac- quired. But this I shall make the subject of a fol- lowing paper.

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 256. MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1711.

Θνην γὰρ τί κακὴ πέλειται· κερὶ μὲν αἰεταί
Ροπα μάλ', ἀργαλεὺς δὲ φέρων —

HESIOD.

Desire of fame by various ways is cross'd,
Hard to be gain'd, and easy to be lost.

THESE are many passions and tempers of mind which naturally dispose us to depress and vilify the merit of one rising in the esteem of mankind. All those who made their entrance into the world with the same advantages, and were once looked on as his equals, are apt to think the fame of his merits a reflection on their own indolence; and will there- fore take care to reproach him with the scandal of some past action, or derogate from the worth of the present, that they may still keep him on the same level with themselves. The like kind of con-

sideration often stirs up the envy of such as were once his superiors, who think it a detraction from their merit to see another get ground upon them, and overtake them in the pursuits of glory; and will therefore endeavour to sink his reputation, that they may the better preserve their own. Those who were once his equals envy and defame him, because they now see him their superior; and those who were once his superiors, because they look upon him as their equal.

But further, a man whose extraordinary reputation thus lifts him up to the notice and observation of mankind, draws a multitude of eyes upon him, that will narrowly inspect every part of him, consider him nicely in all views, and not be a little pleased, when they have taken him in the worst and most disadvantageous light. There are many who find a pleasure in contradicting the common reports of fame, and in spreading abroad the weaknesses of an exalted character. They publish their ill-natured discoveries with a secret pride, and applaud themselves for the singularity of their judgment, which has searched deeper than others, detected what the rest of the world have overlooked, and found a flaw in what the generality of mankind admire. Others there are who proclaim the errors and infirmities of a great man with an inward satisfaction and complacency, if they discover none of the like errors and infirmities in themselves; for while they are exposing another's weaknesses, they are tacitly aiming at their own commendations, who are not subject to the like infirmities, and are apt to be transported with a secret kind of vanity, to see themselves superior in some respects to one of a sublime and celebrated reputation. Nay, it very often happens, that none are more industrious in publishing the blemishes of an extraordinary reputation, than such as lie open to the same censures in their own characters, as either hoping to excuse their own defects by the authority of so high an example, or raise an imaginary applause to themselves, for resembling a person of an exalted reputation, though in the blameable parts of his character. If all these secret springs of detraction fail, yet very often a vain ostentation of wit sets a man on attacking an established name, and sacrificing it to the mirth and laughter of those about him. A satire or a libel on one of the common stamp, never meets with that reception and approbation among its readers, as what is aimed at a person whose merit places him upon an eminence, and gives him a more conspicuous figure among men. Whether it be that we think it shows greater art to expose and turn to ridicule a man whose character seems so improper a subject for it, or that we are pleased by some implicit kind of revenge to see him taken down and humbled in his reputation, and in some measure reduced to our own rank, who had so far raised himself above us in the reports and opinions of mankind.

Thus we see how many dark and intricate motives there are to detraction and defamation, and how many malicious spies are searching into the actions of a great man, who is not, always, the best prepared for so narrow an inspection. For we may generally observe, that our admiration of a famous man lessens upon our nearer acquaintance with him; and that we seldom hear the description of a celebrated person, without a catalogue of some notorious weaknesses and infirmities. The reason may be, because any little slip is more conspicuous and observable in his conduct than in another's, as it is not of a piece with the rest of his

character; or because it is impossible for a man at the same time to be attentive to the more important part of his life, and to keep a watchful eye over all the inconsiderable circumstances of his behaviour and conversation; or because, as we have before observed, the same temper of mind which inclines us to a desire of fame, naturally betrays us into such slips and unwarinesses, as are not incident to men of a contrary disposition.

After all it must be confessed, that a noble and triumphant merit often breaks through and dissipates these little spots and sullies in its reputation; but if by a mistaken pursuit after fame, or through human infirmity, any false step be made in the more momentous concerns of life, the whole scheme of ambitious designs is broken and disappointed. The smaller stains and blemishes may die away and disappear; amidst the brightness that surrounds them; but a blot of a deeper nature casts a shade on all the other beauties, and darkens the whole character. How difficult therefore is it to preserve a great name, when he that has acquired it is so obnoxious to such little weaknesses and infirmities as are no small diminution to it when discovered; especially when they are so industriously proclaimed, and aggravated by such as were once his superiors, or equals; by such as would set to show their judgment, or their wit, and by such as are guilty, or innocent, of the same slips or misconducts in their own behaviour!

But were there none of these dispositions in others to censure a famous man, nor any such mis-carriages in himself, yet would be met with so small trouble in keeping up his reputation, in all its height and splendour. There must be always a noble train of actions to preserve his fame in life and motion. For when it is once at a stand, it naturally flags and languishes. Admiration is a very short-lived passion, that immediately decays upon growing familiar with its object, unless it be still fed with fresh discoveries, and kept alive by a new perpetual succession of miracles rising up to its view. And even the greatest actions of a celebrated person labour under this disadvantage, that, however surprising and extraordinary they may be, they are no more than what are expected from him; but, on the contrary, if they fall any thing below the opinion that is conceived of him, though they might raise the reputation of another, they are a diminution to his.

One would think there should be something wonderfully pleasing in the possession of fame, that, notwithstanding all these mortifying considerations, can engage a man in so desperate a pursuit; and yet, if we consider the little happiness that attends a great character, and the multitude of inquietudes to which the desire of it subjects an ambitious mind, one would be still the more surprised to see so many restless candidates for glory.

Ambition raises a secret tumult in the soul, it inflames the mind, and puts it into a violent hurry of thought. It is still reaching after an empty imaginary good, that has not in it the power to abate or satisfy it. Most other things we long for, can allay the cravings of their proper sense, and for a while set the appetite at rest: but fame is a good so wholly foreign to our natures, that we have no faculty in the soul adapted to it, nor any organ in the body to relish it; an object of desire, placed out of the possibility of fruition. It may indeed fill the mind for a while with a giddy kind of pleasure, but it is such a pleasure as makes a man restless and uneasy under it; and which does not so much satisfy the present thirst, as it excites

res, and sets the soul on new enterprises. few ambitious men are there, who have such fame as they desired, and whose thirst is not been as eager in the very height of utation, as it was before they became eminent among men? There is not any vice in Cæsar's character which gives me idea of him, than a saying which Cicero frequently made use of in private conversation. 'That he was satisfied with his share of fame.'

'Se satis vel ad naturam vel ad irisse.' Many indeed have given over suits after fame, but that has proceeded from the disappointments they have met in their experience of the little pleasures it ends it, or from the better informations coldness of old age; but seldom from a notion and acquiescence in their present state of it.

Fame only unsatisfying in itself, but the it lays us open to many accidental troubles those are free from who have no such regard for it. How often is the ambitious man down and disappointed, if he receives no more he expected it? Nay, how often is he ed with the very praises he receives, if it rise so high as he thinks they ought; seldom do, unless increased by flattery, men have so good an opinion of us as we ourselves? But if the ambitious man can be grieved even with praise itself, how able to bear up under scandal and defeat for the same temper of mind which desire fame, makes him hate reproach. be transported with the extraordinary men, he will be as much dejected by ices. How little therefore is the happy-ambitious man, who gives every one a over it, who thus subjects himself to the speeches of others, and puts it in the very malicious tongue to throw him into melancholy, and destroy his natural rest of mind? especially when we consider cold is more apt to censure than applaud, full of imperfections than virtues.

I further observe, that such a man will be grieved for the loss of fame, than he could be pleased with the enjoyment of it. For the presence of this imaginary good cannot be happy, the absence of it may make us because in the enjoyment of an object and that share of pleasure which it is giving us; but in the loss of it we do not our grief to the real value it bears, value our fancies and imaginations set

considerable is the satisfaction that fame brings with it, and so great the disquietudes it makes us liable. The desire of it stirs uneasy motions in the mind, and is rather than satisfied by the presence of the thing. The enjoyment of it brings but very little though the loss or want of it be very sensibly affecting; and even this little happiness precarious, that it wholly depends upon others. We are not only tortured by wishes which are offered us, but are dis- by the silence of men when it is unexpected humbled even by their praises.

Nº 257. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1711.

Ουχ' ἴδμεν Διὸς
Οφθαλμοῖς δ' αὖτις καὶ παρῶν ἔσσοι.
Incert. ex. STOB.

No slumber seals the eye of Providence,
Present to every action we commence.

THAT I might not lose myself upon a subject of so great extent as that of fame, I have treated it in a particular order and method. I have first of all considered the reasons why Providence may have implanted in our minds such a principle of action*, I have in the next place shown from many considerations, first, that fame is a thing difficult to be obtained, and easily lost; secondly, that it brings the ambitious man very little happiness, but subjects him to much uneasiness and dissatisfaction †, I shall in the last place show, that it hinders us from obtaining an end which we have abilities to acquire, and which is accompanied with fullness of satisfaction. I need not tell my reader, that I mean by this end, that happiness which is reserved for us in another world, which every one has abilities to procure, and which will bring along with it, 'fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore.'

How the pursuit after fame may hinder us in the attainment of this great end, I shall leave the reader to collect from the three following considerations:

First, Because the strong desire of fame breeds several vicious habits in the mind.

Secondly, Because many of those actions, which are apt to procure fame, are not in their nature conducive to this our ultimate happiness.

Thirdly, Because if we should allow the same actions to be the proper instruments, both of acquiring fame, and of procuring this happiness, they would nevertheless fail in the attainment of this last end, if they proceeded from a desire of the first.

These three propositions are self-evident to those who are versed in speculations of morality. For which reason I shall not enlarge upon them, but proceed to a point of the same nature, which may open to us a more uncommon field of speculation.

From what has been already observed, I think we may have a natural conclusion, that it is the greatest folly to seek the praise or approbation of any being, besides the Supreme; and that for these two reasons; because no other being can make a right judgment of us, and esteem us according to our merits; and because we can procure no considerable benefit or advantage from the esteem and approbation of any other being.

In the first place, no other being can make a right judgment of us, and esteem us according to our merits. Created beings see nothing but our outside, and can therefore only frame a judgment of us from our exterior actions and behaviour; but how unfit these are to give us a right notion of each other's perfections, may appear from several considerations. There are many virtues, which in their own nature are incapable of any outward representation; many silent perfections in the soul of a good man, which are great ornaments to human nature, but not able to discover themselves to the knowledge of others; they are transacted in private without noise or show, and are only visible to the great Searcher of hearts. What actions can

express the entire purity of thought which refines and sanctifies a virtuous man? That secret rest and contentedness of mind, which gives him a perfect enjoyment of his present condition? That inward pleasure and complacency which he feels in doing good? That delight and satisfaction which he takes in the prosperity and happiness of another? These and the like virtues are the hidden beauties of a soul, the secret graces which cannot be discovered by a mortal eye, but make the soul lovely and precious in His sight, from whom no secrets are concealed. Again, there are many virtues which want an opportunity of exerting and showing themselves in actions. Every virtue requires time and place, a proper object and a fit conjuncture of circumstances, for the due exercise of it. A state of poverty obscures all the virtues of liberality and munificence. The patience and fortitude of a martyr or confessor lie concealed in the flourishing times of Christianity. Some virtues are only seen in affliction, and some in prosperity; some in a private, and others in a public capacity. But the great Sovereign of the world beholds every perfection in its obscurity, and not only sees what we do, but what we would do. He views our behaviour in every concurrence of affairs, and sees us engaged in all the possibilities of action. He discovers the martyr and confessor without the trial of flames and tortures, and will hereafter entitle many to the reward of actions, which they had never the opportunity of performing. Another reason why men cannot form a right judgment of us is, because the same actions may be aimed at different ends, and arise from quite contrary principles. Actions are of so mixed a nature, and so full of circumstances, that as men pry into them more or less, or observe some parts more than others, they take different hints, and put contrary interpretations on them; so that the same actions may represent a man as hypocritical and designing to one, which make him appear a saint or hero to another. He therefore who looks upon the soul through its outward actions, often sees it through a deceitful medium, which is apt to discolour and pervert the object: so that on this account also, He is the only proper judge of our perfections, who does not guess at the sincerity of our intentions from the goodness of our actions, but weighs the goodness of our actions by the sincerity of our intentions.

But further, it is impossible for outward actions to represent the perfections of the soul, because they can never show the strength of those principles from whence they proceed. They are not adequate expressions of our virtues, and can only show us what habits are in the soul, without discovering the degree and perfection of such habits. They are at best but weak resemblances of our intentions, faint and imperfect copies, that may acquaint us with the general design, but can never express the beauty and life of the original. But the great Judge of all the earth knows every different state and degree of human improvement, from those weak stirrings and tendencies of the will which have not yet formed themselves into regular purposes and designs, to the last entire finishing and consummation of a good habit. He beholds the first imperfect rudiments of a virtue in the soul, and keeps a watchful eye over it in all its progress, till it has received every grace it is capable of, and appears in its full beauty and perfection. Thus we see, that none but the Supreme Being can esteem us according to our proper merits, since all others must judge of us from our out-

ward actions; which can never give them a just estimate of us, since there are many perfections of a man which are not capable of appearing in actions; many which, allowing no natural incapacity of showing themselves, want an opportunity of doing it; or should they all meet with an opportunity of appearing by actions, yet those actions may be misinterpreted, and applied to wrong principles: or though they plainly discovered the principles from whence they proceeded, they could never show the degree, strength, and perfection of those principles.

And as the Supreme Being is the only proper judge of our perfections, so is he the only fit rewarder of them. This is a consideration that comes home to our interest, as the other adapts itself to our ambition. And what could the most aspiring, or the most selfish man desire more, were he to form the notion of a Being to whom he would recommend himself, than such a knowledge as can discover the least appearance of perfection in him, and such a goodness as will proportion a reward to it?

Let the ambitious man therefore turn all his desire of fame this way; and that he may propose to himself a fame worthy of his ambition, let him consider, that if he employs his abilities to the best advantage, the time will come when the Supreme Governor of the world, the great Judge of mankind, who sees every degree of perfection in others, and possesses all possible perfection in himself, shall proclaim his worth before men and angels, and pronounce to him in the presence of the whole creation that best and most significant of applauses, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into thy Master's joy.'

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 258. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1711.

Divide et impera.

Divide and rule.

PLEASURE and recreation of one kind or other are absolutely necessary to relieve our minds and bodies from too constant attention and labour: where therefore public diversions are tolerated, it behoves persons of distinction, with their power and example, to preside over them in such a manner, as to check any thing that tends to the corruption of manners, or which is too mean or trivial for the entertainment of reasonable creatures. As to the diversions of this kind in this town, we owe them to the arts of poetry and music. My own private opinion, with relation to such recreations, I have heretofore given with all the frankness imaginable: what concerns those arts at present the reader shall have from my correspondents. The first of the letters with which I acquit myself for this day, is written by one who proposes to improve our entertainments of dramatic poetry, and the other comes from three persons, who as soon as named, will be thought capable of advancing the present state of music.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I AM considerably obliged to you for your speedy publication of my last in yours of the 18th instant, and am in no small hopes of being settled in the post of Comptroller of the Cries. Of all the objections I have hearkened after in public coffee-houses, there is but one that seems to carry any

with it, viz. that such a post would come too nature of a monopoly. Now, sir, because I have all sorts of people made easy, and being to have more strings than one to my case that of contrivance should fail me, I have formed another project, which being on the dividing a present monopoly, I will give the public an equivalent to their full

You know, sir, it is allowed, that the of the stage is, as the Latin has it, *jucunda dicere vile*. Now there being but one theatre licensed for the delight and profit extensive metropolis, I do humbly propose, convenience of such of its inhabitants as distant from Covent-garden, that another of ease may be erected in some spacious the city; and that the direction thereof made a franchise in fee to me and my heirs

And that the town may have no jealousy ver coming into an union with the set of ow in being, I do further propose to can- or my deputy my near kinsman and ad- , Kit Crotchet*, whose long experience and ments in these affairs need no recommenda- t was obvious to every Spectator, what a fierce foot the stage was upon during his ent; and had he not been bolted out of doors, his garrison might have held out for : having by long pain and perseverance at the art of making his army fight without provisions. I must confess it, with a me- amazement I see so wonderful a genius le, and the late slaves of the stage now be- s masters, duces that will be sure to sup- l theatrical entertainments and activities y are not able themselves to shine in! ry man that goes to a play is not obliged either wit or understanding; and I insist that all who go there should see something ay improve them in a way of which they able. In short, sir, I would have something s well as said, on the stage. A man may active body, though he has not a quick ion; for the imitation therefore of such as I may so speak, corporeal wits, or aimble . I would fain ask any of the present mis- rs, why should not ropo-dancers, vanlers, s, ladder-walkers, and posture-masters ap- ain on our stage? After such a representa- five-bar gate would be leaped with a better next time any of the audience went a hunt- ir, these things cry aloud for reformation, I properly under the province of Spectator- l; but how indeed should it be otherwise, ellows (that for twenty years together were aid but as their master was in the humour) resume to pay others more than ever they their lives; and, in contempt of the practice ons of condition, have the insolence to owe desman a farthing at the end of the week. I propose is the public good; for no one agine I shall ever get a private shilling by refore I hope you will recommend this ma- one of your this week's papers, and desire my house opens you will accept the liberty or the trouble you have received from,

I have as-
sances that the
ick-maker† will
lare for us.

SIR,

Your humble servant,

RALPH CROTCHET.

* This was Christopher Rich.

† See No 235.

MR. SPECTATOR,

WE, whose names are subscribed, think you the properest person to signify what we have to offer the town in behalf of ourselves, and the art which we profess, music. We conceive hopes of your favour from the speculations on the mistakes which the town run into with regard to their pleasure of this kind; and believing your method of judging is, that you consider music only valuable, as it is agreeable to, and heightens the purpose of poetry, we consent that it is not only the true way of relishing that pleasure, but also that without it a com- poseure of music is the same thing as a poem, where all the rules of poetical numbers are observed, though the words have no sense or meaning; to say it shorter, mere musical sounds in our art are no other than nonsense verses are in poetry. Music therefore is to aggravate what is intended by poetry; it must always have some passion or sentiment to express, or else violins, voices, or any other organs of sound, afford an entertainment very little above the rattles of children. It was from this opinion of the matter, that when Mr. Clayton had finished his studies in Italy, and brought over the opera of Arsinoe, that Mr. Haym and Mr. Dic- part, who had the honour to be well known and received among the nobility and gentry, were ze- alously inclined to assist by their solicitations, in introducing so elegant an entertainment as the Ita- lian music grafted upon English poetry. For this end Mr. Dierpart and Mr. Haym, according to their several opportunities, promoted the introduc- tion of Arsinoe, and did it to the best advantage so great a novelty would allow. It is not proper to trouble you with particulars of the just complaints we all of us have to make; but so it is, that with- out regard to our obliging pains, we are all equally set aside in the present opera. Our application therefore to you is only to insert this letter in your paper, that the town may know we have all three joined together to make entertainments of music for the future at Mr. Clayton's house in York- buildings. What we promise ourselves is, to make a subscription of two guineas, for eight times; and that the entertainment, with the names of the authors of the poetry, may be printed, to be sold in the house, with an account of the several authors of the vocal as well as the instrumental music for each night; the money to be paid at the receipt of the tickets, at Mr. Charles Lillie's. It will, we hope, sir, be easily allowed, that we are capable of undertaking to exhibit, by our joint force and different qualifications, all that can be done in music; but lest you should think so dry a thing as an account of our proposal should be a matter unworthy of your paper, which generally contains something of public use, give us leave to say, that favouring our design is no less than reviving an art, which runs to ruin by the utmost barbarism under an affectation of knowledge. We aim at establishing some settled notion of what is music, at recovering from neglect and want very many families who depend upon it, at making all fe- reigners who pretend to succeed in England to learn the language of it as we ourselves have done, and not be so insolent as to expect a whole nation, a refined and learned nation, should submit to learn theirs. In a word, Mr. Spectator, with all defer- ence and humility, we hope to behave ourselves in this undertaking in such a manner, that all Eng- lishmen who have any skill in music may be fur- thered in it for their profit or diversion by what new things we shall produce; never pretending to

surpass others, or asserting that any thing which is a science is not attainable by all men of all nations who have proper genius for it. We say, sir, what we hope for, it is not expected will arrive to us by contending others, but through the utmost diligence recommending ourselves,

‘We are, sir,

‘Your most humble servants,

‘THOMAS CLAYTON.

‘NICOLINO HAYM.

‘CHARLES DIEUPART*.’

WHEEL.

T.

N° 259. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1711.

Quod decet honestum est, et quod honestum est decet.
TULL.

What is becoming is honourable, and what is honourable is becoming.

THERE are some things which cannot come under certain rules, but which one would think could not need them. Of this kind are outward civilities and salutations. These one would imagine might be regulated by every man's common sense, without the help of an instructor: but that which we call common sense suffers under that word; for it sometimes implies no more than that faculty which is common to all men, but sometimes signifies right reason, and what all men should consent to. In this latter acceptance of the phrase, it is no great wonder people err so much against it, since it is not every one who is possessed of it, and there are fewer who, against common rules and fashions, dare obey its dictates. As to salutations, which I was about to talk of, I observe, as I stroll about town, there are great enormities committed with regard to this particular. You shall sometimes see a man begin the offer of a salutation, and observe a forbidding air, or escaping eye, in the person he is going to salute, and stop short in the poll of his neck. This in the person who believed he could do it with a good grace, and was refused the opportunity, is justly resented with a coldness the whole ensuing season. Your great beauties, people in much favour, or by any means or for any purpose overflattered, are apt to practise this, which one may call the preventing aspect, and throw their attention another way, lest they should confer a bow or a curtsy upon a person who might not appear to deserve that dignity. Others you shall find so obsequious, and so very courteous, as there is no escaping their favours of this kind. Of this sort may be a man who is in the fifth or sixth degree of favour with a minister. This good creature is resolved to show the world, that great honours cannot at all change his manners; he is the same civil person he ever was; he will venture his neck to bow out of a coach in full speed, at once to show he is full of business, and yet is not so taken up as to forget his old friend. With a man who is not so well formed for courtship and elegant behaviour, such a gentleman as this seldom finds his account in the return of his compliments; but he will still go on, for he is in his own way, and must not omit; let the neglect fall on your side, or where it will, his business is still to be well-bred to the end. I think I have read, in one of our English comedies, a description of a fellow

* The success of the opera of Rinaldo, which Handel is said to have composed in a fortnight, established his character; and this was in some measure injurious to the three musicians here mentioned, who had been employed before to furnish operas, by collections from various Italian masters.

that affected knowing every body, and, for want of judgment in time and place, would bow and smile in the face of a judge sitting in the court, would sit in an opposite gallery and smile in the minister's face as he came up into the pulpit, and nod as if he alluded to some familiarities between them in another place. But now I happen to speak of salutation at church, I must take notice that several of my correspondents have importuned me to consider that subject, and settle the point of decorum in that particular.

I do not pretend to be the best courtier in the world, but I have often on public occasions thought it a very great absurdity in the company (during the royal presence) to exchange salutations from all parts of the room, when certainly common sense should suggest, that all regards at that time should be engaged, and cannot be diverted to any other object, without disrespect to the sovereign. But as to the complaint of my correspondents, it is not to be imagined what offence some of them take at the custom of saluting in places of worship. I have a very angry letter from a lady, who tells me of one of her acquaintance, who, out of mere pride and a pretence to be rude, takes upon her to return no civilities done to her in time of divine service, and is the most religious woman, for no other reason but to appear a woman of the best quality in the church. This absurd custom had better be abolished than retained; if it were but to prevent evils of no higher a nature than this is; but I am informed of objections much more considerable. A disserter of rank and distinction was lately prevailed upon, by a friend of his, to come to one of the greatest congregations of the church of England about town. After the service was over, he declared he was very well satisfied with the little ceremony which was used towards God Almighty; but, at the same time, he feared he should not be able to go through those required towards one another: as to this point he was in a state of despair, and feared he was not well-bred enough to be a convert. There have been many scandals of this kind given to our protestant dissenters, from the outward pomp and respect we take to ourselves in our religious assemblies. A quaker who came one day into a church, fixed his eye upon an old lady with a carpet larger than that from the pulpit before her, expecting when she would hold forth. An anabaptist, who designs to come over himself, and all his family, within a few months, is sensible they want breeding enough for our congregations, and has sent his two eldest daughters to learn to dance, that they may not misbehave themselves at church. It is worth considering whether, in regard to awkward people with scrupulous consciences, a good Christian with the best air in the world ought not rather to deny herself the opportunity of showing so many graces, than keep a bashful proselyte without the pale of the church.

WHEEL.

T.

N° 260. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1711.

Singula de nobis anni prædentur cunctis.

HOR. Ep. II. l. 2. ver. 34.

Years following years steal something every day,
At last they steal us from ourselves away.

POPE.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I AM now in the sixty-fifth year of my age, and having been the greater part of my days a man of

the decay of my faculties is a stagnation

But how is it, sir, that my appetites depend upon me with the loss of power to exert? I write this like a criminal, to warn posterity upon what reformation they please themselves in their youth, and not exclaim to be capable of it from a fond opinion often in their mouths, that if we do not desist, they will leave us. It is far from me now as vain in my dress, and as I see a pretty woman, as when in my youth I used to sit upon a bench in the pit to survey the beauties. The folly is so extravagant, and I went on with so little check or resignation of them, that I can scarce believe it.

I very often, merely to entertain myself, sit with my spectacles on, writing to the beauties that have been long in their graves. This is to warm my heart with the memory of delights which were once mine; but how much happier would my condition now, if I could have looked back on the action done for my country? if I had that which I profused in luxury and wanton acts of generosity or charity? I have been hitherto to this day; and instead of a nursing, with which in the regular ways might possibly have delighted myself, I have amused myself with the repetition of mad intrigues, which no one will believe concerned in. I do not know whether I am treated of it or not; but you cannot utter subject, than that of the art of living.

In such a lecture you must propose, to set his heart upon what is transient; grows wrinkled while we are yet gazing on it; the witty man sinks into an humorist; the young man, for want of reflecting that all things are in a flux, and continually changing, in the space of ten or fifteen years, by a new set of people, whose manners are natural to them as his delights, method and mode of living, were formerly to friends. But the mischief is, he looks on the kind of error which he himself was guilty of with an eye of scorn, and with that sort of high men entertain against each other for errors. Thus a crazy constitution, and a mind, is fretted with vexatious passions men's doing foolishly, what it is folly.

Dear sir, this is my present state of mind. I should laugh at, and envy them. The time of youth and vigorous action the way in which I have disposed myself ended with these consequences; but to live and pass away life as they ought, it is equally pleasant; only the method and worthy actions is a feast which quicker relish to the soul than ever it did to the taste in the highest enjoyments or youth. As for me, if I sit down in my study and begin to ponder, the vagaries of a more ridiculous than the circumstances reaped up in my memory; fine gowns, dances, ends of tunes, interrupted conversation and midnight quarrels, are what must compose my soliloquy. I beg of you, that some ladies of my acquaintance, and, may be persuaded to wear warm clothes this cold season; and that my old friend Mr. W. may buy him a cane, and not creep out of a strut. I must add to all this, were not for one pleasure, which I cry mean one until of very late years,

I should have no one great satisfaction left; but if I live to the 10th of March 1714, and all my securities are good, I shall be worth fifty thousand pound.

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant,
'JACK AFTERDAY.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'You will infinitely oblige a distressed lover, if you will insert in your very next paper, the following letter to my mistress. You must know, I am not a person apt to despair; but she has got an odd humour of stopping short unaccountably, and, as she herself told a confidant of hers, she has cold fits. These fits shall last her a month or six weeks together; and as she falls into them without provocation, so it is to be hoped she will return from them without the merit of new services. But life and love will not admit of such intervals, therefore pray let her be admonished as follows:

'MADAM,
'I LOVE you, and I honour you: therefore pray do not tell me of waiting till decencies, till forms, till humours are consulted and gratified. If you have that happy constitution as to be indolent for ten weeks together, you should consider that all that while I burn in impatiences and fevers; but still you say it will be time enough, though I and you too grow older while we are yet talking. Which do you think the more reasonable, that you should alter a state of indifference for happiness, and that to oblige me; or I live in torment, and that to lay no manner of obligation upon you? While I indulge your insensibility, I am doing nothing; if you favour my passion, you are bestowing bright desires, gay hopes, generous cares, noble resolutions, and transporting raptures upon,

'MADAM,
'Your most devoted humble servant.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'HERE is a gentlewoman lodges in the same house with me, that I never did any injury to in my whole life; and she is always railing at me to those that she knows will tell me of it. Do not you think she is in love with me? or would you have me break my mind yet, or not?

'Your servant,
'T. B.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I AM a footman in a great family, and am in love with the house-maid. We were all at hot-cockles last night in the hall these holidays; when I lay down and was blinded, she pulled off her shoe, and hit me with the heel such a rap, as almost broke my head to pieces. Pray, sir, was this love or spite?

STEEL.

T.

Nº 361. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1711.

Γαμπρός γὰρ ἀνδρὶ καὶ κόμισσῃ ἐνδύσας ἑαυτὸν.

Prag. Vet. Poet.

Wedlock's an ill men eagerly embrace.

My father, whom I mentioned in my first speculation, and whom I must always name with honour and gratitude, has very frequently talked to me upon the subject of marriage. I was in my younger

years engaged, partly by his advice, and partly by my own inclinations, in the courtship of a person who had a great deal of beauty, and did not at my first approaches seem to have any aversion to me; but as my natural taciturnity hindered me from showing myself to the best advantage, she by degrees began to look upon me as a very silly fellow, and being resolved to regard merit more than any thing else in the persons who made their applications to her, she married a captain of dragoons who happened to be beating up for recruits in those parts.

This unlucky accident has given me an aversion to pretty fellows ever since, and discouraged me from trying my fortune with the fair sex. The observations which I have made in this conjuncture, and the repeated advices which I received at that time from the good old man above-mentioned, have produced the following essay upon love and marriage.

The pleasantest part of a man's life is generally that which passes in courtship, provided his passion be sincere, and the party beloved kind with discretion. Love, desire, hope, all the pleasing motions of the soul, rise in the pursuit.

It is easier for an artful man who is not in love, to persuade his mistress he has a passion for her, and to succeed in his pursuits, than for one who loves with the greatest violence. True love has ten thousand griefs, impatiences, and resentments, that render a man unamiable in the eyes of the person whose affection he solicits; besides that it sinks his figure, gives him fears, apprehensions, and poorness of spirit, and often makes him appear ridiculous where he has a mind to recommend himself.

Those marriages generally abound most with love and constancy, that are preceded by a long courtship. The passion should strike root, and gather strength, before marriage be grafted on it. A long course of hopes and expectations fixes the idea in our minds, and habituates us to a fondness of the person beloved.

There is nothing of so great importance to us, as the good qualities of one to whom we join ourselves for life; they do not only make our present state agreeable, but often determine our happiness to all eternity. Where the choice is left to friends, the chief point under consideration is an estate; where the parties choose for themselves, their thoughts turn most upon the person. They have both their reasons. The first would procure many conveniences and pleasures of life to the party whose interests they espouse; and at the same time may hope that the wealth of their friends will turn to their own credit and advantage. The others are preparing for themselves a perpetual feast. A good person does not only raise but continue love, and breeds a secret pleasure and complacency in the beholder, when the first heats of desire are extinguished. It puts the wife or husband in countenance both among friends and strangers, and generally fills the family with a healthy and beautiful race of children.

I should prefer a woman that is agreeable in my own eye, and not deformed in that of the world, to a celebrated beauty. If you marry one remarkably beautiful, you must have a violent passion for her, or you have not the proper taste of her charms; and if you have such a passion for her, it is odds but it would be embittered with fears and jealousies.

Good-nature and evenness of temper will give you an easy companion for life; virtue and good

sense, an agreeable friend; love and constancy, a good wife or husband. Where we meet one person with all these accomplishments, we find an hundred without any one of them. The world, notwithstanding, is more intent on trains and equipages, and all the showy parts of life; we love rather to dazzle the multitude, than consult our proper interests; and, as I have elsewhere observed, it is one of the most unaccountable passions of human nature, that we are at greater pains to appear easy and happy to others, than really to make ourselves so. Of all disparities, that in humour makes the most unhappy marriages, yet scarce enters into our thoughts at the contracting of them. Several that are in this respect unequally yoked, and uneasy for life with a person of a particular character, might have been pleased and happy with a person of a contrary one, notwithstanding they are both perhaps equally virtuous and laudable in their kind.

Before marriage we cannot be too inquisitive and discerning in the faults of the person beloved, nor after it too dim-sighted and superficial. However perfect and accomplished the person appears to you at a distance, you will find many blemishes and imperfections in her humour, upon a more intimate acquaintance, which you never discovered or perhaps suspected. Here, therefore, discretion and good-nature are to show their strength; the first will hinder your thoughts from dwelling on what is disagreeable, the other will raise in you all the tenderness of compassion and humanity, and by degrees soften those very imperfections into beauties.

Marriage enlarges the scene of our happiness and misery. A marriage of love is pleasant; a marriage of interest easy; and a marriage where both meet, happy. A happy marriage has in it all the pleasures of friendship, all the enjoyments of sense and reason, and indeed all the sweets of life. Nothing is a greater mark of a degenerate and vicious age, than the common ridicule which passes on this state of life. It is, indeed, only happy in those who can look down with scorn or neglect on the impieties of the times, and tread the paths of life together in a constant uniform course of virtue.

ADISON.

C.

Nº 202. MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1711.

Nulla venenata littera mista feco est.

QVID. Titul. l. 2. ver. 566.

Satirical reflections I avoid.

I think myself highly obliged to the public for their kind acceptance of a paper which visits them every morning, and has in it none of those scannings that recommend so many of the writings which are in vogue among us.

As on the one side, my paper has not in it a single word of news, a reflection in politics, nor a stroke of party; so on the other, there are no fashionable touches of infidelity, no obscene ideas, no satires upon priesthood, marriage, and the like popular topics of ridicule, no private scandal, nor any thing that may tend to the defamation of particular persons, families, or societies.

There is not one of these above-mentioned subjects that would not tell a very indifferent paper, could I think of gratifying the public by such mean and base methods. But notwithstanding I have rejected every thing that concerns of party, every thing that is loose and immoral, and every

to create uneasiness in the minds of men, I find that the demand for may be eased every month since their first of the world. This does not perhaps do honour upon myself, as on my side a much greater attention to disunion and morality than ever I expected could hope.

to be loose from that great body of men who have employed their wit and parts in science and irreligion, I did not question : treated as an odd kind of fellow, I did to appear singular in my way of writing, and the general reception I have found, at the world is not so corrupt as we imagine; and that if those men of parts who have been employed in vitiating the age, had rectified and amend it, they needed not sacrificed their good sense and virtue, and reputation. No man is so sunk in vice and depravity, but there are still some hidden goodness and knowledge in him; a relish of such reflections and speaks an aptness to improve the mind, and heart better.

in a former paper, with how much I have dashed all such thoughts as are loose, moral; and I believe my reader will be the better of me, if he knew the qualifying what I write after such things may be interpreted as aimed at. For this reason, when I draw a character, I consider all those persons of the world may possibly appear to dash it with such particularities may prevent all such ill-natured reflections. I write any thing on a black paper in my mind all the eminent persons who are of that complexion; and I imagine every syllable and letter of it not bear any resemblance to one who I know very well the value which is upon his reputation, and how painful it is to be the mirth and derision of the world should therefore scorn to divert my expense of any private man.

then thus tender of every particular reflection, so I have taken more than care not to give offence to those who appear figures of life. I would not scribble even with a piece of pasteboard with a public character; for I have never glanced upon the late edition of his Holiness and his notwithstanding it might have afforded me a ludicrous speculation. Amongst which the public may reap from me not the least, that it draws men from the bitterness of party, and furnishes subjects of discourse that may be warm and passion. This is said to be the first design of those gentlemen who form the Royal Society; and had then a very great turned many of the greatest geographers to the disquisitions of natural history, if they had engaged in politics and parts and application, might have been a flame. The air-pump, the quadrant, and the like inventions, are due to those busy spirits, as tubs and a whale, that he may let the ship

sail on without disturbance, while he diverts himself with those innocent amusements.

I have been so very scrupulous in this particular of not hurting any man's reputation, that I have forbore mentioning even such authors as I could not name without honour. This I must confess to have been a piece of very great self-denial: for as the public relishes nothing better than the ridicule which turns upon a writer of any eminence, so there is nothing which a man that has but a very ordinary talent in ridicule may execute with greater ease. One might raise laughter for a quarter of a year together upon the works of a person who has published but a very few volumes. For which reason I am astonished, that those who have appeared against this paper have made so very little of it. The criticisms which I have hitherto published, have been made with an intention rather to discover beauties and excellencies in the writers of my own time, than to publish any of their faults and imperfections. In the meanwhile, I should take it for a very great favour from some of my underhand detractors, if they would break all measures with me so far, as to give me a pretence for examining their performances with an impartial eye: nor shall I look upon it as any breach of charity to criticise the author, so long as I keep clear of the person.

In the meanwhile, till I am provoked to such hostilities, I shall from time to time endeavour to do justice to those who have distinguished themselves in the politer parts of learning, and to point out such beauties in their works as may have escaped the observation of others.

As the first place among our English poets is due to Milton, and as I have drawn more quotations out of him than from any other, I shall enter into a regular criticism upon his *Paradise Lost*, which I shall publish every Saturday till I have given my thoughts upon that poem. I shall not, however, presume to impose upon others my own particular judgment on this author, but only deliver it as my private opinion. Criticism is of a very large extent, and every particular master in this art has his favourite passages in an author, which do not equally strike the best judges. It will be sufficient for me, if I discover many beauties or imperfections which others have not attended to; and I should be very glad to see any of our eminent writers publish their discoveries on the same subject. In short, I would always be understood to write my papers of criticism in the spirit which Horace has expressed in those two famous lines:

*— St quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.*
Ep. vi. l. 1. ver. ult.

‘If you have made any better remarks of your own, communicate them with candour; if not, make use of these I present you with.’

ADDISON.

C.

NO 263. TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1711-12.

Grabulor quod cum quem necesse erat diligere, qualluncunque esset, talem habemus ut libenter quoque diligamus.

TREBONIUS, apud. TULL.

I rejoice, that the person whom it was my duty to love, good or bad, is such an one, that I can love him with a willing mind.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I AM the happy father of a very towardly son, in whom I do not only see my life, but also my

manner of life, renewed. It would be extremely beneficial to society, if you would frequently resume subjects which serve to bind these sort of relations faster, and endear the ties of blood with those of good-will, protection, observance, indulgence, and veneration. I would, methinks, have this done after an uncommon method, and do not think any one, who is not capable of writing a good play, fit to undertake a work wherein there will necessarily occur so many secret instincts, and biases of human nature which would pass unobserved by common eyes. I thank Heaven I have no outrageous offence against my own excellent parents to answer for; but when I am now and then alone, and look back upon my past life, from my earliest infancy to this time, there are many faults which I committed that did not appear to me, even till I myself became a father. I had not till then a notion of the yearnings of heart which a man has when he sees his child do a laudable thing, or the sudden damp which seizes him when he fears he will act something unworthy. It is not to be imagined, what a remorse touched me for a long train of childish negligences of my mother, when I saw my wife the other day look out of the window, and turn as pale as ashes upon seeing my younger boy sliding upon the ice. These slight intimations will give you to understand, that there are numberless little crimes which children take no notice of while they are doing, which, upon reflection, when they shall themselves become fathers, they will look upon with the utmost sorrow and contrition, that they did not regard, before those whom they offended were to be no more seen. How many thousand things do I remember which would have highly pleased my father, and I omitted for no other reason, but that I thought what he proposed the effect of humour and old age, which I am now convinced had reason and good sense in it. I cannot now go into the parlour to him, and make his heart glad with an account of a matter which was of no consequence, but that I told it, and acted in it. The good man and woman are long since in their graves, who used to sit and plot the welfare of us their children, while, perhaps, we were sometimes laughing at the old folks at another end of the house. The truth of it is, were we merely to follow nature in these great duties of life, though we have a strong instinct towards the performing of them, we should be on both sides very deficient. Age is so unwelcome to the generality of mankind, and growth towards manhood so desirable to all, that resignation to decay is too difficult a task in the father; and deference, amidst the impulse of gay desires, appears unreasonable to the son. There are so few who can grow old with a good grace, and yet fewer who can come slow enough into the world, that a father, were he to be actuated by his desires, and a son, were he to consult himself only, could neither of them behave himself as he ought to the other. But when reason interposes against instinct, where it would carry either out of the interests of the other, there arises that happiest intercourse of good offices between those dearest relations of human life. The father, according to the opportunities which are offered to him, is throwing down blessings on the son, and the son endeavouring to appear the worthy offspring of such a father. It is after this manner that Camillus and his first-born dwell together. Camillus enjoys a pleasing and indulgent old age, in which passion is subdued, and reason exalted. He waits the day of his dissolution with a resignation mixed with delight, and the

son fears the accession of his father's fortune with diffidence, lest he should not enjoy or become it as well as his predecessor. Add to this, that the father knows he leaves a friend to the children of his friends, an easy landlord to his tenants, and an agreeable companion to his acquaintance. He believes his son's behaviour will make him frequently remembered, but never wanted. This commerce is so well cemented, that without the pomp of saying, "Son, be a friend to such a one when I am gone;" Camillus knows, being in his favour is direction enough to the grateful youth who is to succeed him, without the admonition of his mentioning it. These gentlemen are honoured in all their neighbourhood; and the same effect which the court has on the manners of a kingdom, their characters have on all who live within the influence of them.

'My son and I are not of fortune to communicate our good actions or intentions to so many as these gentlemen do; but I will be bold to say, my son has, by the applause and approbation which his behaviour towards me has gained him, occasioned that many an old man besides myself has rejoiced. Other men's children follow the example of mine; and I have the inexpressible happiness of overhearing our neighbours, as we ride by, point to their children, and say, with a voice of joy, "There they go."

'You cannot, Mr. Spectator, pass your time better than in insinuating the delights which these relations well regarded bestow upon each other. Ordinary passages are no longer such, but mutual love gives an importance to the most indifferent things, and a merit to actions the most insignificant. When we look round the world, and observe the many misunderstandings which are created by the malice and insinuation of the meanest servants between people thus related, how necessary will it appear that it were inculcated, that men would be upon their guard to support a constancy of affection, and that grounded upon the principles of reason, not the impulses of instinct.

'It is from the common prejudices which men receive from their parents, that hatreds are kept alive from one generation to another; and when men act by instinct, hatreds will descend when good offices are forgotten. For the degeneracy of human life is such, that our anger is more easily transferred to our children than our love. Love always give something to the object it delights in, and anger spoils the person against whom it is moved of something laudable in him; from this degeneracy, therefore, and a sort of self-love, we are more prone to take up the ill-will of our parents, than to follow them in their friendships.

'One would think there should need no more to make men keep up this sort of relation with the utmost sanctity, than to examine their own hearts. If every father remembered his own thoughts and inclinations when he was a son, and every son remembered what he expected from his father, when he himself was in a state of dependence, this one reflection would preserve men from being dissolute or rigid in these several capacities. The power and subjection between them, when broken, make them more emphatically tyrants and rebels against each other, with greater cruelty of heart, than the disruption of states and empires can possibly produce. I shall end this application to you with two letters which passed between a mother and son very lately, and are as follows:

'DEAR FRANK,
If the pleasures, which I have the grief to bear

in town, do not take up all your time, by your mother so much of it, as to read his letter. You said before Mr. Let-an old woman might live very well in y upon half my jointure, and that your a fond soul to give me a rent-charge of red a-year to the prejudice of his son. were said to you upon that occasion, you ive borne with more decency, as he was r's well-beloved servant, than to have country-put. In the first place, Frank, you I will have my rent duly paid, for e up to your sisters for the partiality I of, in making your father do so much one for you. I may, it seems, live upon inture! I lived upon much less, Frank, ried you from place to place in these could neither eat, dress, or mind any eding and tending you, a weakly child, ng tears when the convulsions you were led with returned upon you. By my utgrew them, to throw away the vigour uth in the arms of harlots, and deny r what is not yours to detain. Both are crying to see the passion which I ut if you please to go on thus like a of the town, and forget all regards to nd family, I shall immediately enter estate for the arrear due to me, and, e tear more, condemn you for forgetting s of your mother, as much as you have e of your father. O Frank, do I live iting myself

'Your affectionate mother,

'A. T.'

me down to-morrow and pay the money es. Pray write so no more. I will you never shall; for I will be for ever

'Your most dutiful son,

'F. T.'

bring down new heads* for my sisters. It be forgotten.'

T.

EDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1711-12.

retum iter et fallentis semita vitæ.

HOR. Ep. xviii. l. i. ver. 103.

se retirement, and a life by stealth.

CREECH.

n from age to age an affection to love e of solitude, among those who cannot : supposed qualified for passing life in er. This people have taken up from : many agreeable things which have been : that subject, for which we are be- : xcellent persons who delighted in being id abstracted from the pleasures that engerality of the world. This way of mended indeed with great beauty, and anner as disposes the reader for the time ing forgetfulness, or negligence of the hurry of life in which he is engaged, to h a longing for that state which he is

* Head-dresses.

charmed with in description. But when we consider the world itself, and how few there are capable of a religious, learned, or philosophic solitude, we shall be apt to change a regard to that sort of solitude, for being a little singular in enjoying time after the way a man himself likes best in the world, without going so far as wholly to withdraw from it. I have often observed, there is not a man breathing who does not differ from all other men, as much in the sentiments of his mind, as the features of his face. The felicity is, when any one is so happy as to find out and follow what is the proper bent of his genius, and turn all his endeavours to exert himself according as that prompts him. Instead of this, which is an innocent method of enjoying a man's self, and turning out of the general tracks wherein you have crowds of rivals, there are those who pursue their own way out of a sourness and spirit of contradiction. These men do every thing which they are able to support, as if guilt and impunity could not go together. They choose a thing only because another dislikes it; and affect forsooth an inviolable constancy in matters of no manner of moment. Thus sometimes an old fellow shall wear this or that sort of cut in his clothes with great integrity, while all the rest of the world are degenerated into buttons, pockets, and loops, unknown to their ancestors. As insignificant as even this is, if it were searched to the bottom, you perhaps would find it not sincere, but that he is in the fashion in his heart, and holds out from mere obstinacy. But I am running from my intended purpose, which was to celebrate a certain particular manner of passing away life, and is a contradiction to no man, but a resolution to contract none of the exorbitant desires by which others are enslaved. The best way of separating a man's self from the world, is to give up the desire of being known to it. After a man has preserved his innocence, and performed all duties incumbent upon him, his time spent his own way is what makes his life differ from that of a slave. If they who affect show and pomp knew how many of their spectators derided their trivial taste, they would be very much less elated, and have an inclination to examine the merit of all they have to do with: they would soon find out that there are many who make a figure below what their fortune or merit entitles them to, out of mere choice, and an elegant desire of ease and disincumbrance. It would look like romance to tell you, in this age, of an old man who is contented to pass for an humorist, and one who does not understand the figure he ought to make in the world, while he lives in a lodging of ten shillings a week with only one servant; while he dresses himself according to the season in cloth or in stuff, and has no one necessary attention to any thing but the bell which calls to prayers twice a-day: I say, it would look like a fable to report that this gentleman gives away all which is the overplus of a great fortune, by secret methods, to other men. If he has not the pomp of a numerous train, and of professors of service to him, he has every day he lives the conscience that the widow, the fatherless, the mourner, and the stranger, bless his unseen hand in their prayers. This humorist gives up all the compliments which people of his own condition could make to him, for the pleasure of helping the afflicted, supplying the needy, and befriending the neglected. This humorist keeps to himself much more than he wants, and gives a vast refuse of his superfluities to purchase heaven, and by freeing others

from the temptations of worldly want, to carry a retinue with him thither.

Of all men who affect living in a particular way, next to this admirable character, I am the most enamoured of Irus, whose condition will not admit of such largeness, and who perhaps would not be capable of making them if it were. Irus, though he is now turned of fifty, has not appeared in the world in his real character since five and twenty, at which age he ran out a small patrimony, and spent some time after with rakes who had lived upon him. A course of ten years time, passed in all the little alleys, by-paths, and sometimes open taverns and streets of this town, gave Irus a perfect skill in judging of the inclinations of mankind, and acting accordingly. He seriously considered he was poor, and the general horror which most men have of all who are in that condition. Irus judged very rightly, that while he could keep his poverty a secret, he should not feel the weight of it; he improved this thought into an affectation of closeness and covetousness. Upon this one principle he resolved to govern his future life; and in the thirty-sixth year of his age, he repaired to Long-lane, and looked upon several dresses which hung there deserted by their first masters, and exposed to the purchase of the best bidder. At this place he exchanged his gay shabbiness of clothes fit for a much younger man, to warm ones that would be decent for a much older one. Irus came out thoroughly equipped from head to foot, with a little oaken cane, in the form of a substantial man that did not mind his dress, turned of fifty. He had at this time fifty pounds in ready money; and in this habit, with this fortune, he took his present lodging in St. John-street, at the mansion-house of a tailor's widow, who washes, and can clear-starch his bands. From that time to this he has kept the main stock, without alteration under or over to the value of five pounds. He left off all his old acquaintance to a man, and all his arts of life, except the play of back-gammon, upon which he has more than bore his charges. Irus has, ever since he came into this neighbourhood, given all the intimations he skillfully could of being a close hunka worth money; nobody comes to visit him, he receives no letters, and tells his money morning and evening. He has from the public papers a knowledge of what generally passes, shuns all discourses of money, but shrugs his shoulder when you talk of securities; he denies his being rich with the air, which all do who are vain of being so. He is the oracle of a neighbouring justice of the peace, who meets him at the coffee-house; he hopes that what he has must come to somebody, and that he has no heirs, have that effect wherever he is known, that he every day has three or four invitations to dine at different places, which he generally takes care to choose in such a manner as not to seem inclined to the richer man. All the young men respect him, and say he is just the same man he was when they were boys. He uses no artifice in the world, but makes use of men's designs upon him to get a maintenance out of them. This he carries on by a certain peevishness (which he acts very well) that no one would believe could possibly enter into the head of a poor fellow. His mien, his dress, his carriage, and his language, are such, that you would be at a loss to guess whether in the active part of his life he had been a sensible citizen, or scholar that knew the world. These are the great circumstances in the life of Irus, and thus does he pass away his days a stranger to mankind; and at

his death, the worst that will be said of him will be, that he got by every man who had expectations from him, more than he had to leave him.

I have an inclination to print the following letters; for that I have heard the author of them has somewhere or other seen me, and by an excellent faculty in mimicry, my correspondents tell me he can assume my air, and give my taciturnity a slyness which diverts more than any thing I could say if I were present. Thus I am glad my silence is atoned for to the good company in town. He has carried his skill in imitation so far, as to have forged a letter from my friend Sir Roger in such a manner, that any one but I, who am thoroughly acquainted with him, would have taken it for genuine.

MR. SPECTATOR,

HAVING observed in Lilly's grammar how sweetly Bacchus and Apollo run in a verse: I have (to preserve the amity between them) called in Bacchus to the aid of my profession of the theatre. So that while some people of quality are bespeaking plays of me to be acted on such a day, and others, hogheads for their homes against such a time; I am wholly employed in the agreeable service of wit and wine. Sir, I have sent you Sir Roger de Coverley's letter to me, which pray comply with in favour of the Bumper tavern. Be kind, for you know a player's utmost pride is the approbation of the Spectator.

I am your admirer, though unknown,
RICHARD ESTCOURT.

TO MR. ESTCOURT,

At his House in Covent-Garden.

Coverley, December the 18th, 1711.

OLD COMICAL ONE,

THE hogheads of neat port came safe, and have gotten thee good reputation in these parts; and I am glad to hear, that a fellow who has been laying out his money ever since he was born, for the mere pleasure of wine, has bethought himself of joining profit and pleasure together. Our sexton (poor man) having received strength from thy wine since his fit of the gout, is hugely taken with it: he says it is given by nature for the use of families, and that no steward's table can be without it; and it strengthens digestion, excludes surfeits, fevers, and physis; which green wines of any kind can't do. Pray get a pure snug room, and I hope next term to help fill your Bumper with our people of the club; but you must have no bells stirring when the Spectator comes; I forbore ringing to dinner while he was down with me in the country. Thank you for the little hams and Portugal onions; pray keep some always by you. You know my supper is only good Cheshire cheese, best mustard, a golden pippin, attended with a pipe of John Sly's best. Sir Harry has stolen all your songs, and tell the story of the fifth of November to perfection.

Your's to serve you,
ROGER DE COVERLEY.

We have lost old John since you were here.

STEEL.

T.

* This subject is resumed in N° 360.

ISDAY, JANUARY 3, 1711-12.

*is aliquis, quid virus in angustis
rabida tradis colle lupas?*

OVID. de Art. Am. lib. iii. v. 7.

im—What frenzy rules your mind?
ease the craft of womankind;
wiles and arts? As well you may
to bite, or wolf to prey.

CONGREVE.

ers, if I am rightly informed, has
to be *ζωον φιλονοσιον*, an animal
nery. I have already treated of
three papers, conformably to this
have in particular observed, that
have been more careful than the
at part of the head which we go-
outside.

on is so very notorious, that when
urse we say a man has a fine head,
a good head, we express ourselves
and speak in relation to his under-
as when we say of a woman, she
r, or a good head, we speak only
commodie*.

among birds, that nature has la-
naments upon the male, who very
a most beautiful head-dress; whe-
a comb, a tuft of feathers, or a
me, erected like a kind of pinna-
op of the head. As nature on the
red out her charms in the greatest
the female part of our species, so
siduous in bestowing upon them
garnitures of art. The peacock,
does not display half the colours
garments of a British lady, when
her for a ball or a birth-day.

to our female heads. The ladies
me time in a kind of moulting sea-
to that part of their dress, having
titles of ribbon, lace, and came-
measure reduced that part of
re to the beautiful globular form
to it. We have for a great while
ind of ornament would be substi-
ce of those antiquated commodiea.
projectors were all the last summer
the improvement of their petti-
nd not time to attend to any thing
at length sufficiently adorned their
y now begin to turn their thoughts
xtremity, as well remembering the
verb, 'that if you light your fire at
iddle will shift for itself.'

d in this speculation by a sight
nd with at the opera. As I was
inder part of a box, I took notice
r of women sitting together in the
d hoods that I ever saw. One of
another yellow, and another phi-
th was of a pink colour, and the
reen. I looked with as much plea-
little party-coloured assembly, as
talips, and did not know at first
ht not be an embassy of Indian
on my going about into the pit, and
front, I was immediately unde-
so much beauty in every face, that
all to be English. Such eyes and
foreheads, could be the growth of
y. The complexion of their faces
on observing any further the colour

* See No 98, Note.

of their hoods, though I could easily perceive by
that unspeakable satisfaction which appeared in
their looks, that their own thoughts were wholly
taken up on those pretty ornaments they wore upon
their heads.

I am informed that this fashion spreads daily,
inasmuch that the Whig and Tory ladies begin
already to hang out different colours, and to show
their principles in their head-dress. Nay, if I may
believe my friend Will Honeycomb, there is a cer-
tain old coquette of his acquaintance, who intends
to appear very suddenly in a rainbow hood, like
the Iris in Dryden's Virgil, not questioning but that
among such a variety of colours she shall have a
charm for every heart.

My friend Will, who very much values himself
upon his great insight into gallantry, tells me, that
he can already guess at the humour a lady is in by
her hood, as the courtiers of Morocco know the
disposition of their present emperor by the colour
of the dress which he puts on. When Melesinda
wraps her head in flame colour, her heart is set
upon execution. When she covers it with purple,
I would not, says he, advise her lover to approach
her; but if she appears in white, it is peace, and
he may hand her out of her box with safety.

Will informs me likewise, that these hoods may
be used as signals. Why else, says he, does Cor-
nelia always put on a black hood when her hu-
band is gone into the country?

Such are my friend Honeycomb's dreams of gal-
lantry. For my own part, I impute this diversity
of colours in the hoods to the diversity of com-
plexion in the faces of my pretty country-women.
Ovid, in his Art of Love, has given some precepts
as to this particular, though I find they are dif-
ferent from those which prevail among the moderns.
He recommends a red striped silk to the pale com-
plexion; white to the brown, and dark to the fair.
On the contrary, my friend Will, who pretends to
be a greater master in this art than Ovid, tells me,
that the palest features look the most agreeable in
white sarsenet; that a face which is overflushed
appears to advantage in the deepest scarlet; and
that the darkest complexion is not a little alle-
viated by a black hood. In short, he is for losing
the colour of the face in that of the hood, as a fire
burns dimly, and a candle goes half out, in the light
of the sun. 'This,' says he, 'your Ovid himself has
hinted, where he treats of these matters, when he
tells us that the blue water-nymphs are dressed in
sky-coloured garments; and that Aurora, who al-
ways appears in the light of the rising sun, is robed
in saffron.'

Whether these his observations are justly ground-
ed I cannot tell; but I have often known him, as
we have stood together behind the ladies, praise or
dispraise the complexion of a face which he never
saw, from observing the colour of her hood, and
has been very seldom out in these his guesses.

As I have nothing more at heart than the honour
and improvement of the fair-sex, I cannot con-
clude this paper without an exhortation to the
British ladies, that they would excel the women of
all other nations as much in virtue and good sense,
as they do in beauty; which they may certainly
do, if they will be as industrious to cultivate their
minds, as they are to adorn their bodies. In the
meanwhile I shall recommend to their most serious
consideration the saying of an old Greek poet:

Γυναικὶ κοσμοῦ δὲ τροπῶν, καὶ οὐ χηρῶν*.

ADDISON.

C.

* 'Manners, not dress, are the ornaments of women.'—
See Spect. No 571. let. i.

Nº 266. FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1711-12.

*Id vero est, quod ego mihi puto palmarium
Me reperisse, quomodo adolescentulus
Merriticum ingenia et mores possit noscere;
Nature ut cum cognovit, perpetuo odedit.*

TER. Eun. act. 5. sc. 4.

I look upon it as my masterpiece, that I have found out how a young fellow may know the disposition and behaviour of barlots, and by early knowing come to detest them.

No vice or wickedness which people fall into from indulgence to desires which are natural to all, ought to place them below the compassion of the virtuous part of the world; which indeed often makes me a little apt to suspect the sincerity of their virtue, who are too warmly provoked at other people's personal sins. The unlawful commerce of the sexes is of all others the hardest to avoid; and yet there is no one which you shall hear the rigider part of womankind speak of with so little mercy. It is very certain, that a modest woman cannot abhor the breach of chastity too much; but pray let her hate it for herself, and only pity it in others. Will Honeycomb calls these over-offended ladies, the outrageously virtuous.

I do not design to fall upon failures in general with relation to the gift of chastity, but at present only enter upon that large field, and begin with the consideration of poor and public whores. The other evening, passing along near Covent-garden, I was jogged on the elbow as I turned into the piazza, on the right-hand coming out of James-street, by a slim young girl of about seventeen, who with a pert air asked me, if I was for a pint of wine? I do not know but I should have indulged my curiosity in having some chat with her, but that I am informed the man of the Bumper knows me*; and it would have made a story for him not very agreeable to some part of my writings, though I have in others so frequently said, that I am wholly unconcerned in any scene I am in, but merely as a Spectator. This impediment being in my way, we stood under one of the arches by twilight; and there I could observe as exact features as I had ever seen, the most agreeable shape, the finest neck and bosom, in a word, the whole person of a woman exquisitely beautiful. She affected to allure me with a forced wantonness in her look and air; but I saw it checked with hunger and cold: her eyes were wan and eager, her dress thin and tawdry, her mien genteel and childish. This strange figure gave me much anguish of heart, and, to avoid being seen with her, I went away, but could not forbear giving her a crown. The poor thing sighed, curtsied, and, with a blessing expressed with the utmost vehemence, turned from me. This creature is what they call 'newly come upon the town,' but who, I suppose, falling into cruel hands, was left in the first month from her dishonour, and exposed to pass through the hands and discipline of one of those hags of hell whom we call bawds. But lest I should grow too suddenly grave on this subject, and be myself outrageously good, I shall turn to a scene in one of Fletcher's plays, where this character is drawn, and the economy of whoredom most admirably described. The passage I would point to is in the third scene of the second act of *The Humorous Lieutenant*. Leucippe, who is agent for the king's lust, and bawds at the same time for the whole court, is very pleasantly intro-

duced, reading her minutes as a person of business, with two maids her under-secretaries, taking instructions at a table before her. Her women, both those under her present tutelage, and those which she is laying wait for, are alphabetically set down in her book; and she is looking over the letter C; in a muttering voice, as if between soliloquy and speaking out, she says,

'Her maidenhead will yield me—let me see now—

She is not fifteen, they say: for her complexion—

Cloe, Cloe, Cloe; here I have her—Cloe,

'The daughter of a country gentleman;

'Her age upon fifteen. Now her complexion—

'A lovely brown; here 'tis; eyes black and rolling,

'The body neatly built; she strikes a lute well,

'Sings most enticingly. These helps considered,

Her maidenhead will amount to some three hundred,

Or three hundred and fifty crowns; 'twill bear it hard-

somely:

Her father's poor; some little share deducted,

To buy him a hunting nag—'

These creatures are very well instructed in the circumstances and manners of all who are any way related to the fair one whom they have a design upon. As Cloe is to be purchased with 350 crowns, and the father taken off with a pad; the merchant's wife next to her, who abounds in plenty, is not to have downright money, but the mercenary part of her mind is engaged with a present of plate, and a little ambition. She is made to understand that it is a man of quality who dies for her. The examination of a young girl for business, and the crying down her value for being a slight thing, together with every other circumstance in the scene, are inimitably excellent, and have the true spirit of comedy; though it were to be wished the author had added a circumstance which should make Leucippe's baseness more odious.

It must not be thought a digression from my intended speculation, to talk of bawds in a discourse upon wenches; for a woman of the town is not thoroughly and properly such, without having gone through the education of one of these houses. But the compassionate case of very many is, that they are taken into such hands without any the least suspicion, previous temptation, or admonition to what place they are going. The last week I went to an inn in the city to inquire for some provisions which were sent by a waggon out of the country; and as I waited in one of the boxes till the chamberlain had looked over his parcels, I heard an old and a young voice repeating the questions and responses of the church-catechism. I thought it no breach of good-manners to peep at a crevice, and look in at people so well employed; but who should I see there but the most artful procurers in town, examining a most beautiful country-girl, who had come up in the same waggon with my things, 'whether she was well educated, could forbear playing the wanton with servants and idle fellows, of which this town,' says she, 'is too full.' At the same time, whether she knew enough of breeding, so that if a squire or a gentleman, or one that was her betters, should give her a civil salute, she should curtsy and be humble nevertheless? Her innocent 'forsooths, yesses, and't please you's, and she would do her endeavour,' moved the good old lady to take her out of the hands of a country bawkin her brother, and hire her for her own maid. I stayed till I saw them all marched out to take coach; the brother loaded with a great cheese he prevailed upon her to take for her civilities to his sister. This poor creature's fate is not far off that of *Leucippe* whom I spoke of above; and it is not to be doubted, but after she has been long enough a prey to lust, she will be delivered over to famine. The

* Eastcourt. See Nº 264.

commendation of the industry and charity antiquated ladies, these directors of sin, can no longer commit it, makes up the of the inimitable dedication to the "Plain" and is a masterpiece of raillery on this out to understand all the purlieus of this better, and to illustrate this subject in scourses, I must venture myself, with my ill, into the haunts of beauty and gallantry pampered vice in the habitations of the to distressed indigent wickedness expelled ours of the brothel*.

T.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1711-12.

De Romani scriptores, ceditis Graei.

Propert. EL. xxxiv. l. 2. ver. 65.

place, ye Roman and ye Grecian wits.

Nothing in nature so irksome as general, especially when they turn chiefly upon For this reason I shall wave the discussion oint which was started some years since, Milton's *Paradise Lost* may be called an em? Those who will not give it that title, it (if they please) a divine poem. It will ent to its perfection, if it has in it all the of the highest kind of poetry; and as for allege it is not an heroic poem, they admore to the diminution of it, than if they Adam is not *Æneas*, nor *Eve* *Helen*. therefore examine it by the rules of epic and see whether it falls short of the *Iliad*, in the beauties which are essential to of writing. The first thing to be considan epic poem, is the fable, which is perfect, according as the action which it more or less so. This action should have lifications in it. First, It should be but a. Secondly, It should be an entire act. Thirdly, It should be a great action. or the action of the *Iliad*, *Æneid*, and *Lost*, in these three several lights. Horeserve the unity of his action, hastens idst of things, as *Horace* has observed, gone up to *Leda's* egg, or begun much n at the rape of *Helen*, or the investing it is manifest that the story of the poem ve been a series of several actions. He opens his poem with the discord of his and artfully interweaves, in the several parts of it, an account of every thing which relates to them, and had passed a fatal disension. After the same manmakes his first appearance in the *Tyrr*, and within sight of *Italy*, because the posed to be celebrated was that of his unself in *Latium*. But because it was for the reader to know what had happhim in the taking of *Troy*, and in the parts of his voyage, *Virgil* makes his e it by way of episode in the second and ks of the *Æneid*: the contents of both ks come before those of the first book in d of the story, though for preserving of action they follow them in the disposit poem. Milton, in imitation of these poets, opens his *Paradise Lost* with an council plotting the fall of man, which is

the action he proposed to celebrate; and as for those great actions, which preceded in point of time the battle of the angel, and the creation of the world (which would have entirely destroyed the unity of his principal action, had he related them in the same order that they happened), he cast them into the fifth, sixth, and seventh books, by way of episode to this noble poem.

Aristotle himself allows, that *Homer* has nothing to boast of as to the unity of his fable, though at the same time that great critic and philosopher endeavours to palliate this imperfection in the Greek poet, by imputing it in some measure to the very nature of an epic poem. Some have been of opinion, that the *Æneid* also labours in this particular, and has episodes which may be looked upon as excrescences rather than as parts of the action. On the contrary, the poem which we have now under our consideration, hath no other episodes than such as naturally arise from the subject, and yet is filled with such a multitude of astonishing incidents, that it gives us at the same time a pleasure of the greatest variety, and of the greatest simplicity; uniform in its nature, though diversified in the execution.

I must observe also, that as *Virgil*, in the poem which was designed to celebrate the original of the Roman empire, has described the birth of its great rival, the Carthaginian commonwealth, Milton, with the like art in his poem on the fall of man, has related the fall of those angels who are his professed enemies. Besides the many other beauties in such an episode, its running parallel with the great action of the poem hinders it from breaking the unity so much as another episode would have done, that had not so great an affinity with the principal subject. In short, this is the same kind of beauty which the critics admire in the Spanish Friar, or *The Double Discovery**, where the two different plots look like counter-parts and copies of one another.

The second qualification required in the action of an epic poem is, that it should be an entire action. An action is entire when it is complete in all its parts; or, as Aristotle describes it, when it consists of a beginning, a middle, and an end. Nothing should go before it, be intermixed with it, or follow after it, that is not related to it. As, on the contrary, no single step should be omitted in that just and regular process which it must be supposed to take from its original to its consummation. Thus we see the anger of *Achilles* in his birth, its continuance, and effects; and *Æneas's* settlement in *Italy*, carried on through all the oppositions in his way to it both by sea and land. The action in *Milton* excels (I think) both the former in this particular: we see it contrived in hell, executed upon earth, and punished by Heaven. The parts of it are told in the most distinct manner, and grow out of one another in the most natural method.

The third qualification of an epic poem is its greatness. The anger of *Achilles* was of such consequence, that it embroiled the kings of Greece, destroyed the heroes of *Troy*, and engaged all the gods in factions. *Æneas's* settlement in *Italy* produced the *Cæsars*, and gave birth to the Roman empire. *Milton's* subject was still greater than either of the former; it does not determine the fate of single persons or nations; but of a whole species. The united powers of hell are joined together for the destruction of mankind, which they effected in part, and would have completed, had

* See Nos. 274 and 276.

* By Dryden.

not Omnipotence itself interposed. The principal actors are, man in his greatest perfection, and woman in her highest beauty. Their enemies are the fallen angels; the Messiah their friend, and the Almighty their protector. In short, every thing that is great in the whole circle of being, whether within the verge of nature, or out of it, has a proper part assigned it in this noble poem.

In poetry, as in architecture, not only the whole, but the principal members, and every part of them, should be great. I will not presume to say, that the books of games in the *Æneid*, or that in the *Iliad*, are not of this nature; nor to reprehend Virgil's simile of the top, and many other of the same kind in the *Iliad*, as liable to any censure in this particular; but I think we may say, without derogating from those wonderful performances, that there is an unquestionable magnificence in every part of *Paradise Lost*, and indeed a much greater than could have been formed upon any Pagan system.

But Aristotle, by the greatness of the action, does not only mean that it should be great in its nature, but also in its duration, or in other words, that it should have a due length in it, as well as what we properly call greatness. The just measure of this kind of magnitude, he explains by the following similitude. An animal no bigger than a mite, cannot appear perfect to the eye, because the sight takes it in at once, and has only a confused idea of the whole, and not a distinct idea of all its parts; if, on the contrary, you should suppose an animal of ten thousand furlongs in length, the eye would be so filled with a single part of it, that it could not give the mind an idea of the whole. What these animals are to the eye, a very short or very long action would be to the memory. The first would be, as it were, lost and swallowed up by it, and the other difficult to be contained in it. Homer and Virgil have shown their principal art in this particular; the action of the *Iliad*, and that of the *Æneid*, were in themselves exceeding short, but are so beautifully extended and diversified by the invention of episodes, and the machinery of gods, with the like poetical ornaments, that they make up an agreeable story, sufficient to employ the memory without overcharging it. Milton's action is enriched with such a variety of circumstances, that I have taken as much pleasure in reading the contents of his books, as in the best-invented story I ever met with. It is possible, that the traditions, on which the *Iliad* and *Æneid* were built, had more circumstances in them than the history of the Fall of Man, as it is related in scripture. Besides it was easier for Homer and Virgil to dash the truth with fiction, as they were in no danger of offending the religion of their country by it. But as for Milton, he had not only a very few circumstances upon which to raise his poem, but was also obliged to proceed with the greatest caution in every thing that he added out of his own invention. And indeed, notwithstanding all the restraint he was under, he has filled his story with so many surprising incidents, which bear so close an analogy with what is delivered in holy writ, that it is capable of pleasing the most delicate reader, without giving offence to the most scrupulous.

The modern critics have collected from several hints in the *Iliad* and *Æneid* the space of time which is taken up by the action of each of those poems; but as a great part of Milton's story was transacted in regions that lie out of the reach of the sun and the sphere of the day, it is impossible

to gratify the reader with such a calculation, which indeed would be more curious than instructive; none of the critics, either ancient or modern, having laid down rules to circumscribe the action of an epic poem with any determined number of years, days, or hours.

This piece of criticism on Milton's *Paradise Lost* shall be carried on in the following Saturday's papers *.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 268. MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1711-12.

— Minus optus acutis
Naribus horum hominum —

HOR. Sat. III. l. 1. ver. 29.

He cannot bear the raillery of the age.
CREBCH.

It is not that I think I have been more witty than I ought of late, that at present I wholly forbear any attempt towards it: I am of opinion that I ought sometimes to lay before the world the plain letters of my correspondents in the artless dress in which they hastily send them, that the reader may see I am not accuser and judge myself, but that the indictment is properly and fairly laid, before I proceed against the criminal.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

As you are Spectator-General, I apply myself to you in the following case, viz. I do not wear a sword, but I often divert myself at the theatre, where I frequently see a set of fellows pull plain people, by way of humour and frolic, by the nose, upon frivolous or no occasions. A friend of mine, the other night, applauding what a graceful exit Mr. Wilks made, one of these nose-wringers, overbearing him, pinched him by the nose. I was in the pit the other night (when it was very much crowded): a gentleman leaning upon me, and very heavily, I very civilly requested him to remove his hand; for which he pulled me by the nose. I would not resent it in so public a place, because I was unwilling to create a disturbance; but have since reflected upon it as a thing that is unmanly and disingenuous, renders the nose-puller odious, and makes the person pulled by the nose look little and contemptible. This grievance I humbly request you will endeavour to redress.

I am your admirer, &c.

JAMES EAST †.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

Your discourse of the 28th of December † on love and marriage, is of so useful a kind, that I cannot forbear adding my thoughts to yours on that subject. Methinks it is a misfortune, that the marriage-state, which in its own nature is adapted to give us the completest happiness this life is capable of, should be so uncomfortable a one to so many as it daily proves. But the mischief generally proceeds from the unwise choice people make for themselves, and an expectation of happiness from things not capable of giving it. Nothing but the good qualities of the person beloved can be a

* See Nos. 273, 279, 285, 291, 297, 303, 309, 315, 321, 327, 333, 339, 345, 351, 357, 363, and 369.

† This letter was written by a Mr. James Heywood, who was many years a wholesale linen-draper on Fish-street Hill. He died in Austin-friars, July 1776, aged 90.

‡ Nº 261.

a love of judgment and discretion; expects happiness from any thing sordid, good-humour, and a similitude will find themselves widely mistaken. are there who seek after these things, other make riches their chief, if not? How rare is it for a man, when himself in the thoughts of marriage, to be of having in such a woman a comely companion? One who will divide double his joys? who will manage his estate he entrusts to her care with frugality, govern his house with discretion, and be an ornament to his family? Where shall we find the man for one who places her chief happiness in practice of virtue, and makes her chief pleasure? No: men rather seek the complement of all their desires; and of what kind of wives they take, they will be a minister to all kind of pleasures. enable them to keep mistresses, to drink, feast, and game with friends, pay their debts contracted by extravagancies, or some such vile and unbecoming indulgence themselves in pleasures of time and scandal to human nature. Few women; how few of them are capable of the happiness of their marriage with a wise and virtuous friend? one who is kind and just to all, and constant and true to who with care and diligence will improve the estate, and without ostentation whatever is prudent and convenient. how few are there, who do not pine in outshining others in pomp and show, that do not think within themselves have married such a rich person, their acquaintance shall appear so profitable, so adorned in their persons, so situated in their furniture as themselves? Few are filled with vain ideas; and I could say that equipage and show is the chief good of so many women as I

can. manner do both sexes deceive themselves; reflections and disgrace upon the most honourable state of life; would but correct their depraved ambition, and place their proper objects, we should not find marriage-state such a wonder in the world.

think these thoughts worth inserting in, be pleased to give them a better name than pass abroad; and you will

'Your admirer,
A. B.'

FOR, one day walking in the street, there is by on the other side of the way a woman whose charms were so attracting, that she was wholly on that side, inasmuch as my own way, and chanced to run myself against a post; which the lady perceived, but she fell into a fit of laughing at the same time she was sensible that it was the cause of my misfortune, and in consequence the greater aggravation of my being busy wiping off the blood from my own face, had not time to accuse her barbarity, as also with my

resolution, viz. never to look out of my way for one of her sex more: therefore, that your humble servant may be revenged, he desires you to insert this in one of your next papers, which he hopes will be a warning to all the rest of the women-gazers, as well as to poor

'ANTHONY CAPE.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I DESIRE to know in your next, if the merry game of "The parson has lost his cloak," is not mightily in vogue amongst the fine ladies this Christmas, because I see they wear hoods of all colours, which I suppose is for that purpose. If it is, and you think it proper, I will carry some of those hoods with me to our ladies in Yorkshire; because they enjoined me to bring them something from London that was very new. If you can tell any thing in which I can obey their commands more agreeably, be pleased to inform me, and you will extremely oblige

'Your humble servant.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Oxford, Dec. 29.

'SINCE you appear inclined to be a friend to the distressed, I beg you would assist me in an affair under which I have suffered very much. The reigning toast of this place is Patetia; I have pursued her with the utmost diligence this twelve-month, and find nothing stands in my way but one who flatters her more than I can. Pride is her favourite passion; therefore if you would be so far my friend as to make a favourable mention of me in one of your papers, I believe I should not fail in my address. The scholars stand in rows, as they did to be sure in your time, at her pew-door; and she has all the devotion paid to her by a crowd of youths who are unacquainted with the sex, and have inexperience added to their passion. However, if it succeeds according to my vows, you will make me the happiest man in the world, and the most obliged amongst all

'Your humble servants.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I CAME to my mistress's toilet this morning, for I am admitted when her face is stark naked: she frowned and cried pish, when I said a thing that I stole; and I will be judged by you whether it was not very pretty. "Madam," said I, "you shall forbear that part of your dress; it may be well in others, but you cannot place a patch where it does not hide a beauty."

STEELE.

T.

Nº 269. TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1711-12.

— *Evo rarissima nostro
Simplicitas* —

OVID. Ars Am. l. i. ver. 241.

And brings our old simplicity again.
DRYDEN.

I was this morning surpris'd with a great knocking at the door, when my landlady's daughter came up to me and told me that there was a man below desired to speak with me. Upon my asking her who it was, she told me it was a very grave elderly person, but that she did not know his name. I immediately went down to him, and found him to be the coachman of my worthy friend Sir Roger de Coverley. He told me that his master came to town

last night, and would be glad to take a turn with me in Gray's-inn walks. As I was wondering with myself what had brought Sir Roger to town, not having lately received any letter from him, he told me that his master was come up to get a sight of Prince Eugene *, and that he desired I would immediately meet him.

I was not a little pleased with the curiosity of the old knight, though I did not much wonder at it, having heard him say more than once in private discourse, that he looked upon Prince Eugenio (for so the knight always calls him) to be a greater man than Scanderbeg.

I had no sooner come into Gray's-inn walks, but I heard my friend upon the terrace humming twice or thrice to himself with great vigour, for he loves to clear his pipes in good air (to make use of his own phrase), and is not a little pleased with any one who takes notice of the strength which he still exerts in his morning hums.

I was touched with a secret joy at the sight of the good old man, who before he saw me was engaged in conversation with a beggar-man that had asked an alms of him. I could hear my friend chide him for not finding out some work; but at the same time saw him put his hand in his pocket and give him sixpence.

Our salutations were very hearty on both sides, consisting of many kind shakes of the hand, and several affectionate looks which we cast upon one another. After which the knight told me my good friend his chaplain was very well, and much at my service, and that the Sunday before he had made a most incomparable sermon out of Dr. Barrow. 'I have left,' says he, 'all my affairs in his hands; and, being willing to lay an obligation upon him, have deposited with him thirty marks, to be distributed among his poor parishioners.'

He then proceeded to acquaint me with the welfare of Will Wimble †. Upon which he put his hand into his fob and presented me in his name with a tobacco-stopper, telling me that Will had been busy all the beginning of the winter in turning great quantities of them; and that he made a present of one to every gentleman in the country who has good principles, and smokes. He added, that poor Will was at present under great tribulation, for that Tom Touchy had taken the law of him for cutting some hazel sticks out of one of his hedges.

Among other pieces of news which the knight brought from his country-seat, he informed me that Moll White was dead, and that about a month after her death the wind was so very high, that it blew down the end of one of his barns. 'But for my own part,' says Sir Roger, 'I do not think that the old woman had any hand in it.'

He afterwards fell into an account of the diversions which had passed in his house during the holidays; for Sir Roger, after the laudable custom of his ancestors, always keeps open house at Christmas. I learned from him, that he had killed eight fat hogs for this season; that he had dealt about his chimes very liberally amongst his neighbours; and that in particular he had sent a string of hog's-puddings with a pack of cards to every poor family in the parish. 'I have often thought,' says Sir Roger, 'it happens very well that Christmas should fall out in the middle of winter. It is the most dead uncomfortable time of the year,

when the poor people would suffer very much from their poverty and cold, if they had not good cheer, warm fires, and Christmas gambols to support them. I love to rejoice their poor hearts at this season, and to see the whole village merry in my great hall. I allow a double quantity of malt to my small beer, and set it a running for twelve days, to every one that calls for it. I have always a piece of cold beef and a mince-pie upon the table, and am wonderfully pleased to see my tenants pass away a whole evening in playing their innocent tricks, and smutting one another. Our friend Will Wimble is as merry as any of them, and shows a thousand roguish tricks upon these occasions.'

I was very much delighted with the reflection of my old friend, which carried so much goodness in it. He then launched out into the praise of the late act of parliament for securing the church of England ‡, and told me with great satisfaction, that he believed it already began to take effect; for that a rigid dissenter who chanced to dine at his house on Christmas-day, had been observed to eat very plentifully of his plum-porridge.

After having dispatched all our country matters, Sir Roger made several inquiries concerning the club, and particularly of his old antagonist Sir Andrew Freeport. He asked me with a kind of smile, whether Sir Andrew had not taken advantage of his absence, to vent among them some of his republican doctrines; but soon after gathering up his countenance into a more than ordinary seriousness, 'Tell me truly,' says he, 'don't you think Sir Andrew had a hand in the pope's procemios? — But without giving me time to answer him, 'Well, well,' says he, 'I know you are a wary man, and do not care to talk of public matters.'

The knight then asked me, if I had seen Prince Eugenio, and made me promise to get him a stand in some convenient place where he might have a full sight of that extraordinary man, whose presence did so much honour to the British nation. He dwelt very long on the praises of this great general; and I found that, since I was with him in the country, he had drawn many observations together out of his reading in Baker's Chronicle, and other authors, who always lie in his hall window, which very much redound to the honour of this prince.

Having passed away the greatest part of the morning in hearing the knight's reflections, which were partly private and partly political, he asked me if I would smoke a pipe with him over a dish of coffee at Squires's? As I love the old man, I take delight in complying with ever thing that is agreeable to him, and accordingly waited on him to the coffee-house, where his venerable figure drew upon us the eyes of the whole room. He had no sooner seated himself at the upper end of the high table, but he called for a clean pipe, a paper of tobacco, a dish of coffee, a wax candle, and the Supplement †, with such an air of cheerfulness and good-humour, that all the boys in the coffee-room (who seemed to take pleasure in serving him) were at once employed on his several errands, inasmuch that nobody else could come at a dish of tea, until the knight had got all his conveniences about him.

ADDISON.

L

* The prince was at this time in London, and much honoured by the queen and her courtiers.

† See *Moe*, 108, 122, 126, and 131.

‡ Stat. 10 Ann. cap. 2. Against occasional conformity.
§ See No 962.

§ A periodical paper of that time.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1711-12.

*Enim citius, meminitque libentius illud,
quis deridet, quam quod probat —*

BOR. Ep. l. i. 2. ver. 202.

hat's decided by the censuring crowd,
ought on more than what is just and good.

CREECH.

I know that I have been in greater delight many years, than in beholding the boxes play the last time 'The Scornful Lady' d. So great an assembly of ladies placed all rows in all the ornaments of jewels, d colours, gave so lively and gay an im-to the heart, that methought the season of was vanished; and I did not think it an sion of a young fellow who stood near called the boxes those 'beds of tulips.' I pretty variation of the prospect, when of these fine ladies rose up and did ho-erself and friend at a distance, by curtesy-gave opportunity to that friend to show her o the same advantage in returning the sa-

Here that action is as proper and grace-is at church unbecoming and impertinent. ay, I must take the liberty to observe, id not see any one who is usually so full ies at church, offer at any such indeco-ng any part of the action of the play. utiful prospects gladden our minds, and, nsidered in general, give innocent and ideas. He that dwells upon any one ob-anty, may fix his imagination to his dis-nt the contemplation of a whole assembly is a defence against the incroachment of t least to me, who have taken pains to eauty abstracted from the consideration ng the object of desire; at power, only upon another, without any hopes of par-y share of it; at wisdom and capacity, ny pretensions to rival or envy its acqui-I say to me, who am really free from any hopes of beholding the persons of women, or warming myself into ambition successes of other men, this world is not ere scene, but a very pleasant one. Did but know the freedom which there is in hus aloof from the world, I should have tators, than the powerfuller man in the s followers. To be so man's rival in love, titor in business, is a character which, if t recommend you as it ought to benevo-ong those whom you live with, yet has it this effect, that you do not stand so much f their approbation, as you would if you more, in setting your heart on the same ich the generality doat on. By this nd with this easy philosophy, I am never play than when I am at the theatre; but am seldom so well pleased with action as lace; for most men follow nature no an while they are in their night-gowns, be busy part of the day are in characters y neither become, nor act in with plea-themselves or their beholders. But to y ladies: I was very well pleased t great a crowd of them assembled at herein the heroine, as the phrase is, is

so just a picture of the vanity of the sex in tormenting their admirers. The lady who pines for the man whom she treats with so much impertinence and inconstancy, is drawn with much art and humour. Her resolutions to be extremely civil, but her vanity arising just at the instant she resolved to express herself kindly, are described as by one who had studied the sex. But when my admiration is fixed upon this excellent character, and two or three others in the play, I must confess I was moved with the utmost indignation, at the trivial, senseless, and unnatural representations of the chaplain. It is possible there may be a pedant in holy orders, and we have seen one or two of them in the world: but such a driveller as Sir Roger, so bereft of all manner of pride, which is the characteristic of a pedant, is what one would not believe would come into the head of the same man who drew the rest of the play. The meeting between Welford and him shows a wretch without any notion of the dignity of his function; and it is out of all common sense that he should give an account of himself 'as one sent four or five miles in a morning, on foot, for eggs.' It is not to be denied, but this part, and that of the maid, whom he makes love to, are excellently well performed; but a thing which is blameable in itself, grows still more so by the success in the execution of it. It is so mean a thing to gratify a loose age with a scandalous representation of what is reputable among men, not to say what is sacred, that no beauty, no excellence in an author ought to atone for it; nay, such excellence is an aggravation of his guilt, and an argument that he errs against the conviction of his own understanding and conscience. Wit should be tried by this rule, and an audience should rise against such a scene as throws down the reputation of any thing which the consideration of religion or decency should preserve from contempt. But all this evil arises from this one corruption of mind, that makes men resent offences against their virtue, less than those against their understanding. An author shall write as if he thought there was not one man of honour or woman of chastity in the house, and come off with applause; for an insult upon all the ten commandments with the little critics is not so bad as the breach of an unity of time and place. Half wits do not apprehend the miseries that must necessarily flow from a degeneracy of manners; nor do they know that order is the support of society. Sir Roger and his mistress are monsters of the poet's own forming; the sentiments in both of them are such as do not arise in fools of their education. We all know that a silly scholar, instead of being below every one he meets with, is apt to be exalted above the rank of such as are really his superiors: his arrogance is always founded upon particular notions of distinction in his own head, accompanied with a pedantic scorn of all fortune and pre-eminence, when compared with his knowledge and learning. This very one character of Sir Roger, as silly as it really is, has done more towards the disparagement of holy orders, and consequently of virtue itself, than all the wit of that author, or any other, could make up for in the conduct of the longest life after it. I do not pretend, in saying this, to give myself airs of more virtue than my neighbours, but assert it from the principles by which mankind must always be governed. Sallies of imagination are to be overlooked, when they are committed out of warmth in the recommendation of what is praiseworthy; but a deliberate advancing of vice, with

all the wit in the world, is as ill an action as any that comes before the magistrate, and ought to be received as such by the people.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 371. THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1711-12.

Mille trahens varios adæque sola colores.

VIRG. Æn. iv. ver. 701.

Drawing a thousand colours from the light.
DRYDEN.

I RECEIVE a double advantage from the letters of my correspondents; first, as they show me which of my papers are most acceptable to them; and in the next place, as they furnish me with materials for new speculations. Sometimes indeed I do not make use of the letter itself, but form the hints of it into plans of my own invention; sometimes I take the liberty to change the language or thought into my own way of speaking and thinking, and always (if it can be done without prejudice to the sense) omit the many compliments and applauses which are usually bestowed upon me.

Besides the two advantages above-mentioned which I receive from the letters that are sent me, they give me an opportunity of lengthening out my paper by the skilful management of the subscribing part at the end of them, which perhaps does not a little conduce to the ease both of myself and reader.

Some will have it, that I often write to myself, and am the only punctual correspondent I have. This objection would indeed be material, were the letters I communicate to the public stuffed with my own commendations; and if, instead of endeavouring to divert and instruct my readers, I admired in them the beauty of my own performances. But I shall leave these wise conjectures to their own imaginations, and produce the three following letters for the entertainment of the day.

'SIR,

'I was last Thursday in an assembly of ladies, where there were thirteen different coloured hoods. Your Spectator of that day * lying upon the table, they ordered me to read it to them, which I did with a very clear voice, until I came to the Greek verse at the end of it. I must confess I was a little startled at its popping upon me so unexpectedly. However, I covered my confusion as well as I could, and after having muttered two or three hard words to myself, laughed heartily, and cried, "a very good jest, faith." The ladies desired me to explain it to them; but I begged their pardon for that, and told them, that if it had been proper for them to hear, they might be sure the author would not have wrapped it up in Greek. I then let drop several expressions, as if there was something in it that was not fit to be spoken before a company of ladies. Upon which the matron of the assembly, who was dressed in a cherry-coloured hood, commended the discretion of the writer for having thrown his filthy thoughts into Greek, which was likely to corrupt but few of his readers. At the same time she declared herself very well pleased that he had not given a decisive opinion upon the new-fashioned hoods; "for to tell you truly," says she, "I was afraid he would have made us ashamed to show our heads." Now, sir, you must know, since this unlucky accident hap-

pened to me in a company of ladies, among whom I passed for a most ingenious man, I have consulted one who is well versed in the Greek language, and he assures me upon his word, that your late quotation means no more than that "manners, not dress, are the ornaments of a woman." If this comes to the knowledge of my female admirers, I shall be very hard put to it to bring myself off handsomely. In the meanwhile, I give you this account, that you may take care hereafter not to betray any of your well-wishers into the like inconveniences. It is in the number of these that I beg leave to subscribe myself,

'TOM TRIPPT.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Your readers are so well pleased with your character of Sir Roger de Coverley, that there appeared a sensible joy in every coffee-house, upon hearing the old knight was come to town *. I am now with a knot of his admirers, who make it their joint request to you, that you would give us public notice of the window or balcony where the knight intends to make his appearance. He has already given great satisfaction to several who have seen him at Squire's coffee-house. If you think fit to place your short face at Sir Roger's left elbow, we shall take the hint, and gratefully acknowledge so great a favour.

'I am, SIR,

'Your most devoted humble servant,

'C. B.'

'SIR,

'Knowing that you are very inquisitive after every thing that is curious in nature, I will wait on you, if you please, in the dusk of the evening, with my show upon my back, which I carry about with me in a box, as only consisting of a man, a woman, and a horse †. The two first are married, in which state the little cavalier has so well acquitted himself, that his lady is with child. The big-bellied woman and her husband, with their little whimsical palfrey, are so very light, that when they are put together into a scale, an ordinary man may weigh down the whole family. The little man is a bully in his nature; but when he grows choleric, I confine him to his box until his wrath is over, by which means I have hitherto prevented him from doing mischief. His horse is likewise very vicious, for which reason I am forced to tie him close to his manger with a packthread. The woman is a coquette. She struts as much as it is possible for a lady of two foot high, and would ruin me in silks, were not the quantity that goes to a large cushion sufficient to make her a gown and petticoat. She told me the other day, that she heard the ladies wore coloured hoods, and ordered me to get her one of the finest blue. I am forced to comply with her demands whilst she is in her present condition, being very willing to have more of the same breed. I do not know what she may produce me, but provided it be a show I shall be very well satisfied. Such novelties should not, I think, be concealed from the British Spectator; for which reason I hope you will excuse this presumption in

'Your most dutiful, most obedient,

'and most humble servant,

'A. T.'

ADDISON.

L.

* See Nº 269.

† Three dwarfs, a very little man, a woman equally diminutive, and a horse proportionably so, were exhibited at London about this time.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1711-12.

— *Longa est injuria, longa
dages* —

VIRG. *Æn.* l. ver. 345.

at is the injury, and long the tale.

SPECTATOR,

omission of this letter is of so great importance the circumstances of it such, that I know but think it just to insert it, in preference her matters that can present themselves to sideration. I need not, after I have said you that I am in love. The circumstances passion I shall let you understand as well ordered mind will admit. "That cursed k, Mrs. Jane!" Alas, I am railing at one y her name, as familiarly as if you were ed with her as well as myself: but I will all, as fast as the alternate interruptions d anger will give me leave. There is the ceable young woman in the world, whom stomately in love with, and from whom or some space of time received as great favour as were fit for her to give, or me.

The successful progress of the affair, hers the most essential towards a man's s, gave a new life and spirit not only to viour and discourse, but also a certain all my actions in the commerce of life, in

however remote from love. You know minant passion spreads itself through all transactions, and exalts or depresses him; to the nature of such passion. But, alas! ot yet begun my story, and what is mak- nces and observations when a man is for his life? To begin then. This lady sponded with me under the names of love, elinda, I her Cleanthes. Though I am got into the account of my affair, I can- in the thread of it so much as to give you cter of Mrs. Jane, whom I will not hide borrowed name; but let you know, that ture has been, since I knew her, very ; (though I will not allow her even "she" for the future) and during the time of and beauty was so great a tyrant to her over-valued herself and under-rated all nders, that they have deserted her to a d she knows no comfort but that common

in her condition, the pleasure of inter- ve amours of others. It is impossible but have seen several of these volunteers in the pass their whole time in the most la- ay of life in getting intelligence, running ce to place with new whispers, without ny other benefit but the hopes of making unhappy as themselves. Mrs. Jane hap- pe at a place where I, with many others, ainted with my passion for Belinda, Christmas evening. There was among y young lady, so free in mirth, so amiable eerve that accompanied it; I wrong her a reserve, but there appeared in her a cheerfulness which was not a forbearance immoderate joy, but the natural appear- all which could flow from a mind pos- an habit of innocence and purity. I must rily forgot Belinda, to have taken no no- ne who was growing up to the same wo- rtues which shine to perfection in her, had inguished one who seemed to promise to

the world the same life and conduct with my faith- ful and lovely Belinda. When the company broke up, the fine young thing permitted me to take care of her home. Mrs. Jane saw my particular regard to her, and was informed of my attending her to her father's house. She came early to Belinda the next morning, and asked her, "If Mrs. Such-a-one had been with her?" "No."—"If Mr. Such-a-one's lady?" "No."—"Nor your cousin Such-a-one?" "No."—"Lord," says Mrs. Jane, "what is the friendship of women! Nay, they may well laugh at it. And did no one tell you any thing of the beha- viour of your lover, Mr. What-d-y-e-call, last night? But perhaps it is nothing to you that he is to be married to young Mrs. — on Tuesday next?" Belinda was here ready to die with rage and jea- lousy. Then Mrs. Jane goes on: "I have a young kinsman who is clerk to a great conveyancer, who shall show you the rough draught of the mar- riage settlement. The world says her father gives him two thousand pounds more than he could have with you." I went innocently to wait on Belinda as usual, but was not admitted; I writ to her, and my letter was sent back unop'ned. Poor Betty, her maid, who is on my side, has been here just now blubbing, and told me the whole matter. She says she did not think I could be so base; and that she is now so odious to her mistress, for having so often spoke well of me, that she dare not men- tion me more. All our hopes are placed in having these circumstances fairly represented in the Spec- tator, which Betty says she dare not but bring up as soon as it is brought in; and has promised, when you have broke the ice, to own this was laid be- tween us, and when I can come to an hearing, the young lady will support what we say by her testi- mony, that I never saw her but that once in my whole life. Dear sir, do not omit this true rela- tion, nor think it too particular; for there are crowds of forlorn coquettes who intermingle them- selves with other ladies, and contract familiarities out of malice, and with no other design but to blast the hopes of lovers, the expectation of pa- rents, and the benevolence of kindred. I doubt not but I shall be,

'SIR,

'Your most obliged humble servant,

'CLEANTHES.'

'SIR,

'Will's coffee-house, Jan. 10.

'THE other day, entering a room adorned with the fair sex, I offered, after the usual manner, to each of them a kiss; but one, more scornful than the rest, turned her cheek. I did not think it proper to take any notice of it until I had asked your ad- vice.

'Your humble servant,

'E. S.'

The correspondent is desired to say which cheek the offender turned to him.

ADVERTISEMENT.

From the Parish Vestry, January 9.

All ladies who come to church in the now-fashioned hoods, are desired to be there before divine services begins, lest they divert the attention of the congrega- tion.

RALPH.

STEEL.

T.

N° 273. SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1711-12.

——— *Notandi sunt tibi mores.*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 156.

Note well the manners.

HAVING examined the action of *Paradise Lost*, let us, in the next place, consider the actors. This is Aristotle's method of considering, first the fable, and secondly, the manners; or, as we generally call them in English, the fable and the characters.

Homer has excelled all the heroic poets that ever wrote in the multitude and variety of his characters. Every god that is admitted into his poem, acts a part which would have been suitable to no other deity. His princes are as much distinguished by their manners, as by their dominions; and even those among them, whose characters seem wholly made up of courage, differ from one another as to the particular kinds of courage in which they excel. In short, there is scarce a speech or action in the *Iliad*, which the reader may not ascribe to the person who speaks or acts, without seeing his name at the head of it.

Homer does not only outshine all other poets in the variety, but also in the novelty of his characters. He has introduced among his Grecian princes a person who had lived thrice the age of man, and conversed with *Thetis*, *Hercules*, *Polypheus*, and the first race of heroes. His principal actor is the son of a goddess, not to mention the offspring of other deities, who have likewise a place in his poem, and the venerable Trojan prince, who was the father of so many kings and heroes. There is in these several characters of Homer, a certain dignity as well as novelty, which adapts them in a more peculiar manner to the nature of an heroic poem. Though at the same time, to give them the greater variety, he has described a *Vulcan*, that is a buffoon among his gods, and a *Thersites* among his mortals.

Virgil falls infinitely short of Homer in the characters of his poem, both as to their variety and novelty. *Æneas* is indeed a perfect character; but as for *Achilles*, though he is styled the hero's friend, he does nothing in the whole poem which may deserve that title. *Gyas*, *Mnestheus*, *Sergestus*, and *Cloanthus*, are all of them men of the same stamp and character:

——— *Fortemque Gyns, fortemque Cloanthum.**

There are indeed several natural incidents in the part of *Ascanius*; and that of *Dido* cannot be sufficiently admired. I do not see any thing new or particular in *Turnus*. *Pallas* and *Evander* are remote copies of *Hector* and *Priam*, as *Lausus* and *Mexentius* are almost parallels to *Pallas* and *Evander*. The characters of *Nisus* and *Euryalus* are beautiful, but common. We must not forget the parts of *Sinon*, *Camilla*, and some few others, which are fine improvements on the Greek poet. In short, there is neither that variety nor novelty in the persons of the *Æneid*, which we meet with in those of the *Iliad*.

If we look into the characters of *Milton*, we shall find that he has introduced all the variety his fable was capable of receiving. The whole species of mankind was in two persons at the time to which the subject of his poem is confined. We have, however, four distinct characters in these two persons. We see man and woman in the

highest innocence and perfection, and in the most abject state of guilt and infirmity. The two last characters are, indeed, very common and obvious; but the two first are not only more magnificent, but more new than any characters either in *Virgil* or *Homer*, or indeed in the whole circle of nature.

Milton was so sensible of this defect in the subject of his poem, and of the few characters it would afford him, that he has brought into it two actors of a shadowy and fictitious nature, in the persons of *Sin* and *Death*, by which means he has wrought into the body of his fable a very beautiful and well-invented allegory. But notwithstanding the fineness of this allegory may atone for it in some measure, I cannot think that persons of such a chimerical existence are proper actors in an epic poem; because there is not that measure of probability annexed to them, which is requisite in writings of this kind, as I shall show more at large hereafter.

Virgil has, indeed, admitted *Fame* as an actress in the *Æneid*, but the part she acts is very short, and none of the most admired circumstances in that divine work. We find in mock-heroic poems, particularly in the *Dispensary**, and the *Laetitia*†, several allegorical persons of this nature, which are very beautiful in those compositions, and may perhaps be used as an argument, that the authors of them were of opinion such characters might have a place in an epic work. For my own part, I should be glad the reader would think so, for the sake of the poem I am now examining; and must further add, that if such empty unsubstantial beings may be ever made use of on this occasion, never were any more nicely imagined, and employed in more proper actions, than those of which I am now speaking.

Another principal actor in this poem is the great enemy of mankind. The part of *Ulysses* in *Homer's Odyssey* is very much admired by Aristotle, as perplexing that fable with very agreeable plots and intricacies, not only by the many adventures in his voyage, and the subtilty of his behaviour, but by the various concealments and discoveries of his person in several parts of that poem. But the crafty being I have now mentioned, makes a much longer voyage than *Ulysses*, puts in practice many more wiles and stratagems, and hides himself under a greater variety of shapes and appearances, all of which are severally detected, to the great delight and surprise of the reader.

We may likewise observe, with how much art the poet has varied several characters of the persons that speak in his infernal assembly. On the contrary, how has he represented the whole God-head exerting itself towards man in its full benevolence, under the threefold distinction of a Creator, a Redeemer, and a Comforter!

Nor must we omit the person of *Raphael*, who, amidst his tenderness and friendship for man, shows such a dignity and condescension in all his speech and behaviour, as are suitable to a superior nature. The angels are indeed as much diversified in *Milton*, and distinguished by their proper parts, as the gods are in *Homer* or *Virgil*. The reader will find nothing ascribed to *Uriel*, *Gabriel*, *Michael*, or *Raphael*, which is not in a particular manner suitable to their respective characters.

There is another circumstance in the principal actors of the *Iliad* and *Æneid*, which gives a peculiar beauty to those two poems, and was therefore contrived with very great judgment. I mean

* By Dr. Garth.

† By Bolingbroke.

as having chosen for their heroes, persons so nearly related to the people for whom they are. Achilles was a Greek, and Æneas the founder of Rome. By this means their enemies (whom they principally propose to satisfy for their readers) were particularly attached to all the parts of their story, and sympathy in their heroes in all their adventures. A reader could not but rejoice in the escapes, successful victories of Æneas, and be grieved at his misfortunes, or disappointments that a Greek must have had the same reach. Achilles. And it is plain, that each of us have lost this great advantage, among persons to whom their heroes are as strangers, and not persons.

This poem is admirable in this respect, since it is possible for any of its readers, whatever country, or people he may belong to, not related to the persons who are the principal actors in it; but what is still infinitely more to its praise, the principal actors in this poem are our progenitors, but our representatives, an actual interest in every thing they do, in which our utmost happiness is concerned, is at stake in all their behaviour.

It is subjoin, as a corollary to the foregoing, an admirable observation out of Aristotle, which has been very much misrepresented in the works of some modern critics: 'If a man of consummate virtue falls into a misfortune, it raises our pity, but not our terror, because we fear that it may be our own case, who resemble the suffering person.' But, as that philosopher adds, 'if we see a man of virtue fall into infirmities, fall into any misfortune, it only raises our pity but our terror; because we dread that the like misfortunes may happen to us, who resemble the character of the person.'

It is to make another opportunity to observe, that an absolute and consummate virtue should not be introduced in tragedy, and shall only remain in its place, that the foregoing observation is true, though it may be true in other occasions, but not hold in this; because, in the present case, though the persons who fall into misfortune are the most perfect and consummate virtues, yet they are not to be considered as what may possibly be actually our own case; since we are embarked with them on the same bottom, and are partakers of their happiness or mis-

fortune, and some other very few instances, Aristotle's for epic poetry (which he had drawn reflections upon Homer) cannot be squared exactly with the heroic poems, which have been made since his time; since if his rules would still have been more perfect, he would have perused the Æneid, which was made three hundred years after his death.

Next, I shall go through other parts of the poem; and hope that what I shall there say as well as what I have already written, will only serve as a comment upon Milton, but not as a new one.

L.

Nº 274. MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1711-12.

*Audire est opera pretium, procedere recte
Qui machis non vultis—*

HOR. Sat. li. l. 1. ver. 37.

All you, who think the city ne'er can thrive,
Till every cuckold-maker's flag'd alive,
Attend.—

POPE.

I HAVE upon several occasions (that have occurred since I first took into my thoughts the present state of fornication) weighed with myself, in behalf of guilty females, the impulses of flesh and blood, together with the arts and gallantries of crafty men; and reflect, with some scorn, that most part of what we in our youth think gay and polite, is nothing else but an habit of indulging a prurency that way. It will cost some labour to bring people to so lively a sense of this, as to recover the manly modesty in the behaviour of my men readers, and the bashful grace in the faces of my women; but in all cases which come into debate, there are certain things previously to be done before we can have a true light into the subject matter; therefore I will, in the first place, be necessary to consider the impotent wenchers and industrious hags, who are supplied with, and are constantly supplying, new sacrifices to the devil of lust. You are to know, then, if you are so happy as not to know it already, that the great havoc which is made in the habitations of beauty and innocence, is committed by such as can only lay waste and not enjoy the soil. When you observe the present state of vice and virtue, the offenders are such as one would think should have no impulse to what they are pursuing; as in business, you see sometimes fools pretend to be knaves, so in pleasure, you will find old men set up for wenchers. This latter sort of men are the great basis and fund of iniquity in the kind we are speaking of: you shall have an old rich man often receive scrawls from the several quarters of the town, with descriptions of the new wares in their hands, if he will please to send word when he will be waited on. This interview is contrived, and the innocent is brought to such indecencies as from time to time banish shame and raise desire. With these preparatives the hags break their wards by little and little, till they are brought to lose all apprehensions of what shall befall them in the possession of younger men. It is a common postscript of an hag to a young fellow whom she invites to a new woman, 'She has, I assure you, seen none but old Mr. Such-a-one.' It pleases the old fellow that the nymph is brought to him unadorned, and from his bounty she is accommodated with enough to dress her for other lovers. This is the most ordinary method of bringing beauty and poverty into the possession of the town; but the particular cases of kind keepers, skilful pimps, and all others who drive a separate trade, and are not in the general society or commerce of sin, will require distinct consideration. At the same time that we are thus severe on the abandoned, we are to represent the case of others with that mitigation as the circumstances demand. Calling names does no good; to speak worse of any thing than it deserves, does only take off from the credit of the accuser, and has implicitly the force of an apology in the behalf of the person accused. We shall therefore, according as the circumstances differ, vary our appellations of these criminals: those who offend only

against themselves, and are not scandals to society, but out of deference to the sober part of the world, have so much good left in them as to be ashamed, must not be huddled in the common word due to the worst of women; but regard is to be had to their circumstances when they fell, to the uneasy perplexity under which they lived under senseless and severe parents, to the importunity of poverty, to the violence of a passion in its beginning well grounded, and all other alleviations which make unhappy women resign the characteristic of their sex, modesty. To do otherwise than thus, would be to act like a pedantic Stoic, who thinks all crimes alike, and not like an impartial Spectator, who looks upon them with all the circumstances that diminish or enhance the guilt. I am in hopes, if this subject be well pursued, women will hereafter, from their infancy, be treated with an eye to their future state in the world; and not have their tempers made too untractable from an improper sourness or pride, or too complying from familiarity or forwardness contracted at their own houses. After these hints on this subject, I shall end this paper with the following genuine letter; and desire all who think they may be concerned in future speculations on this subject, to send in what they have to say for themselves for some incidents in their lives, in order to have proper allowances made for their conduct.

MR. SPECTATOR, Jan. 5, 1711-12.

THE subject of your yesterday's paper *, is of so great importance, and the thorough handling of it may be so very useful to the preservation of many an innocent young creature, that I think every one is obliged to furnish you with what lights he can, to expose the pernicious arts and practices of those unnatural women called bawds. In order to this, the inclosed is sent you, which is verbatim the copy of a letter written by a bawd of figure in this town to a noble lord. I have concealed the names of both, my intention being not to expose the persons but the thing.

I am, sir,
Your humble servant.

MY LORD,

I HAVE a great esteem for your honour, and a better opinion of you than of any of the quality, makes me acquaint you of an affair that I hope will oblige you to know. I have a niece that came to town about a fortnight ago. Her parents being lately dead she came to me, expecting to a found me in so good a condition as to a set her up in a milliner's shop. Her father gave fourscore pound with her for five years: her time is out, and she is not sixteen: as pretty a black gentlewoman as ever you saw; a little woman, which I know your lordship likes; well shaped, and as fine a complexion for red and white as ever I saw; I doubt not but your lordship will be of the same opinion. She designs to go down about a month hence, except I can provide for her, which I cannot at present. Her father was one with whom all he had, died with him, so there is four children left destitute; so if your lordship thinks proper to make an appointment where I shall wait on you with my niece, by a line or two, I stay for your answer; for I have no place fitted up since I left my home, fit to entertain your honour. I told her she should go with me to see a gentleman, a very good friend of mine; so I desire you to

take no notice of my letter, by reason she is ignorant of the ways of the town. My lord, I desire if you meet us to come alone; for, upon my word and honour, you are the first that I ever mentioned her to. So I remain

Your lordship's
Most humble servant to command.

I beg of you to burn it when you've read it.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 275. TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1711-12.

— *tribus Anticyris caput insanabile* —
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 300.

A head, no Heliole can cure.

I was yesterday engaged in an assembly of virtuoses, where one of them produced many curious observations which he had lately made in an anatomy of an human body. Another of the company communicated to us several wonderful discoveries, which he had also made on the same subject, by the help of very fine glasses. This gave birth to a great variety of uncommon remarks, and furnished discourse for the remaining part of the day.

The different opinions which were started on this occasion, presented to my imagination so many new ideas, that, by mixing with those which were already there, they employed my fancy all the last night, and composed a very wild extravagant dream.

I was invited, methought, to the dissection of a bean's head, and a coquette's heart, which were both of them laid on a table before us. An imaginary operator opened the first with a great deal of nicety, which, upon a cursory and superficial view, appeared like the head of another man; but upon applying our glasses to it, we made a very odd discovery, namely, that what we looked upon as brains, were not such in reality, but as heap of strange materials wound up in that shape and texture, and packed together with wonderful art in the several cavities of the skull. For, as Homer tells us that the blood of the gods is not real blood, but only something like it; so we found that the brain of a bean is not a real brain, but only something like it.

The pineal gland, which many of our modern philosophers suppose to be the seat of the soul, smelt very strong of essence and orange-flower water, and was accompanied with a kind of horsey substance, cut into a thousand little faces or mirrors, which were imperceptible to the naked eye, insomuch that the soul, if there had been any here, must have been always taken up in contemplating her own beauties.

We observed a large antrum or cavity in the sinciput, that was filled with ribbons, lace, and embroidery, wrought together in a most curious piece of net-work, the parts of which were likewise imperceptible to the naked eye. Another of these antrums or cavities was stuffed with invisible billet-doux, love-letters, pricked dances, and other trumpery of the same nature. In another we found a kind of powder, which set the whole company sneezing, and by the scent discovered itself to be right Spanish. The several other cells were stored with commodities of the same kind, of which it would be tedious to give the reader an exact inventory.

large cavity on each side the head, it omit. That on the right side was the, flatteries, and falsehoods, vows, protestations; that on the left with cautions. There issued out a duct the cells, which ran into the root where both joined together, and in one common duct to the tip of the several little roads or canals the ear into the brain, and took passage them out through their several of them extended itself to a bundle little musical instruments. Others the bladders, which were filled either with roth. But the large canal entered the cavity of the skull, from whence the canal into the tongue. This great duct with a kind of spongy substance, which anatomists call *Jalimatus*, and sense.

the forehead were extremely tough, what very much surprised us, had a single blood-vessel that we were, either with or without our glasses; we concluded, that the party when been entirely deprived of the faculty.

the forme was exceedingly stuffed, and was damaged with snuff. We could notice in particular of that small not often discovered in dissections, nose upwards, when it expresses which the owner of it has, upon seeing does not like, or hearing any thing misheard. I need not tell my learned that muscle which performs the motion mentioned by the Latin poets, when man's cocking his nose, or playing

find any thing very remarkable in only, that the *musculi amatorii*, or, mislate it into English, the ogling very much worn and decayed with on the contrary, the elevator, or which turns the eye towards heaven, did have been used at all.

mentioned in this dissection such as we were able to make, and have notice of those parts which are to common heads. As for the skull, indeed the whole outward shape and head, we could not discover any difference what we observe in the heads of we were informed, that the person to I belonged, had passed for a man I thirty years; during which time he looked like other people, dressed well, laughed frequently, and on particular acquitted himself tolerably at a ball to which one of the company added, not of ladies took him for a wit, in the flower of his age by the blow given, having been surprised by an, as he was tendering some civilities

and thoroughly examined this head dissections, and its several kinds of set up the brain, such as it was, into, and laid it aside under a broad cloth, in order to be prepared, great repository of dissections: our is, that the preparation would not be that of another brain, for that he several of the little pipes and tubes,

which ran through the brain, were already filled with a kind of mercurial substance, which he looked upon to be true quicksilver.

He applied himself, in the next place, to the coquette's heart, which he likewise laid open with great dexterity. There occurred to us many particularities in this dissection; but being unwilling to burthen my reader's memory too much, shall reserve this subject for the speculation of another day*.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 276. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1711-12.

Errori nomen virtus possidet honestum.

ROB. SAT. III. L. I. ver. 42.

Misconduct screen'd behind a specious name.

MR. SPECTATOR,
I hope you have philosophy enough to be capable of hearing the mention of your faults. Your papers which regard the fallen part of the fair-sex, are, I think, written with an indelicacy which makes them unworthy to be inserted in the writings of a moralist who knows the world †. I cannot allow that you are at liberty to observe upon the actions of mankind with the freedom which you seem to resolve upon; at least if you do so, you should take along with you the distinction of manners of the world, according to the quality and way of life of the persons concerned. A man of breeding speaks of even misfortune among ladies, without giving it the most terrible aspect it can bear; and this tenderness towards them, is much more to be preserved when you speak of vices. All mankind are so far related, that care is to be taken, in things to which all are liable, you do not mention what concerns one in terms which shall disgust another. Thus to tell a rich man of the indigence of a kinsman of his, or abruptly to inform a virtuous woman of the lapse of one who until then was in the same degree of esteem with herself, is a kind of involving each of them in some participation of those disadvantages. It is therefore expected from every writer, to treat his argument in such a manner, as is most proper to entertain the sort of readers to whom his discourse is directed. It is not necessary, when you write to the tea-table, that you should draw vices which carry all the horror of shame and contempt; if you paint an impertinent self-love, an artful glance, an assumed complexion, you say all which you ought to suppose they can be possibly guilty of. When you talk with this limitation, you behave yourself so as that you may expect others in conversation may second your railery; but when you do it in a style which every body else forbears in respect to their quality, they have an easy remedy in forbearing to read you, and bearing no more of their faults. A man that is now and then guilty of an intemperance is not to be called a drunkard; but the rule of polite railery, is to speak of a man's faults as if you loved him. Of this nature is what was said by Cæsar: when one was railing with an uncourtly vehemence, and broke out with, "What must we call him who was taken in an intrigue with another man's wife?" Cæsar answered very gravely, "A careless fellow." This was at once a reprimand for speaking of a crime which in those days had not the abhorrence attending it as it

* See Nº 281.

† See Nos. 266 and 274.

ought, as well as an intimation that all intemperate behaviour before superiors loses its aim, by accusing in a method unfit for the audience. A word to the wise. All I mean here to say to you is, that the most free person of quality can go no further than being a kind woman; and you should never say of a man of figure worse than that he knows the world.

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant,
'COURTLY *.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a woman of an unpotted reputation, and know nothing I have ever done which should encourage such insolence; but here was one the other day, and he was dressed like a gentleman too, who took the liberty to name the words "lusty fellow" in my presence. I doubt not but you will resent it in behalf of,

'SIR,
'Your humble servant,
'CELIA.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'You lately put out a dreadful paper, wherein you romise a full account of the state of criminal love: and call all the fair who have transgressed in that kind by one very rude name which I do not care to repeat: but I desire to know of you whether I am or am not one of those? My case is as follows: I am kept by an old bachelor, who took me so young that I know not how he came by me. He is a benchor of one of the inns of court, a very gay healthy old man, which is a very lucky thing for him; who has been, he tells me, a scowerer, a scamperer, a breaker of windows, an invader of constables, in the days of yore, when all dominion ended with the day, and males and females met helter-skelter, and the scowerers drove before them all who pretended to keep up order or rule to the interruption of love and honour. This is his way of talk, for he is very gay when he visits me; but as his former knowledge of the town has alarmed him into an invincible jealousy, he keeps me in a pair of slippers, neat bodice, warm petticoats, and my own hair woven in ringlets, after a manner, he says, he remembers. I am not mistress of one farthing of money, but have all necessities provided for me, under the guard of one who procured for him while he had any desires to gratify. I know nothing of a wench's life, but the reputation of it: I have a natural voice, and a pretty untaught step in dancing. His manner is, to bring an old fellow, who has been his servant from his youth, and is grey-headed. This man makes on the violin a certain jiggish noise to which I dance, and when that is over, I sing to him some loose air that has more wantonness than music in it. You must have seen a strange-windowed house near Hyde-park, which is so built that no one can look out of any of the apartments; my rooms are after this manner, and I never see man, woman, or child, but in company with the two persons above mentioned. He sends me in all the books, pamphlets, plays, operas, and songs that come out; and his utmost delight in me as a woman is, to talk over his old amours in my presence, to play with my neck, say "the time was," give me a kiss, and bid me be sure to follow the directions of my guardian (the above-mentioned lady), and I shall never want. The truth of my case is, I suppose, that I was educated for a purpose he did not know he should be unfit for when I came to years. Now,

* See N° 286. let. 1.

sir, what I ask of you as a casuist is, to tell me how far in these circumstances I am innocent, though submissive; he guilty, though impotent?

'I am, sir,
'Your constant reader,
'PUCCLA.'

'TO THE MAN CALLED THE SPECTATOR.

'FRIEND,

'FORASMUCH as at the birth of thy labour, thou didst promise upon thy word, that, letting alone the vanities that do abound, thou wouldest only endeavour to straighten the crooked morals of this our Babylon, I gave credit to thy fair speeches, and admitted one of thy papers every day, save Sunday, into my house, for the edification of my daughter Tabitha, and to the end that Susanna the wife of my bosom might profit thereby. But alas! my friend, I find that thou art a liar, and that the truth is not in thee; (else why didst thou, in a paper which thou didst lately put forth, make mention of those vain coverings for the beads of our females, which thou lovest to liken into tulips, and which are lately sprung up among us? Nay, why didst thou make mention of them in such a seeming, as if thou didst approve the invention, inasmuch that my daughter Tabitha beginneth to wax wanton, and to lust after these foolish vanities? Surely thou dost see with the eyes of the fish. Verily, therefore, unless thou dost speedily amend and leave off following thine own imaginations, I will leave off thee.

'Thy friend as hereafter thou dost demean thyself.

'HEZEKIAN BROADBRIK.'

STEEL.

T.

N° 277. THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1711-12.

—*fas est et ab hoste doceri.*

QVID. MET. L. iv. ver. 438.

Receive instruction from an enemy.

I PRESUME I need not inform the polite part of my readers, that before our correspondence with France was unhappily interrupted by the war, our ladies had all their fashions from thence; which the milliners took care to furnish them with by means of a jointed baby, that came regularly over once a month, habited after the manner of the most eminent toasts in Paris.

I am credibly informed, that even in the hottest time of the war, the sex made several efforts, and raised large contributions towards the importation of this wooden mademoiselle.

Whether the vessel they set out was lost or taken, or whether its cargo was seized on by the officers of the custom-house as a piece of contraband goods, I have not yet been able to learn; it is however certain, that their first attempt were without success, to the no small disappointment of our whole female world; but as their constancy and application, in a matter of so great importance, can never be sufficiently commended, so I am glad to find, that in spite of all opposition they have at length carried their point, of which I received advice by the two following letters:

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM so great a lover of whatever is French, that I lately discarded an humble admirer, because he neither spoke that tongue, nor drank charet. I

g bewailed in secret the calamities of my
ing the war, in all which time we have
under the insupportable inventions of
fire-women, who, though they sometimes
differently well, can never compose with
they do in France.

is almost in despair of ever more seeing a
rom that dear country, when last Sunday
ard a lady in the next pew to me whisper
that at the Seven Stars in King-street,
arden, there was a mademoiselle com-
menced just come from Paris.

in the utmost impatience during the re-
part of the service, and as soon as ever it
; having learnt the milliner's *adresse*, I
ectly to her house in King-street, but was
the French lady was at a person of qua-
Pall-mall, and would not be back again
late that night. I was therefore obliged
v my visit very early this morning, and
a full view of the dear moppet from head

cannot imagine, worthy sir, how ridicu-
find we have all been trussed up during
and how infinitely the French dress ex-

nantan has no leads in the sleeves, and I
are not lighter than the French ladies, so
nt that kind of ballast; the petticoat has
ebone, but sits with an air altogether
and *degagé*: the coiffure is inexpressibly
nd in short the whole dress has a thousand
in it, which I would not have as yet made
ic.

ught sit, however, to give you this notice,
may not be surprised at my appearing at
le Paris on the next birth-night.

'I am, sir,

'Your humble servant,

'TERAMINTA.'

an hour after I had read this letter, I
another from the owner of the puppet.

turday last, being the 12th instant, there
at my house in King-street, Covent-garden,
a baby for the year 1712. I have taken
st care to have her dressed by the most
ed tire-women and mantua-makers in Paris,
not find that I have any reason to be sorry
xpense I have been at in her clothes and
tion: however, as I know no person who
is a judge of dress as yourself, if you please
at my house in your way to the city, and
view of her, I promise to amend whatever
I disapprove in your next paper, before I
her as a pattern to the public.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble admirer,

'and most obedient servant,

'BETTY CROUCH-STICH.'

am willing to do any thing in reason for
vice of my countrywomen, and had much
prevent faults than find them, I went last
to the house of the above-mentioned Mrs.
ich. As soon as I entered, the maid of
p, who, I suppose, was prepared for my
without asking me any questions, intro-
me to the little damsel, and ran away to
mistress.

puppet was dressed in a cherry-coloured
ad petticoat, with a short working apron

over it, which discovered her shape to the most
advantage. Her hair was cut and divided very
prettily, with several ribbons stuck up and down
in it. The milliner assured me, that her complexion
was such as was worn by all the ladies of the best
fashion in Paris. Her head was extremely high,
on which subject having long since declared my
sentiments, I shall say nothing more to it at pre-
sent. I was also offended at a small patch she
wore on her breast, which I cannot suppose is
placed there with any good design.

Her necklace was of an immoderate length, be-
ing tied before in such a manner, that the two ends
hung down to her girdle; but whether these supply
the place of kissing-strings in our enemy's country,
and whether our British ladies have any occasion for
them, I shall leave to their serious consideration.

After having observed the particulars of her
dress, as I was taking a view of it all together, the
shop-maid, who is a pert wench, told me that
mademoiselle had something very curious in the
tying of her garters; but as I pay a due respect
even to a pair of sticks when they are under pet-
ticoats, I did not examine into that particular.
Upon the whole I was well enough pleased with
the appearance of this gay lady; and the more so,
because she was not talkative, a quality very rarely
to be met with in the rest of her countrywomen.

As I was taking my leave, the milliner farther
informed me, that with the assistance of a watch-
maker, who was her neighbour, and the ingenious
Mr. Powell, she had also contrived another pup-
pet, which by the help of several little springs to
be wound up within it, could move all its limbs,
and that she had sent it over to her correspondent
in Paris to be taught the various leanings and
bendings of the head, the risings of the bosom, the
curtsy and recovery, the genteel trip, and the agree-
able jet, as they are all now practised at the court
of France.

She added, that she hoped she might depend
upon having my encouragement as soon as it ar-
rived; but as this was a petition of too great im-
portance to be answered extempore, I left her
without a reply, and made the best of my way to
Will Honeycomb's lodgings, without whose advice
I never communicate any thing to the public of
this nature.

BUDGELL.

X.

Nº 278. FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1711-12.

—*Sermo ego mallem
Repentes per humum*—

BOK. Ep. l. 1. 2. ver. 280.

I rather choose a low and creeping style.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'SIR,

'Your having done considerable services in this
great city, by rectifying the disorders of families,
and several wives having preferred your advice
and directions to those of their husbands, emboldens
me to apply to you at this time. I am a shop-
keeper, and though but a young man, I find by
experience that nothing but the utmost diligence
both of husband and wife (among trading people)
can keep affairs in any tolerable order. My wife
at the beginning of our establishment showed her-
self very assisting to me in my business as much as

• A deformed apple, who grew rich by exhibiting a
puppet-show.

U U

could lie in her way, and I have reason to believe it was with her inclination; but of late she has got acquainted with a schoolman, who values himself for his great knowledge in the Greek tongue. He entertains her frequently in the shop with discourses of the beauties and excellencies of that language; and repeats to her several passages out of the Greek poets, wherein he tells her there is unspeakable harmony and agreeable sounds that all other languages are wholly unacquainted with. He has so infatuated her with this jargon, that instead of using her former diligence in the shop, she now neglects the affairs of the house, and is wholly taken up with her tutor in learning by heart scraps of Greek, which she vents upon all occasions. She told me some days ago, that whereas I use some Latin inscriptions in my shop, she advised me with a great deal of concern to have them changed into Greek; it being a language less understood, would be more conformable to the mystery of my profession; that our good friend would be assisting to us in this work; and that a certain faculty of gentlemen would find themselves so much obliged to me, that they would infallibly make my fortune. In short, her frequent importunities upon this, and other impertinences of the like nature, make me very uneasy; and if your remonstrances have no more effect upon her than mine, I am afraid I shall be obliged to ruin myself to procure her a settlement at Oxford with her tutor, for she is already too mad for Bedlam. Now, sir, you see the danger my family is exposed to, and the likelihood of my wife's becoming both troublesome and useless, unless her reading herself in your paper may make her reflect. She is so very learned that I cannot pretend by word of mouth to argue with her. She laughed out at your ending a paper in Greek, and said it was a hint to women of literature, and very civil not to translate it to expose them to the vulgar. You see how it is with,

SIR,

'Your humble servant.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'If you have that humanity and compassion in your nature that you take such pains to make one think you have, you will not deny your advice to a distressed damsel, who intends to be determined by your judgment in a matter of great importance to her. You must know then, there is an agreeable young fellow, to whose person, wit, and humour, no body makes any objection, that pretends to have been long in love with me. To this I must add (whether it proceeds from the vanity of my nature, or the seeming sincerity of my lover, I will not pretend to say) that I verily believe he has a real value for me; which, if true, you will allow may justly augment his merit with his mistress. In short, I am so sensible of his good qualities, and what I owe to his passion, that I think I could sooner resolve to give up my liberty to him than any body else, were there not an objection to be made to his fortunes, in regard they do not answer the utmost mine may expect, and are not sufficient to secure me from undergoing the reproachful phrase, so commonly used, that "she has played the fool." Now, though I am one of those few who heartily despise equipage, diamonds, and a coxcomb, yet since such opposite notions from mine prevail in the world, even amongst the best, and such as are esteemed the most prudent people, I cannot find in my heart to resolve upon incurring the censure of those wise folks, which I am conscious I shall do, if when I enter into a

married state, I discover a thought beyond that of equalling, if not advancing my fortunes. Under this difficulty I now labour, not being the least determined whether I shall be governed by the vain world, and the frequent examples I meet with, or hearken to the voice of my lover, and the motion I find in my heart in favour of him. Sir, your opinion and advice in this affair, is the only thing I know can turn the balance, and which I earnestly intreat I may receive soon; for until I have your thoughts upon it, I am engaged not to give my swain a final discharge.

'Besides the particular obligation you will lay on me, by giving this subject room in one of your papers, it is possible it may be of use to some others of my sex, who will be as grateful for the favour as,

SIR,

'Your humble servant,

'FLORINDA.

'P. S. To tell you the truth, I am married to him already, but pray say something to justify me.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'You will forgive us professors of music if we make a second application to you, in order to promote our design of exhibiting entertainments of music in York-buildings. It is industriously insinuated that our intention is to destroy operas in general, but we beg of you to insert this plain explanation of ourselves in your paper. Our purpose is only to improve our circumstances, by improving the art which we profess. We see it utterly destroyed at present, and as we were the persons who introduced operas, we think it a groundless imputation that we should set up against the opera itself. What we pretend to assert is, that the song of different authors injudiciously put together, and a foreign tone and manner which are expected in every thing now performed amongst us, has put music itself to a stand; inasmuch that the ears of the people cannot now be entertained with any thing but what has an impertinent galley, without any just spirit, or a languishment of notes, without any passion, or common sense. We hope those persons of sense and quality who have done us the honour to subscribe, will not be ashamed of their patronage towards us, and not receive impressions that patronising us is being for or against the opera, but truly promoting their own diversion in a more just and elegant manner than has been hitherto performed.

'We are, SIR,

'Your most humble servants,

'THOMAS CLAYTON.

'NICOLINO RAYE.

'CHARLES DIEUPART.'

'There will be no performances in York-buildings until after that of the subscription.'

STERKE.

T.

Nº 279. SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1711-12.

Reddere personæ scilicet convenientia cuique.

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 306.

He knows what best befits each character.

We have already taken a general survey of the fable and characters to Milton's *Paradise Lost* &c. The parts which remain to be considered, accord-

ing to Aristotle's method, are the sentiments and the language. Before I enter upon the first of these, I must advertise my reader, that it is my design, as soon as I have finished my general reflections on these four several heads, to give particular instances out of the poem which is now before us, of beauties and imperfections which may be observed under each of them, as also of such other particulars as may not properly fall under any of them. This I thought fit to premise, that the reader may not judge too hastily of this piece of criticism, or look upon it as imperfect, before he has seen the whole extent of it.

The sentiments in an epic poem are the thoughts and behaviour which the author ascribes to the persons whom he introduces, and are just when they are conformable to the characters of the several persons. The sentiments have likewise a relation to things as well as persons, and are then perfect when they are such as are adapted to the subject. If in either of these cases the poet endeavours to argue or explain, to magnify or diminish, to raise love or hatred, pity or terror, or any other passion, we ought to consider whether the sentiments he makes use of are proper for those ends. Homer is censured by the critics for his defect as to this particular in several parts of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, though at the same time those who have treated this great poet with candour, have attributed this defect to the times in which he lived. It was the fault of the age, and not of Homer, if there wants that delicacy in some of his sentiments, which now appears in the works of men of a much inferior genius. Besides, if there are blemishes in any particular thoughts, there is an infinite beauty in the greatest part of them. In short, if there are many poets who would not have fallen into the meanness of some of his sentiments, there are none who could have risen up to the greatness of others. Virgil has excelled all others in the propriety of his sentiments. Milton shines likewise very much in this particular: nor must we omit one consideration which adds to his honour and reputation. Homer and Virgil introduced persons whose characters are commonly known among men, and such as are to be met with either in history, or in ordinary conversation. Milton's characters, most of them, lie out of nature, and were to be formed purely out of his own invention. It shows a greater genius in Shakespeare to have drawn his Caliban, than his Hotspur, or Julius Cæsar: the one was to be supplied out of his own imagination, whereas the other might have been formed upon tradition, history, and observation. It was much easier therefore for Homer to find proper sentiments for an assembly of Grecian generals, than for Milton to diversify his infernal council with proper characters, and inspire them with a variety of sentiments. The loves of Dido and Æneas are only copies of what has passed between other persons. Adam and Eve, before the fall, are a different species from that of mankind, who are descended from them; and none but a poet of the most unbounded invention, and the most exquisite judgment, could have filled their conversation and behaviour with so many apt circumstances during their state of innocence.

Nor is it sufficient for an epic poem to be filled with such thoughts as are natural, unless it abound also with such as are sublime. Virgil in this particular falls short of Homer. He has not indeed so many thoughts that are low and vulgar; but at the same time has not so many thoughts that are sublime and noble. The truth of it is, Virgil seldom

rises into very astonishing sentiments, where he is not fired by the *Iliad*. He every where charms and pleases us by the force of his own genius; but seldom elevates and transports us where he does not fetch his hints from Homer.

Milton's chief talent, and indeed his distinguishing excellence, lies in the sublimity of his thoughts. There are others of the moderns who rival him in every other part of poetry; but in the greatness of his sentiments he triumphs over all the poets both modern and ancient, Homer only excepted. It is impossible for the imagination of man to distend itself with greater ideas, than those which he has laid together in his first, second, and sixth books. The seventh, which describes the creation of the world, is likewise wonderfully sublime, though not so apt to stir up emotion in the mind of the reader, nor consequently so perfect in the epic way of writing, because it is filled with less action. Let the judicious reader compare what Longinus has observed on several passages in Homer, and he will find parallels for most of them in the *Paradise Lost*.

From what has been said, we may infer, that as there are two kinds of sentiments, the natural and the sublime, which are always to be pursued in an heroic poem, there are also two kinds of thoughts which are carefully to be avoided. The first are, such as are affected and unnatural; the second, such as are mean and vulgar. As for the first kind of thoughts, we meet with little or nothing that is like them in Virgil. He has none of those trifling points and puerilities that are so often to be met with in Ovid, none of the epigrammatic turns of Lucan, none of those swelling sentiments which are so frequent in Statius and Claudian, none of those mixed embellishments of Tasso. Every thing is just and natural. His sentiments show that he had a perfect insight into human nature, and that he knew every thing which was the most proper to affect it.

Mr. Dryden has in some places, which I may hereafter take notice of, misrepresented Virgil's way of thinking as to this particular, in the translation he has given us of the *Æneid*. I do not remember that Homer any where falls into the faults above mentioned, which were indeed the false refinements of later ages. Milton, it must be confessed, has sometimes erred in this respect, as I shall show more at large in another paper; though considering how all the poets of the age in which he writ were infected with this wrong way of thinking, he is rather to be admired that he did not give more into it, than that he did sometimes comply with the vicious taste which still prevails so much among modern writers.

But since several thoughts may be natural which are low and grovelling, an epic poet should not only avoid such sentiments as are unnatural or affected, but also such as are mean and vulgar. Homer has opened a great field of railery to men of more delicacy than greatness of genius, by the homeliness of some of his sentiments. But as I have before said, these are rather to be imputed to the simplicity of the age in which he lived, to which I may also add, of that which he described, than to any imperfection in that divine poet. Zoilus among the ancients, and Monsieur Perrault among the moderns, pushed their ridicule very far upon him, on account of some such sentiments. There is no blemish to be observed in Virgil under this head, and but a very few in Milton.

I shall give but one instance of this impropriety of thought in Homer, and at the same time com-

pare it with an instance of the same nature, both in Virgil and Milton. Sentiments which raise laughter, can very seldom be admitted with any decency into an heroic poem, whose business it is to excite passions of a much nobler nature. Homer, however, in his characters of Vulcan and Thetis, in his story of Mars and Venus, in his behaviour of Irus, and in other passages, has been observed to have lapsed into the burlesque character, and to have departed from that serious air which seems essential to the magnificence of an epic poem. I remember but one laugh in the whole *Æneid*, which rises in the fifth book, upon Monstes, where he is represented as thrown overboard, and drying himself upon a rock. But this piece of mirth is so well-timed, that the severest critic can have nothing to say against it; for it is in the book of games and diversions, where the reader's mind may be supposed sufficiently relaxed for such an entertainment. The only piece of pleasantry in *Paradise Lost*, is where the evil spirits are described as rallying the angels upon the success of their new-invented artillery. This passage I look upon to be the most exceptionable in the whole poem, as being nothing else but a string of puns, and those too very indifferent ones:

'—— Satan beheld their plight,
And to his mates thus in derision call'd:
"O friends, why come not on those victors proud?
Ere while they fierce were coming; and when we,
To entertain them fair with open front
And breast (what could we more?) propounded terms
Of composition, straight they chang'd their minds,
Flew off, and into strange vagaries fell
As they would dance; yet for a dance they seem'd
Somewhat extravagant, and wild; perhaps
For joy of offer'd peace; but I suppose
If our proposals once again were heard,
We should compel them to a quick result."
' To whom thus Belial in like gamesome mood:
"Leader, the terms we sent were terms of weight,
Of hard contents, and full of force urg'd home;
Such as we might perceive amus'd them all,
And stumbled many: who receives them right
Had need from head to foot well understand;
Not understood, this gift they have bruis'd,
They show us when our foes walk not upright."
' Thus they among themselves in pleasant vein
Stood scoffing

ADDITION.

L.

N° 280. MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1711-12.

Principibus placuisse viis non ultima laus est.

HOR. Ep. xvii. l. i. ver. 35.

To please the great is not the smallest praise.

CREECH.

THE desire of pleasing makes a man agreeable or unwelcome to those with whom he converses, according to the motive from which that inclination appears to flow. If your concern for pleasing others arises from an innate benevolence, it never fails of success; if from a vanity to excel, its disappointment is no less certain. What we call an agreeable man, is he who is endowed with the natural bent to do acceptable things from a delight he takes in them merely as such; and the affectation of that character is what constitutes a fop. Under these lenders one may draw up all those who make any manner of figure, except in dumb show. A rational and select conversation is composed of persons who have the talent of pleasing with delicacy of sentiments flowing from habitual chastity of thought; but mixed company is frequently made up of pretenders to mirth, and is usually pestered with constrained, obscene, and

painful witticisms. Now and then you may meet with a man so exactly formed for pleasing, that it is no matter what he is doing or saying; that is to say, that there need be no manner of importance in it, to make him gain upon every body who hears or beholds him. This felicity is not the gift of nature only, but must be attended with happy circumstances, which add a dignity to the familiar behaviour which distinguishes him when we call an agreeable man. It is from this that every body loves and esteems Polycarpus. He is in the vigour of his age and the gaiety of life, but has passed through very conspicuous scenes in it: though no soldier, he has shared the danger, and acted with great gallantry and generosity on a decisive day of battle. To have those qualities which only make other men conspicuous in the world as it were supernumerary to him, is a circumstance which gives weight to his most indifferent actions; for as a known credit is ready cash to a trader, so is acknowledged merit immediate distinction, and serves in the place of equipage to a gentleman. This renders Polycarpus graceful in mirth, important in business, and regarded with love in every ordinary occurrence. But not to dwell upon characters which have such particular recommendations to our hearts, let us turn our thoughts rather to the methods of pleasing which must carry men through the world who cannot pretend to such advantages. Falling in with the particular humour or manner of one above you, abstracted from the general rules of good behaviour, is the life of a slave. A parasite differs in nothing from the meanest servant, but that the footman hires himself for bodily labour, subjected to go and come at the will of his master, but the other gives up his very soul: he is prostituted to speak, and professes to think after the mode of him whom he courts. This servitude to a patron, in an honest nature, would be more grievous than that of wearing his livery; therefore we will speak of these things only which are worthy and ingenuous.

The happy talent of pleasing either those above you or below you, seems to be wholly owing to the opinion they have of your sincerity. This quality is to attend the agreeable man in all the actions of his life; and I think there need no more be said in honour of it, than that it is what forces the approbation even of your opposers. The guilty man has an honour for the judge who with justice pronounces against him the sentence of death itself. The author of the sentence at the head of this paper was an excellent judge of human life, and passed his own in company the most agreeable that ever was in the world. Augustus lived amongst his friends as if he had his fortune to make in his own court. Candour and affability, accompanied with as much power as ever mortal was vested with, were what made him in the utmost manner agreeable among a set of admirable men, who had thoughts too high for ambition, and views too large to be gratified by what he could give them in the disposal of an empire, without the pleasures of their mutual conversation. A certain unanimity of taste and judgment, which is natural to all of the same order in the species, was the band of this society; and the emperor assumed no figure in it, but what he thought was his due from his private talents and qualifications, as they contributed to advance the pleasures and sentiments of the company.

Cunning people, hypocrites, all who are but half virtuous, or half wise, or incapable of tasting the refined pleasure of such an equal company as

holly exclude the regard of fortune in their
itions. Horace, in the discourse from
I take the hint of the present speculation,
an excellent rules for conduct in conversa-
h men of power; but he speaks with an
ne who had no need of such an application
thing which related to himself. It shows
rstood what it was to be a skilful courtier,
admonitions against importunity, and show-
forcible it was to speak modestly of your
nts. There is indeed something so shame-
aking all opportunities to speak of your
irs, that he who is guilty of it towards
whom he depends, fares like the beggar
poses his sores, which, instead of moving
ion, makes the man he begs of turn away
object.

not tell what is become of him, but I re-
about sixteen years ago an honest fellow,
ostly understood how disagreeable the men-
appearance of his want would make him,
ave often reflected upon him as a counter-
Irus, whom I have formerly mentioned *.
n, whom I have missed for some years in
is, and have heard was some way employed
e army, made it a maxim, that good wigs,
linen, and a cheerful air, were, to a poor
nt, the same that working tools are to a
tifier. It was no small entertainment to
knew his circumstances, to see him, who
ed two days, attribute the thinness he told
to the violence of some gallantries he had
een guilty of. The skilful dissembler car-
this with the utmost address; and if any
d his affairs were narrow, it was attributed
ging himself in some fashionable vice ran
an irreproachable poverty, which saved
it with those on whom he depended.
main art is to be as little troublesome as you
d make all you hope for come rather as a
rom your patrons than claim from you. But
re prating of what is the method of pleas-
s to succeed in the world, when there are
who have, in city, town, court, and coun-
ived to considerable acquisitions, and yet
capable of acting in any constant tenor of
t have gone on from one successful error to
therefore I think I may shorten this in-
ter the method of pleasing; and as the old
id to his son, once for all, 'Pray, Jack, be
gentleman; so may I, to my reader, abridge
uctions, and finish the art of pleasing in a
Be rich.'

E.

T.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1711-12.

orbis inhians spirantia conspuit exta.

VIRG. *Æn.* iv. ver. 64.

ious the reeking entrails he consults.

already given an account of the dissection
eau's head, with the several discoveries
n that occasion†; I shall here, according to
mise, enter upon the dissection of a co-
heart, and communicate to the public such
larities as we observed in that curious piece
atomy.

uld perhaps have waved this undertaking,
I been put in mind of my promise by se-
f my unknown correspondents, who are very

importunate with me to make an example of the
coquette, as I have already done of the bean. It
is therefore in compliance with the request of
friends, that I have looked over the minutes of my
former dream, in order to give the public an exact
relation of it, which I shall enter upon without
further preface.

Our operator, before he engaged in this visionary
dissection, told us, that there was nothing in his art
more difficult than to lay open the heart of a co-
quette, by reason of the many labyrinths and re-
cesses which are to be found in it, and which do not
appear in the heart of any other animal.

He desired us first of all to observe the pericar-
dium, or outward case of the heart, which we did
very attentively; and by the help of our glasses
discerned in it millions of little scars, which seemed
to have been occasioned by the points of innumera-
ble darts and arrows, that from time to time had
glanced upon the outward coat; though we could
not discover the smallest orifice, by which any of
them had entered and pierced the inward sub-
stance.

Every smatterer in anatomy knows that this pe-
ricardium, or case of the heart, contains in it a thin
reddish liquor, supposed to be bred from the vapours
which exhale out of the heart, and, being
stopped here, are condensed into this watery sub-
stance. Upon examining this liquor, we found that
it had in it all the qualities of that spirit which is
made use of in the thermometer, to show the change
of weather.

Nor must I here omit an experiment one of the
company assured us he himself had made with this
liquor, which he found in great quantity about the
heart of a coquette whom he had formerly dissected.
He affirmed to us, that he had actually inclosed
it in a small tube made after the manner of a wea-
ther-glass; but that instead of acquainting him with
the variations of the atmosphere, it showed him the
qualities of those persons who entered the room
where it stood. He affirmed also, that it rose at
the approach of a plume of feathers, an embroi-
dered coat, or a pair of fringed gloves; and that
it fell as soon as an ill-shaped periwig, a clumsy
pair of shoes, or an unfashionable coat came into
his house. Nay, he proceeded so far as to assure
us, that upon his laughing aloud when he stood by
it, the liquor mounted very sensibly, and immedi-
ately sunk again upon his looking serious. In short,
he told us, that he knew very well by this inven-
tion, whenever he had a man of sense or a cox-
comb in his room.

Having cleared away the pericardium, or the
case, and liquor above-mentioned, we came to the
heart itself. The outward surface of it was ex-
tremely slippery, and the micro, or point, so very
cold withal, that upon endeavouring to take hold
of it, it glided through the fingers like a smooth
piece of ice.

The fibres were turned and twisted in a more
intricate and perplexed manner than they are usu-
ally found in other hearts; inasmuch that the whole
heart was wound up together in a Gordian knot,
and must have had very irregular and unequal mo-
tions, while it was employed in its vital function.

One thing we thought very observable, namely,
that upon examining all the vessels which came into
it, or issued out of it, we could not discover any
communication that it had with the tongue.

We could not but take notice, likewise, that se-
veral of those little nerves in the heart which are
affected by the sentiments of love, hatred, and
other passions, did not descend to this before us

* 264. See also N° 369.

† See N° 275.

from the brain, but from the muscles which lie about the eye.

Upon weighing the heart in my hand, I found it to be extremely light, and consequently very hollow, which I did not wonder at, when, upon looking into the inside of it, I saw multitudes of cells and cavities running one within another, as our historians describe the apartments of Rosamond's bower. Several of these little hollows were stuffed with innumerable sorts of trifles, which I shall forbear giving any particular account of, and shall therefore only take notice of what lay first and uppermost, which upon our unfolding it, and applying our microscopes to it, appeared to be a flame-coloured hood.

We were informed that the lady of this heart when living, received the addresses of several who made love to her, and did not only give each of them encouragement, but made every one she conversed with believe that she regarded him with an eye of kindness; for which reason we expected to have seen the impression of multitudes of faces among the several plaits and foldings of the heart; but to our great surprise not a single print of this nature discovered itself until we came into the very core and centre of it. We there observed a little figure, which, upon our applying our glasses to it, appeared dressed in a very fantastic manner. The more I looked upon it, the more I thought I had seen the face before, but could not possibly recollect either the place or time; when, at length, one of the company, who had examined this figure more nicely than the rest, showed us plainly by the make of its face, and the several turns of its features, that the little idol which was thus lodged in the very middle of the heart was the deceased beau, whose head I gave some account of in my last Tuesday's paper*.

As soon as we had finished our dissection, we resolved to make an experiment of the heart, not being able to determine among ourselves the nature of its substance, which differed in so many particulars from that of the heart in other females. Accordingly we laid it in a pan of burning coals, when we observed in it a certain salamandrine quality, that made it capable of living in the midst of fire and flame, without being consumed, or so much as singed.

As we were admiring this strange phenomenon, and standing round the heart in a circle, it gave a most prodigious sigh, or rather crack, and dispersed all at once in smoke and vapour. This imaginary noise, which methought was louder than the burst of a cannon, produced such a violent shake in my brain, that it dissipated the fumes of sleep, and left me in an instant broad awake.

ADDISON.

L.

N° 282. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1711-12.

— *Spei incerta futuri.*VIRG. *Æn.* viii. ver. 580.

Hopes and fears in equal balance laid.

DRYDEN.

It is a lamentable thing that every man is full of complaints, and constantly uttering sentences against the fickleness of fortune, when people generally bring upon themselves all the calamities they fall into, and are constantly heaping up mat-

ter for their own sorrow and disappointment. That which produces the greatest part of the delusions of mankind, is a false hope which people indulge with so sanguine a flattery to themselves, that their hearts are bent upon fantastical advantages which they have no reason to believe should ever have arrived to them. By this unjust measure of calculating their happiness, they often mourn with real affliction for imaginary losses. When I am talking of this unhappy way of accounting for ourselves, I cannot but reflect upon a particular set of people, who, in their own favour, resolve every thing that is possible into what is probable, and then reckon on that probability as on what must certainly happen. Will Honeycomb, upon my observing his looking on a lady with some particular attention, gave me an account of the great distresses which had laid waste that her very fine face, and had given an air of melancholy to a very agreeable person. 'That lady, and a couple of sisters of hers, were,' said Will, 'fourteen years ago, the greatest fortunes about town; but without having any loss, by bad tenants, by bad securities, or any damage by sea or land, are reduced to very narrow circumstances. They were at that time the most inaccessible haughty beauties in town; and their pretensions to take upon them at that enormous rate, were raised upon the following scheme, according to which all their lovers were answered.

'Our father is a youngish man, but then our mother is somewhat older, and not likely to have any children: his estate being 800*l.* per annum, at twenty years purchase, is worth 16,000*l.* Our uncle, who is above fifty, has 400*l.* per annum, which, at the aforesaid rate, is 8,000*l.* There is a widow aunt, who has 10,000*l.* at her own disposal, left by her husband, and an old maiden aunt, who has 6,000*l.* Then our father's mother has 900*l.* per annum, which is worth 18,000*l.* and 1,000*l.* each of us has of our own, which cannot be taken from us. These summed up together, stand thus:

£	
'Father's'	800.....16,000
'Uncle'	400..... 8,000
Aunts { 10,000 }	16,000
{ 6,000 }	
Grandmother	900.....18,000
Own 1,000 each	3,000
Total	61,000

This equally divided between us three amounts to 20,000*l.* each: an allowance being given for enlargement upon common fame, we may lawfully pass for 30,000*l.* fortunes.

In prospect of this, and the knowledge of their own personal merit, every one was contemptible in their eyes, and they refused those offers which had been frequently made them. But mark the end. The mother dies, the father is married again and has a son; on him was entailed the father's, uncle's, and grandmother's estate. This cut off 42,000*l.* The maiden aunt married a tall Irishman, and with her went the 6,000*l.* The widow died, and left but enough to pay her debts and bury her; so that there remained for these three girls but their own 1,000*l.* They had by this time passed their prime, and got on the wrong side of thirty; and must pass the remainder of their days, upbraiding mankind that they mind nothing but money, and bewailing that virtue, sense, and modesty, are had at present in no manner of estimation.

I mention this case of ladies before any other, because it is the most irreparable; for though youth is the time least capable of reflection, it is in that sex the only season in which they can advance their fortunes. But if we turn our thoughts to the men, we see such crowds of unhappy, from so

son, but an ill-grounded hope, that it is by which they rather deserve our pity, or that it is not unpleasant to see a fellow, young old in attendance, and after having all a life in servitude, call himself the best of all men, and pretend to be disappointed because a courtier broke his word. He misuses himself any thing but what may arise from his own property or labour, beyond the desire of possessing above in three even of that, lays up for him an increasing heap of afflictions and disappointments. There are but two means in the world by which other men, and these are by being reasonable or considerable. The generality do all things for their own sakes; and I hope any thing from persons above you, I must say, 'I can be thus agreeable, or reasonable,' it is ridiculous to pretend to the being unfortunate when they leave you; injudicious in hoping for any other than what is expected for such as can come within the scope of being capable to please, or serve in, when his humour or interests call for it either way.

It does not, methinks, be a useless comparison to be made of the condition of a man who shares all the pleasures of life, and of one who makes it his business to be alone. Hope in the recluse makes him comfortable, while the luxurious man, by being unbusinesslike from his enjoyments, feels the difference in the happiness of him who is contented by abstinence, and his who is surprised by excess? He who resigns the world has nothing to envy, hatred, malice, anger, but not possession of a serene mind: he who is contented with pleasures of it, which are in their very nature disappointing, is in constant search of care, removal, and confusion.

SPECTATOR, Jan. the 14, 1712.
A young woman and have my fortune to which reason I come constantly to church in service, and make conquests: but hindrance in this my design is, that our house was once a gardener, has this Christmasedecked the church with greens, that he spoils my prospect; inasmuch that I have in the young baronet I dress at these times, though we have both been very devoted, and do not sit above three benches in the church, as it is now equipped, looks a green-house than a place of worship. The aisle is a very pretty shady walk, and looks like so many arbour on each side the pulpit itself has such clusters of ivy, rosemary about it, that a light fellow took occasion to say, that the congregation was the word out of a bush, like Moses. My Love's pew in particular is so well that all my batteries have no effect. I am shot at random among the boughs, finding any manner of aim. Mr. Spectator you will give orders for removing these shall grow a very awkward creature at I soon have little else to do there but prayers. I am in haste,

'Dear sir,
'Your most obedient servant,
'JERRY SIMPSON.'

T.

Nº 283. THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1711-12.

Magister artis, ingenique largitor
Venter

PERR. Prolog. ver. 10.

Necessity is the mother of invention.

ENGLISH PROVERBS.

LUCIAN rallies the philosophers in his time, who could not agree whether they should admit riches into the number of real goods; the professors of the severer sects threw them quite out, while others as resolutely inserted them.

I am apt to believe, that as the world grew more polite, the rigid doctrines of the first were wholly discarded; and I do not find any one so hardy at present as to deny that there are very great advantages in the enjoyment of a plentiful fortune. Indeed the best and wisest of men, though they may possibly despise a good part of those things which the world calls pleasure, can, I think, hardly be insensible of that weight and dignity which a moderate share of wealth adds to their characters, counsels, and actions.

We find it is a general complaint in professions and trades, that the richest members of them are chiefly encouraged, and this is falsely imputed to the ill-nature of mankind, who are ever bestowing their favours on such as least want them. Whereas if we fairly consider their proceedings in this case, we shall find them founded on undoubted reason: since supposing both equal in their natural integrity, I ought, in common prudence, to fear foul play from an indigent person, rather than from one whose circumstances seem to have placed him above the bare temptation of money.

This reason also makes the commonwealth regard her richest subjects, as those who are most concerned for her quiet and interest, and consequently fittest to be intrusted with her highest employments. On the contrary, Catiline's saying to those men of desperate fortunes, who applied themselves to him, and of whom he afterwards composed his army, that they had nothing to hope for but from a civil war, was too true not to make the impressions he desired.

I believe I need not fear but that what I have said in praise of money, will be more than sufficient with most of my readers to excuse the subject of my present paper, which I intend as an essay on the ways to raise a man's fortune, or the art of growing rich.

The first and most infallible method towards the attaining of this end is thrift. All men are not equally qualified for getting money, but it is in the power of every one alike to practise this virtue, and I believe there are very few persons, who if they please to reflect on their past lives, will not find that had they saved all those little sums which they have spent unnecessarily, they might at present have been masters of a competent fortune. Diligence justly claims the next place to thrift: I find both these excellently well recommended to common use in the three following Italian proverbs:

Never do that by proxy which you can do yourself.
Never defer that till to-morrow which you can do to-day.
Never neglect small matters and expenses.

A third instrument of growing rich is method in business, which, as well as the two former, is also attainable by persons of the meanest capacities.

The famous De Witt, one of the greatest statesmen of the age in which he lived, being asked by a friend, how he was able to dispatch that multitude of affairs in which he was engaged? replied, that his whole art consisted in doing one thing at once. 'If,' says he, 'I have any necessary dispatches to make, I think of nothing else until those are finished; if any domestic affairs require my attention, I give myself up wholly to them until they are set in order.'

In short, we often see men of dull and phlegmatic tempers arriving to great estates, by making a regular and orderly disposition of their business, and that without it the greatest parts and most lively imaginations rather puzzle their affairs, than bring them to an happy issue.

From what has been said, I think I may lay it down as a maxim, that every man of good common sense may, if he pleases, in his particular station of life, most certainly be rich. The reason why we sometimes see that men of the greatest capacities are not so, is either because they despise wealth in comparison of something else; or at least are not content to be getting an estate, unless they may do it in their own way, and at the same time enjoy all the pleasures and gratifications of life.

But besides these ordinary forms of growing rich, it must be allowed that there is room for genius as well in this, as in all other circumstances of life.

Though the ways of getting money were long since very numerous, and though so many new ones have been found out of late years, there is certainly still remaining so large a field for invention, that a man of an indifferent head might easily sit down and draw up such a plan for the conduct and support of his life, as was never yet once thought of.

We daily see methods put in practice by hungry and ingenious men, which demonstrate the power of invention in this particular.

It is reported of Scaramouch, the first famous Italian comedian, that being at Paris and in great want, he bethought himself of constantly plying near the door of a noted perfumer in that city, and when any one came out who had been buying snuff, never failed to deale a taste of them: when he had by this means got together a quantity made up of several different sorts he sold it again at a lower rate to the same perfumer, who finding out the trick, called it '*Tabac de mille fleurs*,' or 'Snuff of a thousand flowers.' The story further tells us, that by this means he got a very comfortable subsistence, until making too much haste to grow rich, he one day took such an unreasonable pinch out of the box of a Swiss officer, as engaged him in a quarrel, and obliged him to quit this ingenious way of life.

Nor can I in this place omit doing justice to a youth of my own country, who, though he is scarce yet twelve years old, has with great industry and application attained to the art of beating the grenadiers march on his chin. I am credibly informed that by this means he does not only maintain himself and his mother, but that he is laying up money every day, with a design, if the war continues, to purchase a drum at least, if not a pair of colours.

I shall conclude these instances with the device of the famous Habelais, when he was at a great distance from Paris, and without money to bear his expenses thither. This ingenious author being thus sharp set, got together a convenient quantity

of brick-dust, and having disposed of it into several papers, writ upon one, 'Poison for monsieur'; upon a second, 'Poison for the dauphin'; and on a third, 'Poison for the king.' Having made this provision for the royal family of France, he hid his papers so that his landlord, who was an inquisitive man, and a good subject, might get a sight of them.

The plot succeeded as he desired. The host gave immediate intelligence to the secretary of state. The secretary presently sent down a special messenger, who brought up the traitor to court, and provided him, at the king's expense, with proper accommodations on the road. As soon as he appeared, he was known to be the celebrated Rabelais, and his powder upon examination being found very innocent, the jest was only laughed at; for which a less eminent droll would have been sent to the gallies.

Trade and commerce might doubtless be still varied a thousand ways, out of which would arise such branches as have not yet been touched. The famous Dolly is still fresh in every one's memory, who raised a fortune by finding out materials for such stuffs as might at once be cheap and genteel. I have heard it affirmed, that had not he discovered this frugal method of gratifying our pride, we should hardly have been able to carry on the last war.

I regard trade not only as highly advantageous to the commonwealth in general, but as the most natural and likely method of making a man's fortune; having observed, since my being a Spectator in the world, greater estates got about 'Change, than at Whitehall or St. James's. I believe I may also add, that the first acquisitions are generally attended with more satisfaction, and as good a conscience.

I must not, however, close this essay, without observing, that what has been said is only intended for persons in the common ways of thriving, and is not designed for those men who from low beginnings push themselves up to the top of states, and the most considerable figures in life. My maxim of saving is not designed for such as these, since nothing is more usual than for thrift to disappoint the ends of ambition; it being almost impossible that the mind should be intent upon trifles, while it is at the same time forming some great design.

I may therefore compare these men to a great poet, who, as Longinus says, while he is full of the most magnificent ideas, is not always at leisure to mind the little beauties and niceties of his art.

I would, however, have all my readers take great care how they mistake themselves for uncommon geniuses, and men above rule, since it is very easy for them to be deceived in this particular.

ENDLESS.

X.

Nº 284. FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1711-12.

Posthabet tamen illorum non scribit. Bude.

VIRG. Ecl. vi. ver. 17.

Their mirth to share, I bid my business wait.

An unaffected behaviour is without question a very great charm; but under the notion of being unconstrained and disengaged, people take upon them to be unconcerned in any duty of life. A general negligence is what they assume upon all occasions, and set up for an aversion to all manner of business and attention. 'I am the careless creature

I have certainly the worst memory; are frequent expressions in the retender of this sort. It is a pro- with these people never to think; thing so solemn in reflection, they, never give themselves time for such a saying themselves. It happens often if man is heavy enough in his nature proficient in such matters as are at- industry; but, alas! he has such an to be what he is not, to be too vola- be faults of a person of spirit, that himself the most unfit man living for of application. When this humour te head of a female, she generally less upon all occasions, and acts all indisposed air. She is offended, but lazy to raise her to anger, therefore as actuated by a violent spleen, and She has hardly curiosity to listen to acquaintance, and has never atten hear them commended. This affe- sexes makes them vain of being use- e a certain pride in their insignifi-

this folly is another no less unrea- hat is, the 'impertinence of being al- ry.' There are those who visit ladies, don, before they are well seated in at they just called in, but are obliged siness of importance elsewhere the moment. Thus they run from place confessing that they are obliged to another company than that which

These persons who are just a going lse should never be detained; let all ow that business is to be minded, and will be at an end. Their vanity is to ed, and compliance with their multi- airs would effectually dispatch them. g ladies, who have half the town to ernoon, may be pardoned for being urry; but it is inexcusable in men to they have no business, to profess they selves where they have. It has been some nice observers and critics, that ng discovers the true temper of a person is letters. I have by me two epistles, ritten by two people of the different ve-mentioned. It is wonderful that a observe upon himself when he sits rite, but that he will gravely commit a per the same man that he is in the conversation. I have hardly seen a y of these gentlemen, but spoke them rom what they were doing, as they are when they come into company. lly is, that they have persuaded them- eally are busy. Thus their whole time suspense of the present moment to the then from the next to the succeeding, he end of life, is to pass away with many things, and execution of no-

is just going out, and I have many other ery great importance to write this even- could not omit making my compliments your civilities to me when I was last in is my misfortune to be so full of busi- cannot tell you a thousand things which ay to you. I must desire you to com-

municate the contents of this to no one living; but believe me to be, with the greatest fidelity,

SIR,

'Your most obedient

'humble servant,

'STEPHEN COURIER.'

'MADAM,

'I HATE writing, of all things in the world; how- ever, though I have drank the waters, and am told I ought not to use my eyes so much, I cannot for- bear writing to you, to tell you I have been to the last degree hipped since I saw you. How could you entertain such a thought, as that I should hear of that silly fellow with patience? Take my word for it, there is nothing in it; and you may believe it when so lazy a creature as I am undergo the pains to assure you of it, by taking pen, ink, and paper in my hand. Forgive this; you know I shall not often offend in this kind. I am very much

'Your servant,

'BRIDGET EITHERDOWN.

'The fellow is of your country; pr'ythee send me word, however, whether he has so great an estate.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Jan. 24, 1712.

'I AM clerk of the parish from whence Mrs. Sim- per sends her complaint, in your Spectator of Wed- nesday last *. I must beg of you to publish this as a public admonition to the aforesaid Mrs. Sim- per, otherwise all my honest care in the disposition of the greens in the church will have no effect: I shall therefore, with your leave, lay before you the whole matter. I was formerly, as she charges me, for several years a gardener in the county of Kent: but I must absolutely deny that it is out of any affection I retain for my old employment that I have placed my greens so liberally about the church, but out of a particular spleen I conceived against Mrs. Simper (and others of the same sister- hood) some time ago. As to herself, I had one day set the hundredth Psalm, and was singing the first line, in order to put the congregation into the tune; she was all the while curtsying to Sir Anthony, in so affected and indecent a manner, that the indig- nation I conceived at it made me forget myself so far, as from the tune of that psalm to wander into Southwell tune, and from thence into Windsor tune, still unable to recover myself, until I had with the utmost confusion set a new one. Nay, I have often seen her rise up and smile, and curtsy to one at the lower end of the church in the midst of a Gloria Patri; and when I have spoken the as- sent to a prayer with a long Amen, uttered with decent gravity, she has been rolling her eyes around about in such a manner, as plainly showed, how- ever she was moved, it was not towards an heav- enly object. In fine, she extended her conquests so far over the males, and raised such envy in the fe- males, that what between love of those, and the jealousy of these, I was almost the only person that looked in a prayer-book all church-time. I had several projects in my head to put a stop to this growing mischief; but as I have long lived in Kent, and there often heard how the Kentish men evaded the Conqueror, by carrying green boughs over their heads, it put me in mind of practising this device against Mrs. Simper. I find I have pre- served many a young man from her eye-shot by this

* See the last letter in N^o 682.

means: therefore humbly pray the boughs may be fixed, until she shall give security for her peaceable intentions.

'Your humble servant,
'FRANCIS STERNHELD.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 285. SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1711-12.

*Ne, quicumque Deus, quicumque adhibebitur heros,
Regali conspectus in auro nuper et ostro,
Migret in obscuras humili sermone tabernas:
Aut, dum vilat humum, nubes et inania caplet.*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 227.

But then they did not wrong themselves so much,
To make a god, a hero, or a king,
(Strip of his golden crown, and purple robe)
Descend to a mechanic dialect;
Nor (to avoid such meanness) soaring high,
With empty sound, and airy notions, fly.

ROSCOMMON.

HAVING already treated of the fable, the characters, and sentiments in the *Paradise Lost**, we are, in the last place, to consider the language; and as the learned world is very much divided upon Milton as to this point, I hope they will excuse me if I appear particular in any of my opinions, and incline to those who judge the most advantageously of the author.

It is requisite that the language of an heroic poem should be both perspicuous and sublime. In proportion as either of these two qualities are wanting, the language is imperfect. Perspicuity is the first and most necessary qualification; inasmuch that a good-natured reader sometimes overlooks a little slip even in the grammar or syntax, where it is impossible for him to mistake the poet's sense. Of this kind is that passage in Milton, wherein he speaks of Satan:

——— God and his Son except,
Created thing nought valued he nor shunn'd:

and that in which he describes Adam and Eve:

Adam the goodliest man of men since born
His sons, the firstborn of her daughters Eve.

It is plain, that in the former of these passages, according to the natural syntax, the divine persons mentioned in the first line are represented as created beings; and that, in the other, Adam and Eve are confounded with their sons and daughters. Such little blemishes as these, when the thought is great and natural, we should, with Horace, impute to a pardonable inadvertency, or to the weakness of human nature, which cannot attend to every minute particular, and give the last finishing to every circumstance in so long a work. The ancient critics, therefore, who were acted † by a spirit of candour, rather than that of cavilling, invented certain figures of speech, on purpose to palliate little errors of this nature in the writings of those authors who had so many greater beauties to atone for them.

If clearness and perspicuity were only to be consulted, the poet would have nothing else to do but to clothe his thoughts in the most plain and natural expressions. But since it often happens that the most obvious phrases, and those which

are used in ordinary conversation, become too familiar to the ear, and contract a kind of meanness by passing through the mouths of the vulgar; a poet should take particular care to guard himself against idiomatic ways of speaking. Ovid and Lucan have many poorneesses of expression upon this account, as taking up with the first phrases that offered, without putting themselves to the trouble of looking after such as would not only have been natural, but also elevated and sublime. Milton has but few failings in this kind, of which, however, you may meet with some instances, as in the following passages:

Embrios and idiots, eremites and friars,
White, black, and grey, with all their crumppery,

Here pilgrims roam———

——— A while discourse they hold.

No fear lest dinner cool; when thus began

Our author———

Who of all ages to succeed, but feeling

The evil on him brought by me, will curse

My head, ill fare our ancestor impure,

For this we may thank Adam.———

The great masters in composition knew very well that many an elegant phrase becomes improper for a poet or an orator, when it has been debased by common use. For this reason the works of ancient authors, which are written in dead languages, have a great advantage over those which are written in languages that are now spoken. Were there any mean phrases or idioms in Virgil and Homer, they would not shock the ear of the most delicate modern reader, so much as they would have done that of an old Greek or Roman, because we never hear them pronounced in our streets, or in ordinary conversation.

It is not therefore sufficient, that the language of an epic poem be perspicuous, unless it be also sublime. To this end it ought to deviate from the common forms and ordinary phrases of speech. The judgment of a poet very much discovers itself in shunning the common roads of expression, without falling into such ways of speech as may seem stiff and unnatural: he must not swell into a false sublime, by endeavouring to avoid the other extreme. Among the Greeks, Eschylus, and sometimes Sophocles, were guilty of this fault; among the Latins, Claudian and Statius; and among our own countrymen, Shakespeare and Lee. In these authors the affectation of greatness often hurts the perspicuity of the style, as in many others the endeavour after perspicuity prejudices its greatness.

Aristotle has observed, that the idiomatic style may be avoided, and the sublime formed, by the following methods. First, by the use of metaphors; such are those of Milton:

Imperadid in one another's arms.

——— And in his hand a reed

Stood waving tip with fire.———

The grassy clove now cal'd'd.———

Spangled with eyes.———

In these, and innumerable other instances, the metaphors are very bold but just: I must however observe, that the metaphors are not so thick sown in Milton, which always savours too much of wit; that they never clash with one another, which, as Aristotle observes, turns a sentence into a kind of an enigma or riddle; and that he seldom has recourse to them where the proper and natural words will do as well.

Another way of raising the language, and giving it a poetical turn, is to make use of the idioms of other tongues. Virgil is full of the Greek forms of

* Nos. 297, 273, 279.

† i. e. Actuated.—This word is frequently so used in the *Spectator*; as also by Locke and Dr. South.

ich the critics call Hellenisms, as Horace abounds with them much more than Vir- did not mention the several dialects which made use of for this end. Milton, in with the practice of the ancient poets, Aristotle's rule, has infused a great many as well as Gracians, and sometimes into the language of his poem; as to- beginning of it:

they not perceive the evil plight
they were, or the fierce pains not feel
eir general's voice they soon obey'd—
Who shall tempt with wandering foot
unbottom'd infinite abyss,
ugh the palpable obscure find out
uth way, or spread his airy flight
ith indefatigable wings
vast abrupt?
So both ascend
none of God. —————

BOOK II.

is head may be reckoned the placing e after the substantive, the transposition he turning the adjective into a substan- several other foreign modes of speech poet has naturalized, to give his verse sound, and throw it out of prose.

method mentioned by Aristotle, is what the genius of the Greek language more hat of any other tongue, and is there- sed by Homer than by any other poet. lengthening of a phrase by the addition hich may either be inserted or omitted, e extending or contracting of particular e insertion or omission of certain syl- lton has put in practice this method of language, as far as the nature of our permit, as in the passage above-men- mite, for what is hermit in common If you observe the measure of his verse, great judgment suppressed a syllable rds, and shortened those of two syl- one; by which method, besides the ioned advantage, he has given a greater is numbers. But this practice is more remarkable in the names of persons tries, as *Boisobus*, *Hesebus*, and in particular, wherein he has either e name, or made use of that which is t commonly known, that he might the rt from the language of the vulgar.

reason recommended to him several hich also makes his poem appear the ble, and gives it a greater air of an-

will perhaps alleviate the prejudice which some have taken to his poem upon this account; though, after all, I must confess that I think his style, though admirable in general, is in some places too much stiffened and obscured by the frequent use of those methods which Aristotle has prescribed for the raising of it.

This redundancy of those several ways of speech which Aristotle calls 'foreign language,' and with which Milton has so very much enriched, and in some places darkened the language of his poem, was the more proper for his use, because his poem is written in blank verse. Rhyme, without any other assistance, throws the language off from prose, and very often makes an indifferent phrase pass unregarded; but where the verse is not built upon rhymes, there pomp of sound and energy of expression are indispensably necessary to support the style, and keep it from falling into the flatness of prose.

Those who have not a taste for this elevation of style, and are apt to ridicule a poet when he de- parts from the common forms of expression, would do well to see how Aristotle has treated an ancient author called Kælid, for his insipid mirth upon this occasion. Mr. Dryden used to call these sort of men his *passio-critici*.

I should, under this head of the language, con- sider Milton's numbers, in which he has made use of several elisions, which are not customary among other English poets, as may be particularly ob- served in his cutting off the letter Y, when it pre- cedes a vowel. This, and some other innovations in the measure of his verse, has varied his numbers in such a manner, as makes them incapable of satiating the ear, and cloying the reader, which the same uniform measure would certainly have done, and which the perpetual returns of rhyme never fail to do in long narrative poems. I shall close these reflections upon the language of *Paradise Lost* with observing, that Milton has copied after Homer rather than Virgil in the length of his periods, the copiousness of his phrases, and the running of his verses into one another,

ADDITION.

L,

Nº 286. MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1711-12,

Nomina honesta præstantur vitis.

TACIT. ARR. L. XIV. c. 21.

Specious names are lent to cover vices.

MR. SPECTATOR,

York, Jan. 18, 1711-12.

kewise take notice, that there are in ral words of his own coining, as *corbe- ated*, *hell-doomed*, *embryon*, *atoms*, and . If the reader is offended at this li- ur English poet, I would recommend course in Plutarch, which shows us how Homer has made use of the same li-

y the above-mentioned helps, and by of the noblest words and phrases which would afford him, has carried our lan- greater height than any of the English ever done before or after him, and bility of his style equal to that of his

en the more particular in these obser- Milton's style, because it is that part of h he appears the most singular. The have here made upon the practice of , with my observations out of Aristotle,

' I PRETEND not to inform a gentleman of so much taste, whenever he pleases to use it; but it may not be amiss to inform your readers, that there is a false delicacy as well as a true one. True deli- cacy, as I take it, consists in exactness of judgment and dignity of sentiment, or, if you will, purity of affection, as this is opposed to corruption and gross- ness. There are pedants in breeding, as well as in learning. The eye that cannot bear the light is not delicate, but sore. A good constitution ap- pears in the soundness and vigour of the parts, not in the squeamishness of the stomach; and a false delicacy is affectation, not politeness. What then can be the standard of delicacy, but truth and virtue? Virtue, which, as the satirist long since observed, is real honour; whereas the other distinc- tions among mankind are merely titular. Judging by that rule, in my opinion, and in that of many of your virtuous female readers, you are so far

from deserving Mr. Courtly's accusation *, that you seem too gentle, and to allow too many excuses for an enormous crime, which is the reproach of the age, and is in all its branches and degrees expressly forbidden by that religion we pretend to profess; and whose laws, in a nation that calls itself Christian, one would think should take place of those rules which men of corrupt minds, and those of weak understandings, follow. I know not any thing more pernicious to good manners, than the giving fair names to foul actions: for this confounds vice and virtue, and takes off that natural horror we have to evil. An innocent creature, who would start at the name of strumpet, may think it pretty to be called a mistress, especially if her seducer has taken care to inform her, that an union of hearts is the principal matter in the sight of Heaven, and that the business at church is a mere idle ceremony. Who knows not that the difference between obscene and modest words expressing the same action, consists only in the accessory idea, for there is nothing immodest in letters and syllables. Fornication and adultery are modest words because they express an evil action as criminal, and so as to excite horror and aversion; whereas words representing the pleasure rather than the sin, are, for this reason, indecent and dishonest. Your papers would be chargeable with something worse than indelicacy, they would be immoral, did you treat the detestable sins of uncleanness in the same manner as you rally an impertinent self-love, and an artful glance; as those laws would be very unjust that should chastise murder and petty larceny with the same punishment. Even delicacy requires that the pity shown to distressed indigent wickedness, first betrayed into, and then expelled the harbours of the brothel, should be changed to detestation, when we consider pampered vice in the habitations of the wealthy. The most free person of quality, in Mr. Courtly's phrase, that is, to speak properly, a woman of figure who has forgot her birth and breeding, dishonoured her relations and herself, abandoned her virtue and reputation, together with the natural modesty of her sex, and risked her very soul, is so far from deserving to be treated with no worse character than that of a kind woman, which is, doubtless, Mr. Courtly's meaning (if he has any), that one can scarce be too severe on her, inasmuch as she sins against greater restraints, is less exposed, and liable to fewer temptations, than beauty in poverty and distress. It is hoped therefore, sir, that you will not lay aside your generous design of exposing that monstrous wickedness of the town, whereby a multitude of innocents are sacrificed in a more barbarous manner than those who were offered to Moloch. The unchaste are provoked to see their vice exposed, and the chaste cannot rake into such filth without danger of desilement, but a mere spectator may look into the bottom, and come off without partaking in the guilt. The doing so will convince us you pursue public good, and not merely your own advantage; but if your zeal slackens, how can one help thinking that Mr. Courtly's letter is but a feint to get off from a subject, in which either your own, or the private and base ends of others to whom you are partial, or those of whom you are afraid, would not endure reformation?

I am, SIR,

Your humble servant and admirer, so long as you tread in the paths of truth, virtue, and honour.

* The first letter in N° 276. See also N° 274.

* Trin. Coll. Cantab. Jan. 12, 1711-12

MR. SPECTATOR,

'Tis is my fortune to have a chamber-fellow, with whom, though I agree very well in many sentiments, yet there is one in which we are as contrary as light and darkness. We are both in love. His mistress is a lovely fair, and mine a lovely brown. Now as the praise of our mistresses' beauty employs much of our time, we have frequent quarrels in entering upon that subject, while each says all he can to defend his choice. For my own part, I have racked my fancy to the utmost; and sometimes with the greatest warmth of imagination have told him, that night was made before day, and many more fine things, though without any effect; nay, last night I could not forbear saying with more heat than judgment, that the devil ought to be painted white. Now my desire is, sir, that you would be pleased to give us in black and white your opinion in the matter of dispute between us: which will either furnish me with fresh and prevailing arguments to maintain my own taste, or make me with less repining allow that of my chamber-fellow. I know very well that I have Jack Cleveland * and Bond's Horace on my side; but then he has such a band of rhymers and romance-writers, with which he opposes me, and is so continually chiming to the tune of golden tresses, yellow locks, milk, marble, ivory, silver, swans, snow, daisies, doves, and the lord knows what; which he is always sounding with so much vehemence is my ear, that he often puts me into a brown study how to answer him; and I find that I am in a far way to be quite confounded, without your timely assistance afforded to,

SIR,

Your humble servant,

PHILANDER.

[The Author unknown.]

Z

N° 287. TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1711-12

Ω φάλητα γὰρ ἡμεῖς, οὐκ ἐμὴν σφολήν * ἐσ
Τὰς τὸν ἔχοντες ἀφίκα;

MENAND.

Dear native land, how do the good and wise
Thy happy climate and countless blessings prize!

I LOOK upon it as a peculiar happiness, that were I to choose of what religion I would be, and under what government I would live, I should most certainly give the preference to that form of religion and government which is established in my own country. In this point I think I am determined by reason and conviction; but if I shall be told that I am acted by prejudice, I am sure it is an honest prejudice; it is a prejudice that arises from the love of my country, and therefore such an one as I will always indulge. I have in several papers endeavoured to express my duty and esteem for the church of England, and design this as an essay upon the civil part of our constitution, having often entertained myself with reflections on this subject, which I have not met with in other writers.

That form of government appears to me the most reasonable, which is most conformable to the equality that we find in human nature, provided it be consistent with public peace and tranquillity. This is what may properly be called liberty, which

* See the works of Mr. John Cleveland, 8vo. 1693. "The Senses' Festival," p. 4.

its one man from subjection to another, so the order and economy of government will be preserved. Liberty should reach every individual of a people; they all share one common nature; if it spreads among particular branches, there had been none at all, since such a liberty only increases the misfortune of those who are deprived of it, by setting before them a disagreeable object of comparison.

Liberty is best preserved, where the legislative power is lodged in several persons, especially if these persons are of different ranks and interests; where they are of the same rank, and consequently have an interest to manage peculiar to that rank, it differs but little from a despotic government in a single person. But the greatest security which can have for their liberty, is when the legislative power is in the hands of persons so distinguished, that by providing for the particular interests of their several ranks, they are profiting for the whole body of the people; or, in other words, when there is no part of the people who is not a common interest with at least one of the legislators.

Where there is but one body of legislators, it is no more than a tyranny; if there are only two, there is but a casting voice, and one of them must at last be swallowed up by disputes and contentions, which will necessarily arise between them. It would have the same inconvenience as two, if a greater number would come too much confusion.

I could never read a passage in Polybius, where he in Cicero to this purpose, without a pleasure in applying it to the English constitution, which it suits much better than the Roman. These great authors give the pre-eminence to a government, consisting of three branches, the king, the noble, and the popular. They had seen in their thoughts the constitution of the Roman commonwealth, in which the consuls represented the king, the senate, the nobles, and the people. This division of the three powers in the Roman constitution was by no means artificial and natural, as it is in the English form of government. Among several objections that might be made to it, I think the chief are those that the consular power, which had only the orders without the force of the regal authority, could not have had a casting voice in it; for reason, if one did not chance to be employed abroad, while the other sat at home, the public business was sometimes at a stand, while the consuls consulted two different ways in it. Besides, I find that the consuls had ever a negative in the passing of a law, or decree of the senate; so that indeed they were rather the chief of the nobility, or the first ministers of state, a distinct branch of the sovereignty, in which they can be looked upon as a part, who are not a part of the legislature. Had the consuls been invested with the regal authority to as great a degree as monarchs, there would never have been any room for a dictatorship, which had in it the essence of all the three orders, and ended in the dissolution of the whole constitution.

There is an history as that of Suetonius, which gives a succession of absolute princes, is to me an admirable argument against despotic power. The prince is a man of wisdom and virtue, indeed happy for his people that he is absolute; but since in the common run of mankind, for what is wise and good you find ten of a con-

trary character, it is very dangerous for a nation to stand to its chance, or to have its public happiness or misery depend on the virtue or vices of a single person. Look into the history I have mentioned, or into any series of absolute princes, how many tyrants must you read through, before you come to an emperor that is supportable. But this is not all; an honest private man often grows cruel and abandoned, when converted into an absolute prince. Give a man power of doing what he pleases with impunity, you extinguish his fear, and consequently overturn in him one of the great pillars of morality. This too we find confirmed by the matter of fact. How many hopeful heirs apparent to grand empires, when in the possession of them, have become such monsters of lust and cruelty as are a reproach to human nature!

Some tell us we ought to make our governments on earth like that in heaven, which, say they, is altogether monarchical and unlimited. Was man like his Creator in goodness and justice, I should be for allowing this great model; but where goodness and justice are not essential to the ruler, I would by no means put myself into his hands to be disposed of according to his particular will and pleasure.

It is odd to consider the connection between despotic government and barbarity, and how the making of one person more than man, makes the rest less. Above nine parts of the world in ten are in the lowest state of slavery, and consequently sunk in the most gross and brutal ignorance. European slavery is indeed a state of liberty, if compared with that which prevails in the other three divisions of the world; and therefore it is no wonder that those who grovel under it, have many tracks of light among them, of which the others are wholly destitute.

Riches and plenty are the natural fruits of liberty, and where these abound, learning and all the liberal arts will immediately lift up their heads and flourish. As a man must have no slavish fears and apprehensions hanging upon his mind, who will indulge the flights of fancy or speculation, and push his researches into all the abstruse corners of truth, so it is necessary for him to have about him a competency of all the conveniences of life.

The first thing every one looks after, is to provide himself with necessaries. This point will engross our thoughts until it be satisfied. If this is taken care of to our hands, we look out for pleasures and amusements; and among a great number of idle people, there will be many whose pleasures will lie in reading and contemplation. These are the two great sources of knowledge, and as men grow wise they naturally love to communicate their discoveries; and others seeing the happiness of such a learned life, and improving by their conversation, emulate, imitate, and surpass one another, until a nation is filled with races of wise understanding persons. Ease and plenty are therefore the great cherishers of knowledge; and as most of the despotic governments of the world have neither of them, they are naturally overrun with ignorance and barbarity. In Europe, indeed, notwithstanding several of its princes are absolute, there are men famous for knowledge and learning; but the reason is; because the subjects are many of them rich and wealthy, the prince not thinking fit to exert himself in his full tyranny like the princes of the eastern nations, lest his subjects should be invited to new-mould their constitution, having so many prospects of liberty within their

view. But in all despotic governments, though a particular prince may favour arts and letters, there is a natural degeneracy of mankind, as you may observe from Augustus's reign, how the Romans lost themselves by degrees until they fell to an equality with the most barbarous nations that surrounded them. Look upon Greece under its free states, and you would think its inhabitants lived in different climates, and under different heavens, from those at present, so different are the geniuses which are formed under Turkish slavery, and Grecian liberty.

Besides poverty and want, there are other reasons that debase the minds of men who live under slavery, though I look on this as the principal. This natural tendency of despotic power to ignorance and barbarity, though not insisted upon by others, is, I think, an unanswerable argument against that form of government, as it shows how repugnant it is to the good of mankind, and the perfection of human nature, which ought to be the great ends of all civil institutions.

ADDITION.

L.

N° 288. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1711-12.

— *Pecor et utrique molitius.*

HOR. Ep. vi. l. 1. var. 10.

Both fear alike.

MR. SPECTATOR,

WHEN you spoke of the jilts and coquettes, you then promised to be very impartial, and not to spare even your own sex, should any of their secret or open faults come under your cognizance: which has given me encouragement to describe a certain species of mankind under the denomination of male jilts. They are gentlemen who do not design to marry, yet that they may appear to have some sense of gallantry, think they must pay their devoirs to one particular fair; in order to which they single out from amongst the herd of females her to whom they design to make their fruitless addresses. This done, they first take every opportunity of being in her company, and they never fail upon all occasions to be particular to her, laying themselves at her feet, protesting the reality of their passion with a thousand oaths, soliciting a return, and saying as many fine things as their stock of wit will allow; and if they are not deficient that way, generally speak so as to admit of a double interpretation; which the credulous fair is too apt to turn to her own advantage, since it frequently happens to be a raw, innocent young creature, who thinks all the world as sincere as herself, and so her unwary heart becomes an easy prey to those deceitful monsters, who no sooner perceive it, but immediately they grow cool, and shun her whom they before seemed so much to admire, and proceed to act the same common-place villany towards another. A coxcomb flushed with many of these infamous victories shall say he is sorry for the poor fools, protest and vow he never thought of matrimony, and wonder talking civilly can be so strangely misinterpreted. Now, Mr. Spectator, you that are a professed friend to love, will, I hope, observe upon those who abuse that noble passion, and raise it in innocent minds by a deceitful affectation of it, after which they desert the enamoured. Pray bestow a little of your counsel on those fond believing females who already have, or are in danger of having broken

hearts; in which you will oblige a great part of this town, but in a particular manner,

‘*SEN,*
‘Your (yet heart-whole) admirer,
‘and devoted humble servant,
‘*MELANIA.*’

Melania's complaint is occasioned by so general a folly, that it is wonderful one could so long overlook it. But this false gallantry proceeds from an impotence of mind, which makes those who are guilty of it incapable of pursuing what they themselves approve. Many a man wishes a woman his wife whom he dare not take for such. Though no one has power over his inclinations or fortunes, he is a slave to common fame. For this reason, I think Melania gives them too soft a name in that of male coquettes. I know not why irresolution of mind should not be more contemptible than impotence of body; and these frivolous admirers would be but tenderly used, in being only included in the same term with the inefficient another way. They whom my correspondent calls male coquettes, should hereafter be called friblers. A fribler is one who professes rapture and admiration for the woman to whom he addresses, and dreads nothing so much as her consent. His heart can suffer by the force of imagination, but cannot fix from the force of judgment. It is not uncommon for the parents of young women of moderate fortune to wink at the addresses of friblers, and expose their children to the ambiguous behaviour which Melania complains of, until by the fondness to one they are to lose, they become incapable of love towards others, and, by consequence, in their future marriage lead a joyless or a miserable life. As therefore I shall in the speculations which regard love, be as severe as I ought on jilts and libertine women, so will I be as little merciful to insignificant and mischievous men *. In order to this, all visitants who frequent families wherein there are young females, are forthwith required to declare themselves, or absent from places where their presence banishes such as would pass their time more to the advantage of those whom they visit. It is a matter of too great moment to be dilled with: and I shall expect from all my young people a satisfactory account of appearances. Strephon has from the publication hereof seven days to explain the riddle he presented to Eudamia; and Chloris an hour after this comes to her hand, to declare whether she will have Philotas, whom a woman of so less merit than herself, and of superior fortune, languishes to call her own.

‘TO THE SPECTATOR.

‘*SEN,*

‘SINCE so many dealers turn authors, and write quaint advertisements in praise of their wares, one who from an author turned dealer may be allowed for the advancement of trade to turn author again. I will not, however set up like some of them, for selling cheaper than the most able honest tradesman can; nor do I send this to be better known for choice and cheapness of China and Japan wares, tea, fans, muslins, pictures, arrack, and other Indian goods. Placed as I am in Leadenhall-street, near the India company, and the centre of that trade, thanks to my fair customers, my warehouse is graced as well as the benefit days of my plays and operas; and the foreign goods I sell seem as

* See the second letter in N° 300.

reptable than the foreign books I translate, Rabelais and Don Quixote. This the critics say, and while they like my wares they may like my writings. But as it is not so well yet, that I frequently cross the seas of late, ask in Dutch and French, besides other languages.

I have the conveniency of buying and imrich brocades, Dutch atlases, with gold er, or without, and other foreign silks of est modes and best fabrics, fine Flanders ens, and pictures, at the best hand; this my ay of trade I have fallen into, I cannot ublish than by an application to you. My re fit only for such as your readers; and I beg of you to print this address in your that those whose minds you adorn may take aments for their persons and houses from his, sir, if I may presume to beg it, will be ter favour, as I have lately received rich d fine lace to a considerable value, which old cheap for a quick return, and as I have large stock of other goods. Indian silks rmerly a great branch of our trade; and e must not sell them, we must seek amends ing is others. This I hope will plead for ould lessen the number of the teasers of es, and who, suiting his spirit to his circum- humbles the poet to exalt the citizen. Like tradesman, I hardly ever look into any but those of accounts. To say the truth, t, I think, give you a better idea of my downright man of traffic, than by acknow- I oftener read the advertisements, than the f even your paper. I am under a great ion to take this opportunity of admonish- r writers to follow my example, and trou- towna no more; but as it is my present bu- increase the number of buyers rather than I hasten to tell you that I am,

‘Your most humble, and
‘most obedient servant,
‘PETER MOTTEUX.’

E.

T.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1711-12.

Imma brevis spes non vetat inchoare longam.
HOR. Od. iv. l. i. ver. 15.

can forbid us to extend our cares,
etch our hopes beyond our years.
CERACH.

aking my seat in a coffee-house I often e eyes of the whole room upon me, when ottest seasons of news, and at a time per- t the Dutch mail is just come in, they hear the coffee-man for his last week's bill of y. I find that I have been sometimes taken cation for a parish sexton, sometimes for raker, and sometimes for a doctor of phy- this, however, I am guided by the spirit losopher, as I take occasion from thence t upon the regular increase and diminu- mankind, and consider the several various rough which we pass from life to eternity. ry well pleased with these weekly admo- that bring into my mind such thoughts as

writer was a French refugee, (born in Normandy, o settled in England, where he produced some dra- ces, and altered others, and gave pretty good trans- Rabelais and Don Quixote. He died a violent ber by his own hand or that of another, at a house e near Temple Bar, February 1718.

ought to be the daily entertainment of every rea- sonable creature; and can consider with pleasure to myself, by which of those deliverances, or as we commonly call them, distempers, I may possi- bly make my escape out of this world of sorrows, into that condition of existence, wherein I hope to be happier than it is possible for me at present to conceive.

But this is not all the use I make of the above- mentioned weekly paper. A bill of mortality is, in my opinion, an unanswerable argument for a Providence. How can we, without supposing our- selves under the constant care of a Supreme Being, give any possible account for that nice proportion, which we find in every great city, between the deaths and births of its inhabitants, and between the number of males and that of females brought into the world? What else could adjust in so exact a manner the recruits of every nation to its losses, and divide these new supplies of people into such equal bodies of both sexes? Chance could never hold the balance with so steady a hand. Were we not counted out by an intelligent supervisor, we should sometimes be overcharged with multitudes, and at others waste away into a desert: we should be sometimes a *populus virorum*, as Florus elegantly expresses it, a generation of males, and at others a species of women. We may extend this consid- eration to every species of living creatures, and consider the whole animal world as an huge army made up of innumerable corps, if I may use that term, whose quotas have been kept entire near five thousand years, in so wonderful a manner, that there is not probably a single species lost during this long tract of time. Could we have general bills of mortality of every kind of animals, or parti- cular ones of every species in each continent and island, I could almost say in every wood, marsh, or mountain, what astonishing instances would they be of that Providence which watches over all his works.

I have heard of a great man in the Romish church, who, upon reading those words in the fifth chapter of Genesis, ‘And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died; and all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died; and all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years, and he died;’ immediately shut himself up in a convent, and retired from the world, as not thinking any thing in this life worth pursuing, which had not regard to another.

The truth of it is, there is nothing in history which is so improving to the reader as those ac- counts which we meet with of the deaths of emi- nent persons, and of their behaviour in that dread- ful season. I may also add, that there are no parts in history which affect and please the reader in so sensible a manner. The reason I take to be this, because there is no other single circumstance in the story of any person, which can possibly be the case of every one who reads it. A battle or a triumph are conjunctures in which not one man in a million is likely to be engaged; but when we see a person at the point of death, we cannot for- bear being attentive to every thing he says or does, because we are sure that some time or other we shall ourselves be in the same melancholy circum- stances. The general, the statesman, or the phi- losopher, are perhaps characters which we may never act in, but the dying man is one whom, sooner or later, we shall certainly resemble.

It is, perhaps, for the same kind of reason, that few books written in English have been so much

perused as Dr. Sherlock's Discourse upon Death; though at the same time I must own, that he who has not perused this excellent piece, has not perhaps read one of the strongest persuasives to a religious life that ever was written in any language.

The consideration with which I shall close this essay upon death, is one of the most ancient and most beaten morals that has been recommended to mankind. But its being so very common, and so universally received, though it takes away from it the grace of novelty, adds very much to the weight of it, as it shows that it falls in with the general sense of mankind. In short, I would have every one consider that he is in this life nothing more than a passenger, and that he is not to set up his rest here, but to keep an attentive eye upon that state of being to which he approaches every moment, and which will be for ever fixed and permanent. This single consideration would be sufficient to extinguish the bitterness of hatred, the thirst of avarice, and the cruelty of ambition.

I am very much pleased with the passage of Antiphanes, a very ancient poet, who lived near an hundred years before Socrates, which represents the life of man under this view, as I have here translated it word for word. 'Be not grieved,' says he, 'above measure, for thy deceased friends. They are not dead, but have only finished that journey which it is necessary for every one of us to take. We ourselves must go to that great place of reception in which they are all of them assembled, and in this general rendezvous of mankind, live together in another state of being.'

I think I have, in a former paper, taken notice of those beautiful metaphors in scripture, where life is termed a pilgrimage, and those who pass through it are all called strangers, and sojourners upon earth. I shall conclude this with a story, which I have somewhere read in the travels of Sir John Chardin. That gentleman, after having told us that the inns which receive the caravans in Persia, and the eastern countries, are called by the name of caravansaries, gives us a relation to the following purpose.

A dervise travelling through Tartary, being arrived at the town of Balk, went into the king's palace by mistake, as thinking it to be a public inn, or caravansary. Having looked about him for some time, he entered into a long gallery, where he laid down his wallet, and spread his carpet, in order to repose himself upon it, after the manner of the eastern nations. He had not been long in this posture before he was discovered by some of the guards, who asked him what was his business in that place? The dervise told them he intended to take up his night's lodging in that caravansary. The guards let him know, in a very angry manner, that the house he was in was not a caravansary, but the king's palace. It happened that the king himself passed through the gallery during this debate, and smiling at the mistake of the dervise, asked him how he could possibly be so dull as not to distinguish a palace from a caravansary? 'Sir,' says the dervise, 'give me leave to ask your majesty a question or two. Who were the persons that lodged in this house when it was first built? The king replied, 'His ancestors.'—'And who,' says the dervise, 'was the last person that lodged here?' The king replied, 'His father.'—'And who is it,' says the dervise, 'that lodges here at present?' The king told him, that it was he himself. 'And who,' says the dervise, 'will be here after you?' The king answered, 'The young prince his son?'—'Ah, sir,' said the dervise, 'a house that

changes its inhabitants so often, and receives such a perpetual succession of guests, is not a palace, but a caravansary.'

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 290. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1711-12.

Projicit ampullas et atqueipudalia verba.

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 91.

Forgets his swelling and gigantic words.

ROSCOMMON.

THE players, who know I am very much their friend, take all opportunities to express a gratitude to me for being so. They could not have a better occasion of obliging me, than one which they lately took hold of. They desired my friend Will Honeycomb to bring me to the reading of a new tragedy; it is called *The Distressed Mother* *. I must confess, though some days are passed since I enjoyed that entertainment, the passions of the several characters dwell strongly upon my imagination; and I congratulate the age, that they are at last to see truth and human life represented in the incidents which concern heroes and heroines. The style of the play is such as becomes those of the first education, and the sentiments worthy those of the highest figure. It was a most exquisite pleasure to me, to observe real tears drop from the eyes of those who had long made it their profession to dissemble affliction; and the player, who read, frequently threw down the book, until he had given vent to the humanity which rose in him at some irresistible touches of the imagined sorrow. We have seldom had any female distress on the stage, which did not, upon cool examination, appear to flow from the weakness, rather than the misfortune of the person represented: but in this tragedy you are not entertained with the ungoverned passions of such as are enamoured of each other, merely as they are men and women, but their regards are founded upon high conceptions of each other's virtue and merit; and the character which gives name to the play, is one who has behaved herself with heroic virtue in the most important circumstances of a female life, those of a wife, a widow, and a mother. If there be those whose minds have been too attentive upon the affairs of life, to have any notion of the passion of love in such extremes as are known only to particular tempers, yet in the above-mentioned considerations, the sorrow of the heroine will move even the generality of mankind. Domestic virtues concern all the world, and there is no one living who is not interested that Andromache should be an imitable character. The generous affection to the memory of her deceased husband, that tender care for her son, which is ever heightened with the consideration of his father, and these regards preserved in spite of being tempted with the possession of the highest greatness, are what cannot but be venerable even to such an audience as at present frequents the English theatre. My friend Will Honeycomb commended several tender things that were said, and told me they were very genteel; but whispered me, that he feared the piece was not buoy enough for the present taste. To supply this, he recommended to the players to be very careful to

* By Ambrose Philips. It is little more than a translation from the *Andromaque* of Racine. The Epilogue to this play, which has Mr. Budgell's name prefixed to it, and has been very much admired, Dr. Johnson says, was actually written by Addison. Mrs. Johnson was assured so by Mr. Dwyer, the partner of Tonson, the bookseller.

es, and above all things, that every part perfectly new dressed. I was very glad if they did not neglect my friend's advice, because there are a great many in this criticism who may be gained by it: but the truth is, that as to the work itself, it is of the nature. The persons are of the highest in life, even that of princes; but their not represented by the poet with directors and waiters should follow them in life, but their grandeur appears in greatiments, flowing from minds worthy their

To make a character truly great, this understands that it should have its foundation in superior thoughts, and maxims of conduct. I am certain, that many an honest woman is made no difficulty, though she had been the Hector, for the sake of a kingdom, to the enemy of her husband's family and indeed who can deny but she still an honest woman, but no heroine? to be defensible, may be laudable in one character, but in the highest degree excusable in another. When Cato Uticensis himself, Cotta, a Roman of ordinary character, did the same thing; upon which I might say, 'Cotta might have lived, though he seized the Roman liberty.' Cotta's might have been the same, let things at the end of the world pass as they would. Further very extraordinary in this work, the persons are all of them laudable, and fortunes arise rather from unguarded virgins propensity to vice. The town has an air of doing itself justice in supporting the passions of passion, sorrow, indignation, and air itself, within the rules of decency, and good-breeding; and since there is no other way of uttering his life will be always for ever may here see sorrow, as they would at it whenever it arrives.

SPECTATOR,

pointed to act a part in the new tragedy of the Distressed Mother. It is the celebrated character of a Mother which I am to personate; but I find it as I thought, for I shall feel it too intimate to be able to utter it. I was last night republishing to myself, which I took to be a sign of rage, and in the middle of the scene here was a stroke of self-pity which stunned me. Be pleased, sir, to print this at the interval, a certain part of the audience think I am out; and I hope with this all to do it with satisfaction.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble servant,

'GEORGE POWELL.'

SPECTATOR,

as I was walking the other day in the Park, I met a gentleman with a very short face; I desire to know whether it was you. Pray inform me as soon as you can, lest I become the most heroic of my rival.

'Your humble servant to command,

'SOPHIA.'

SADAM,

tell me you are in love with, for I was very impatient my chamber all that day.

'Your most humble servant,

'THE SPECTATOR.'

T.

Nº 291. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1711-12.

*Ubi plura nitent in cormine, non ego paucis
Offendor maculis, quas aut incuria fudit,
Aut humana parum cavit natura.*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 351.

But in a poem elegantly writ,
I will not quarrel with a slight mistake,
Such as our nature's frailty may excuse.

ROSCOMMON.

I HAVE now considered Milton's *Paradise Lost* under those four great heads, of the fable, the characters, the sentiments, and the language; and have shown that he excels in general, under each of these heads. I hope that I have made several discoveries which may appear new, even to those who are versed in critical learning. Were I indeed to choose my readers, by whose judgment I would stand or fall, they should not be such as are acquainted only with the French and Italian critics, but also with the ancient and modern who have written in either of the learned languages. Above all, I would have them well versed in the Greek and Latin poets, without which a man very often fancies that he understands a critic, when in reality he does not comprehend his meaning.

It is in criticism as in all other sciences and speculations; one who brings with him any implicit notions and observations, which he has made in his reading of the poets, will find his own reflections methodized and explained, and perhaps several little hints that had passed in his mind perfected and improved, in the works of a good critic; whereas one who has not these previous lights is very often an utter stranger to what he reads, and apt to put a wrong interpretation upon it.

Nor is it sufficient that a man, who sets up for a judge in criticism, should have perused the authors above-mentioned, unless he has also a clear and logical head. Without this talent he is perpetually puzzled and perplexed amidst his own blunders, mistakes the sense of those he would confute, or, if he chances to think right, does not know how to convey his thoughts to another with clearness and perspicuity. Aristotle, who was the best critic, was also one of the best logicians that ever appeared in the world.

Mr. Locke's *Essay on Human Understanding* would be thought a very odd book for a man to make himself master of, who would get a reputation by critical writings; though at the same time it is very certain, that an author who has not learned the art of distinguishing between words and things, and of ranging his thoughts and setting them in proper lights, whatever notions he may have, will lose himself in confusion and obscurity. I might further observe, that there is not a Greek or Latin critic, who has not shown, even in the style of his criticisms, that he was a master of all the elegance and delicacy of his native tongue.

The truth of it is, there is nothing more absurd, than for a man to set up for a critic without a good insight into all the parts of learning; whereas many of those who have endeavoured to signalize themselves by works of this nature, among our English writers, are not only defective in the above-mentioned particulars, but plainly discover, by the phrases which they make use of, and by their confused way of thinking, that they are not acquainted with the most common and ordinary systems of arts

and sciences. A few general rules extracted out of the French authors, with a certain cant of words, has sometimes set up an illiterate heavy writer for a most judicious and formidable critic.

One great mark, by which you may discover a critic who has neither taste nor learning, is this, that he seldom ventures to praise any passage in an author which has not been before received and applauded by the public, and that his criticism turns wholly upon little faults and errors. This part of a critic is so very easy to succeed in, that we find every ordinary reader, upon the publishing of a new poem, has wit and ill-nature enough to turn several passages of it into ridicule, and very often in the right place. This Mr. Dryden has very agreeably remarked in those two celebrated lines:

'Errors, like straws, upon the surface flow;
He who would search for pearls, must dive below.'

A true critic ought to dwell rather upon excellencies than imperfections, to discover the concealed beauties of a writer, and communicate to the world such things as are worth their observation. The most exquisite words, and finest strokes of an author, are those which very often appear the most doubtful and exceptionable to a man who wants a relish for polite learning; and they are these, which a sour undistinguishing critic generally attacks with the greatest violence. Tully observes, that it is very easy to brand or fix a mark upon what he calls *verbum ardens*, or as it may be rendered into English, 'a glowing bold expression,' and to turn it into ridicule by a cold ill-natured criticism. A little wit is equally capable of exposing a beauty, and of aggravating a fault; and though such a treatment of an author naturally produces indignation in the mind of an understanding reader, it has however its effect among the generality of those whose hands it falls into, the rabble of mankind being very apt to think that every thing which is laughed at, with any mixture of wit, is ridiculous in itself.

Such a mirth as this is always unseasonable in a critic, as it rather prejudices the reader than convinces him, and is capable of making a beauty, as well as a blemish, the subject of derision. A man who cannot write with wit on a proper subject, is dull and stupid; but one who shows it in an improper place, is as impertinent and absurd. Besides, a man who has the gift of ridicule is apt to find fault with any thing that gives him an opportunity of exerting his beloved talent, and very often censures a passage, not because there is any fault in it, but because he can be merry upon it. Such kinds of pleasantry are very unfair and disagreeable in works of criticism, in which the greatest masters, both ancient and modern, have always appeared with a serious and instructive air.

As I intend in my next paper to show the defects in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, I thought fit to premise these few particulars, to the end that the reader may know I enter upon it, as on a very ungrateful work, and that I shall just point at the imperfections without endeavouring to inflame them with ridicule. I must also observe with Longinus, that the productions of a great genius, with many lapses and inadvertencies, are infinitely preferable to the works of an inferior kind of author, which are scrupulously exact, and conformable to all the rules of correct writing.

I shall conclude my paper with a story out of Boccaccio, which sufficiently shows us the opinion that judicious author entertained of the sort of

critics I have been here mentioning. "A famous critic," says he, "having gathered together all the faults of an eminent poet, made a present of them to Apollo, who received them very graciously, and resolved to make the author a suitable return for the trouble he had been at in collecting them. In order to this, he set before him a sack of wheat, as it had been just thrashed out of the sheaf. He then bid him pick out the chaff from among the corn, and lay it aside by itself. The critic applied himself to the task with great industry and pleasure, and, after having made the due separation, was presented by Apollo with the chaff for his pains."

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 292. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1711-12.

*Illam, quicquid agit, quoquo vestigia flectit,
Componit furtilim, subsequiturque decor.*
TIBULL. Eleg. ii. l. 4. ver. 1.

Whatever she does, where'er her steps she bends,
Grace on each action silently attends.

As no one can be said to enjoy health, who is only not sick, without he feel within himself a lightness and invigorating principle, which will not suffer him to remain idle, but still spurs him on to action; so in the practice of every virtue, there is some additional grace required, to give a claim of excelling in this or that particular action. A diamond may want polishing, though the value be still intrinsically the same; and the same good may be done with different degrees of lustre. No man should be contented with himself that he barely does well, but he should perform every thing in the best and most becoming manner that he is able.

Tully tells us he wrote his book of offices because there was no time of life in which some correspondent duty might not be practised; nor is there a duty without a certain decency accompanying it, by which every virtue it is joined to will seem to be doubled. Another may do the same thing, and yet the action want that air and beauty which distinguish it from others; like that immortal sunshine Titian is said to have diffused over his landscapes; which denotes them his, and has been always unequalled by any other person.

There is no one action in which this quality I am speaking of will be more sensibly perceived, than in granting a request, or doing an office of kindness. Memmius, by his way of consenting to a benefaction, shall make it lose its name; while Cæsar doubles the kindness and the obligation. From the first, the desired request drops indeed at last, but from so doubtful a brow, that the obliged has almost as much reason to resent the manner of bestowing it, as to be thankful for the favour itself. Cæsar invites with a pleasing air, to give him an opportunity of doing an act of humanity, meets the petition half way, and consents to a request with a countenance which proclaims the satisfaction of his mind in assisting the distressed.

The decency then that is to be observed in liberality, seems to consist in its being performed with such cheerfulness as may express the godlike pleasure to be met with, in obliging one's fellow-creatures; that may show good-nature and benevolence overflowed, and do not, as in some men, run upon the tilt, and taste of the sediments of a grudging, uncommunicative disposition.

Since I have intimated that the greatest decorum is to be preserved in the bestowing our good offices,

strate it a little, by an example drawn from the life, which carries with it such a probability, that it can be exceeded by the humanity and good-nature which it deserves. It is a letter of Pliny, which I translate, because the action will best illustrate its first dress of thought, without any ambitious ornaments.

PLINY TO QUINTILIAN.

I am fully acquainted with the contented moderation of your mind, and the education you have given your years to your own character; yet suddenly to be married to a person of whose figure in the world makes it necessary to be at a more than ordinary expense, and equipage suitable to her husband's rank, which, though her intrinsic worth be great, yet will it receive both ornament and knowing your estate to be as moderate as the riches of your mind are abundant, I assign to myself some part of the burthen; and as parent of your child, I present her with a hundred and fifty crowns, towards these which sum had been much larger, had the smallness of it would be the great merit with you to accept of it. Farewell.

Could a benefaction be done with a good shine in the strongest point of light; it only answer all the hopes and exigencies, but even outrun his wishes. It is a manner of behaviour which adds new it, and softens those gifts of art and which otherwise would be rather distasteful. Without it valour would degenerate into brutality, learning into pedantry, and the finest demeanour into affectation. Even itself, unless decency be the handmaid to upon her, is apt to make people appear of sourness and ill-humour: but this in her first original form, adds a comeliness, and gives its professors the justest beauty of holiness. A man fully in this art, may assume a thousand shapes, in all he may do a thousand actions, none other but himself; not that the selves are different, but the manner of

examining each feature by itself, Aglaurea are equally handsome, but take them alone, and you cannot suffer the comparison. It is full of numberless nameless graces, of as many nameless faults. The comeliness of person, and the decency of befitting infinite weight to what is pronounced. It is the want of this that often makes the advice of old rigid persons of no use, but leave a displeasure in the minds of those are directed to: but youth and beauty, adorned with a graceful and becoming softness, a mighty force to raise, even in the most a sense of shame. In Milton, the devil described ashamed but once, and that at the of a beautiful angel:

Behold the cherub, and his grave rebuke,
A youthful beauty, added grace,
Behold. Abash'd the devil stood,
How awful Goodness is, and saw
In her own shape how lovely I saw and pin'd

of doing nothing unbecoming has acquired the greatest minds to their last mo-

ments. They avoided even an indecent posture in the very article of death. Thus Cæsar gathered his robe about him, that he might not fall in a manner unbecoming of himself; and the greatest concern that appeared in the behaviour of Lucretia when she stabbed herself was, that her body should lie in an attitude worthy the mind which had inhabited it:

— *Ne non procumbat humilis.*

Extrema hæc ciliis orens cadentibus eras.

— OVID. *Fast.* l. 3. ver. 833.

'Twas her last thought, how decently to fall.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I AM a young woman without a fortune; but of a very high mind; that is, good sir, I am to the last degree proud and vain. I am ever railing at the rich, for doing things, which, upon search into my heart, I find I am only angry at; because I cannot do the same myself. I wear the hooped petticoat, and am all in calicoes when the finest are in silks. It is a dreadful thing to be poor and proud; therefore, if you please, a lecture on that subject for the satisfaction of

Your uneasy humble servant,

JESSELY.

[The Author unknown.]

Z.

Nº 293. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1711-12.

Πασις γὰρ εὐφροσύνην συλλαβὴν τυχῇ.

FRAG. Vet. Poet.

The prudent still have fortune on their side.

THE famous Gracian *, in his little book, wherein he lays down maxims for a man's advancing himself at court, advises his reader to associate himself with the fortunate, and to shun the company of the unfortunate; which, notwithstanding the baseness of the precept to an honest mind, may have something useful in it, for those who push their interest in the world. It is certain, a great part of what we call good or ill fortune, rises out of right or wrong measures and schemes of life. When I hear a man complain of his being unfortunate in all his undertakings, I shrewdly suspect him for a very weak man in his affairs. In conformity with this way of thinking, Cardinal Richelieu used to say, that unfortunate and imprudent, were but two words for the same thing. As the cardinal himself had a great share both of prudence and good fortune, his famous antagonist, the Count d'Olivarez, was disgraced at the court of Madrid, because it was alleged against him that he had never any success in his undertakings. This, says an eminent author, was indirectly accusing him of imprudence.

Cicero recommended Pompey to the Romans for their general upon three accounts, as he was a man of courage, conduct, and good fortune. It was, perhaps, for the reason above mentioned, namely, that a series of good fortune supposes a prudent management in the person whom it befalls, that not only Sylla the dictator, but several of the Roman emperors, as is still to be seen upon their medals, among their other titles, gave themselves that of Felix or Fortunate. The heathens, indeed, seem to have valued a man more for his good for-

* Balthazar Gracian, a Spanish Jesuit, rector of the college of Tarragon, who died 1658, leaving, besides the book here alluded to, several sermons and other writings, which were much esteemed by his fraternity and his countrymen; but his style is inflated, and his sentiments often extravagant.

tane than for any other quality, which I think is very natural for those who have not a strong belief of another world. For how can I conceive a man crowned with any distinguishing blessings, that has not some extraordinary fund of merit and perfection in him, which lies open to the Supreme eye, though perhaps it is not discovered by my observation? What is the reason Homer's and Virgil's heroes do not form a resolution, or strike a blow, without the conduct and direction of some deity? Doubtless, because the poets esteemed it the greatest honour to be favoured by the gods, and thought the best way of praising a man was, to recount those favours which naturally implied an extraordinary merit in the person on whom they descended.

Those who believe a future state of rewards and punishments act very absurdly, if they form their opinions of a man's merit from his successes. But certainly, if I thought the whole circle of our being was concluded between our births and deaths, I should think a man's good fortune the measure and standard of his real merit, since Providence would have no opportunity of rewarding his virtue and perfections, but in the present life. A virtuous unbeliever, who lies under the pressure of misfortunes, has reason to cry out, as they say Brutus did a little before his death: 'O virtue, I have worshipped thee as a substantial good, but I find thou art an empty name.'

But to return to our first point. Though prudence does undoubtedly in a great measure produce our good or ill fortune in the world, it is certain there are many unforeseen accidents and occurrences which very often pervert the finest schemes that can be laid by human wisdom. 'The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.' Nothing less than infinite Wisdom can have an absolute command over fortune; the highest degree of it which man can possess is by no means equal to fortuitous events, and to such contingencies as may rise in the prosecution of our affairs. Nay, it very often happens, that prudence, which has always in it a great mixture of caution, hinders a man from being so fortunate, as he might possibly have been without it. A person who only aims at what is likely to succeed, and follows closely the dictates of human prudence, never meets with those great and unforeseen successes, which are often the effect of a sanguine temper, or a more happy rashness; and this perhaps may be the reason, that, according to the common observation, Fortune, like other females, delights rather in favouring the young than the old.

Upon the whole, since man is so short-sighted a creature, and the accidents which may happen to him so various, I cannot but be of Dr. Tillotson's opinion in another case, that were there any doubt of a Providence, yet it certainly would be very desirable there should be such a Being of infinite wisdom and goodness, on whose direction we might rely in the conduct of human life.

It is a great presumption to ascribe our successes to our own management, and not to esteem ourselves upon any blessing, rather as it is the bounty of heaven, than the acquisition of our own prudence. I am very well pleased with a medal which was struck by Queen Elizabeth, a little after the defeat of the invincible armada, to perpetuate the memory of that extraordinary event. It is well known how the King of Spain, and others who were the enemies of that great princess, to derogate from her glory, ascribed the ruin of their fleet rather to the violence of storms and tempests, than to the bravery of the English. Queen Elizabeth,

instead of looking upon this as a diminution of her honour, valued herself upon such a signal favour of Providence, and accordingly, in the reverse of the medal above mentioned, has represented a fleet beaten by a tempest, and falling foul upon one another, with that religious inscription, '*Assavit Deus, et dissipantur*.' 'He blew with his wind, and they were scattered.'

It is remarked of a famous Grecian general, whose name I cannot at present recollect, and who had been a particular favourite of fortune, that, upon recounting his victories among his friends, he added at the end of several great actions, 'And in this fortune had no share.' After which it is observed in history, that he never prospered in any thing he undertook.

As arrogance and a conceitedness of our own abilities are very shocking and offensive to men of sense and virtue, we may be sure they are highly displeasing to that being who delights in an humble mind, and by several of his dispensations seems purposely to show us, that our own schemes, or prudence, have no share in our advancements.

Since on this subject I have already admitted several quotations which have occurred to my memory upon writing this paper, I will conclude it with a little Persian fable. A drop of water fell out of a cloud into the sea, and, finding itself lost in such an immensity of fluid matter, broke out into the following reflection: 'Alas! what an inconsiderable creature am I in this prodigious ocean of waters! my existence is of no concern to the universe; I am reduced to a kind of nothing, and am less than the least of the works of God.' It so happened, that an oyster, which lay in the neighbourhood of this drop, chanced to gape and swallow it up in the midst of this its humble soliloquy. The drop, says the fable, lay a great while hardening in the shell, until by degrees it was ripened into a pearl, which falling into the hands of a diver, after a long series of adventures, is at present that famous pearl which is fixed on the top of the Persian diadem.

ADISON.

L.

Nº 294. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1711-12.

Difficile est plurimum virtutem recuperare qui semper a cunctis fortuna sit usus.

TULL. ad Herennium.

The man who is always fortunate, cannot easily have a great reverence for virtue.

INSOLENCE is the crime of all others which every man is apt to rail at; and yet there is one respect in which almost all men living are guilty of it, and that is in the case of laying a greater value upon the gifts of fortune than we ought. It is here in England come into our very language, as a propriety of distinction to say, when we would speak of persons to their advantage, 'They are people of condition.' There is no doubt but the proper use of riches implies, that a man should exert all the good qualities imaginable; and if we mean by a man of condition or quality, one who, according to the wealth he is master of, shows himself just, beneficent, and charitable, that term ought very deservedly to be had in the highest veneration; but when wealth is used only as it is the support of pomp and luxury, to be rich is very far from being a recommendation to honour and respect. It is

* Timotheus, son of Conon the Athenian. See Plutarch

the greatest insolence imaginable, in a creature who would feel the extremes of thirst and if he did not prevent his appetites before all upon him, to be so forgetful of the necessity of human nature, as never to cast upon the poor and needy. The fellow who d from a ship which struck upon a rock in st, and joined with the country people to y his brother sailors, and make her a wreck, ought a most execrable creature; but does ery man who enjoys the possession of what he lly wants, and is unmindful of the unsup-distress of other men, betray the same tem-mind? When a man looks about him, and egard to riches and poverty, beholds some in pomp and equipage, and they, and their ervants, with an air of scorn and triumph, oking the multitude that pass by them; and same street, a creature of the same make, out, in the name of all that is good and sa-o behold his misery, and give him some sup-ainst hunger and nakedness; who would be-ese two beings were of the same species? it is, that the consideration of fortune has up all our minds; and as I have often com-d, poverty and riches stand in our imagin- the places of guilt and innocence. But in sons there will be some instances of persons ave souls too large to be taken with popular ices, and while the rest of mankind are con-g for superiority in power and wealth, have boughs bent upon the necessities of those them. The charity-schools, which have been d of late years, are the greatest instances of spirit the age has produced. But indeed, we consider how long this sort of beneficence en on foot, it is rather from the good manent of those institutions, than from the num-value of the benefactions to them, that they o great a figure. One would think it im- that, in the space of fourteen years, there not have been five thousand pounds bel- in gifts this way, nor sixteen hundred chil- including males and females, put out to ds of industry. It is not allowed me to of luxury and folly with the severe spirit leserve; I shall only therefore say, I shall eadily compound with any lady in a hooped at, if she gives the price of one half yard silk, towards clothing, feeding, and instruct- innocent helpless creature of her own sex, of these schools. The consciousness of such ion will give her features a nobler life on ustrious day *, than all the jewels that can n her hair, or can be clustered in her bo- It would be uncourtly to speak in harsher to the fair, but to men one may take a more freedom. It is monstrous how a man re with so little reflection, as to fancy he is a condition very unjust and disproportioned rest of mankind, while he enjoys wealth, erts no benevolence or bounty to others. As t particular occasion of these schools, there t any offer more worthy a generous mind. l you do an handsome thing without return; for an infant that is not sensible of the tion. Would you do it for public good; or one who will be an honest artificer. Would o it for the sake of heaven; give it to one all be instructed in the worship of him for sake you gave it. It is, methinks, a most le institution this, if it were of no other ex-

pectation than that of producing a race of good and useful servants, who will have more than a liberal, a religious education. What would not a man do in common prudence, to lay out in purchase of one about him, who would add to all his orders he gave, the weight of the commandments, to enforce an obedience to them? for one who would consider his master as his father, his friend, and benefactor, upon easy terms, and in expectation of no other return, but moderate wages and gentle usage? It is the common vice of children to run too much among the servants; from such as are educated in these places, they would see nothing but lawliness in the servant, which would not be disingenuous in the child. All the ill offices and defamatory whispers, which take their birth from domestics, would be prevented, if this charity could be made universal; and a good man might have a knowledge of the whole life of the persons he designs to take into his house for his own service, or that of his family or children, long before they were admitted. This would create endearing dependencies: and the obligation would have a paternal air in the master, who would be relieved from much care and anxiety from the gratitude and diligence of an humble friend, attending him as his servant. I fall into this discourse from a letter sent to me, to give me notice that fifty boys would be clothed, and take their seats (at the charge of some generous benefactors) in St. Bride's church, on Sunday next. I wish I could promise to myself any thing which my correspondent seems to expect from a publication of it in this paper; for there can be nothing added to what so many excellent and learned men have said on this occasion. But that there may be something here which would move a generous mind, like that of him who wrote to me, I shall transcribe an handsome paragraph of Dr. Snape's sermon on these charities, which my correspondent inclosed with his letter.

'The wise providence has amply compensated the disadvantages of the poor and indigent, in wanting many of the conveniences of this life, by a more abundant provision for their happiness in the next. Had they been higher born, or more richly endowed, they would have wanted this manner of education, of which those only enjoy the benefit, who are low enough to submit to it; where they have such advantages without money, and without price, as the rich cannot purchase with it. The learning which is given, is generally more edifying to them, than that which is sold to others. Thus do they become more exalted in goodness, by being depressed in fortune, and their poverty is, in reality, their preferment.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 295. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1711-12.

*Prodiga non sentit percutient flumina censum :
At volut exhausta rediens pulvis arca
Nummus, et c pleno semper tollitur acrio,
Non unquam reputat, quanti sibi gaudia constant.*
JUV. Sat. vi. ver. 361.

But womankind, that never knows a mean,
Down to the drags their sinking fortunes drain:
Hourly they give, and spend, and waste, and wear,
And think no pleasure can be bought too dear.

DRYDEN.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM turned of my great climacteric, and am naturally a man of a meek temper. About a dozen years ago I was married, for my sins, to a young woman of a good family, and of an high spirit;

* The birth-day of Queen Anne.

but could not bring her to close with me, before I had entered into a treaty with her, longer than that of the grand alliance. Among other articles, it was therein stipulated, that she should have 400*l.* a year for pin-money, which I obliged myself to pay quarterly into the hands of one who acted as her plenipotentiary in that affair. I have ever since religiously observed my part in this solemn agreement. Now, sir, so it is, that the lady has had several children since I married her; to which, if I should credit our malicious neighbours, her pin-money has not a little contributed. The education of these my children, who, contrary to my expectation, are born to me every year, straitens me so much, that I have begged their mother to free me from the obligation of the above-mentioned pin-money, that it may go towards making a provision for her family. This proposal makes her noble blood swell in her veins, insomuch that, finding me a little tardy in my last quarter's payment, she threatens me every day to arrest me; and proceeds so far as to tell me, that if I do not do her justice, I shall die in a jail. To this she adds, when her passion will let her argue calmly, that she has several play-debts on her hand, which must be discharged very suddenly, and that she cannot lose her money as becomes a woman of her fashion, if she makes me any abatement in this article. I hope, sir, you will take an occasion from hence to give your opinion upon a subject which you have not yet touched, and inform us if there are any precedents for this usage among our ancestors; or whether you find any mention of pin-money in Grotius, Pufendorf, or any other of the civilians.

'I am ever the humblest of your admirers,

'JOSIAH FRIBBLE, ESQ.'

As there is no man living who is a more pressed advocate for the fair sex than myself, so there is none that would be more unwilling to invade any of their ancient rights and privileges; but as the doctrine of pin-money is of a very late date, unknown to our great grandmothers, and not yet received by many of our modern ladies, I think it is for the interest of both sexes to keep it from spreading.

Mr. Fribble may not, perhaps, be much mistaken where he intimates, that the supplying a man's wife with pin-money, is furnishing her with arms against himself, and in a manner becoming accessory to his own dishonour. We may indeed generally observe, that in proportion as a woman is more or less beautiful, and her husband advanced in years, she stands in need of a greater or less number of pins, and, upon a treaty of marriage, rises or falls in her demands accordingly. It must likewise be owned, that high quality in a mistress does very much inflame this article in the marriage-reckoning.

But where the age and circumstances of both parties are pretty much upon a level, I cannot but think the insisting upon pin-money is very extraordinary; and yet we find several matches broken off upon this very head. What would a foreigner, or one who is a stranger to this practice, think of a lover that forsakes his mistress, because he is not willing to keep her in pins? But what would he think of the mistress, should he be informed that she asks five or six hundred pounds a year for this use? Should a man, unacquainted with our customs, be told the sums which are allowed in Great Britain, under the title of pin-money, what a prodigious consumption of pins would he think there was in this island? 'A pin a day,' says our frugal

proverb, 'is a groat a year;' so that, according to this calculation, my friend Fribble's wife must every year make use of eight millions six hundred and forty thousand new pins.

I am not ignorant that our British ladies allege they comprehend under this general term, several other conveniencies of life; I could therefore wish, for the honour of my countrywomen, that they had rather called it needle-money, which might have implied something of good housewifery, and not have given the malicious world occasion to think, that dress and trifles have always the uppermost place in a woman's thoughts.

I know several of my fair readers urge in defence of this practice, that it is but a necessary provision they make for themselves, in case their husband proves a churl, or a miser; so that they consider this allowance as a kind of alimony, which they may lay their claim to, without actually separating from their husbands. But with submission, I think a woman who will give up herself to a man in marriage, where there is the least room for such an apprehension, and trust her person to one whom she will not rely on for the common necessities of life, may very properly be accused (in the phrase of an homely proverb) of being 'peenny wise and pound foolish.'

It is observed of over-cautious generals, that they never engage in a battle without securing a retreat, in case the event should not answer their expectations; on the other hand, the greatest conquerors have burnt their ships, or broke down the bridges behind them, as being determined either to succeed or die in the engagement. In the same manner I should very much suspect a woman who takes such precautions for her retreat, and contrives methods how she may live happily, without the affection of one to whom she joins herself for life. Separate purses between man and wife are, in my opinion, as unnatural as separate beds. A marriage cannot be happy where the pleasures, inclinations, and interests of both parties are not the same. There is no greater incitement to love in the mind of man, than the sense of a person's depending upon him for her ease and happiness; as a woman uses all her endeavours to please the person whom she looks upon, as her honour, her comfort, and her support.

For this reason I am not very much surprised at the behaviour of a rough country squire, who, being not a little shocked at the proceeding of a young widow that would not recede from her demands of pin-money, was so enraged at her mercenary temper, that he told her in great wrath, 'As much as she thought him her slave, he would show all the world he did not care a pin for her.' Upon which he flew out of the room, and never saw her more.

Socrates, in Plato's Alcibiades, says, he was informed by one who had travelled through Persia, that as he passed over a great tract of land, and inquired what the name of the place was, they told him it was the Queen's Girdle; to which he adds, that another wide field which lay by it, was called the Queen's Veil; and that in the same manner there was a large portion of ground set aside for every part of her majesty's dress. These lands might not be improperly called the Queen of Persia's pin-money.

I remember my friend Sir Roger, who, I dare say, never read this passage in Plato, told me some time since, that upon his courting the perverse widow (of whom I have given an account in former papers) he had disposed of an hundred acres in a

and ring, which he would have presented her had she thought fit to accept it: and that her wedding-day, she should have carried on ad, fifty of the tallest oaks upon his estate. rther informed me, that he would have given coal-pit to keep her in clean linen, that he have allowed her the profits of a windmill r fans, and have presented her once in three with the shearing of his sheep, for her under-oats. To which the knight always adds, that he did not care for fine clothes himself, should not have been a woman in the country dressed than my Lady Coverley. Sir Roger, as, may in this, as well as in many other of vices, appear something odd and singular; the humour of pin-money prevails, I think it be very proper for every gentleman of an to mark out so many acres of it under the f The Pina.

180N.

L.

16. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1711-12.

— *Nugis addere pondus.*

HOR. Ep. xix. l. 1. ver. 42.

— Add weight to trifles.

MR. SPEC,
 NO lately conversed much with the fair-sex subject of your Speculations, (which, since appearance in public, have been the chief e of the female loquacious faculty) I found rones possessed with a dissatisfaction at your ng Greek mottoes to the frontispiece of your pper; and as a man of gallantry, I thought ty incumbent on me to impart it to you, in of a reformation, which is only to be effect-a restoration of the Latin to the usual dig-your papers, which of late, the Greek, to at displeasure of your female readers, has d; for though the Latin has the recommenda-being as unintelligible to them as the Greek, ing written of the same character with other-tongue, by the assistance of a spelling-t is legible; which quality the Greek wants: ce the introduction of operas into this na-be ladies are so charmed with sounds abd from their ideas, that they adore and ho-se sound of Latin, as it is old Italian. I am tor for the fair-sex, and therefore think my-that character more likely to be prevalent request, than if I should subscribe myself proper name.

‘J. M.’

Desire you may insert this in one of your ations, to show my zeal for removing the sfaction of the fair-sex, and restoring you to avour.’

At some time since in company with a young, who entertained us with the conquest he had over a female neighbour of his; when a gen- who stood by, as I suppose, envying the n's good fortune, asked him what reason he believe the lady admired him? “Why,” says my lodgings are opposite to her's, and she ually at her window either at work, reading, -nuff, or putting herself in some toying po-sion purpose to draw my eyes that way.” The sion of this vain soldier made me reflect on

some of my own actions; for you must know, sir, I am often at a window which fronts the apart-ments of several gentlemen, who I doubt not have the same opinion of me. I must own I love to look at them all, one for being well dressed, a second for his fine eye, and one particular one, be-cause he is the least man I ever saw; but there is something so easy and pleasant in the manner of my little man, that I observe he is a favourite of all his acquaintance. I could go on to tell you of many others, that I believe think I have encour-aged them from my window; but pray let me have your opinion of the use of the window, in a beautiful lady; and how often she may look out at the same man, without being supposed to have a mind to jump out to him.

‘Your's,

‘AURELIA CARELEM.’

Twice.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I HAVE for some time made love to a lady, who received it with all the kind returns I ought to expect: but without any provocation that I know of, she has of late shunned me with the utmost abhorrence, insomuch that she went out of church last Sunday in the midst of divine service, upon my coming into the same pew. Pray, sir, what must I do in this business?

‘Your servant,

‘EUPHROS.’

Let her alone ten days.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

York, Jan. 20, 1711-12.

‘WE have in this town a sort of people who pretend to wit, and write lampoons: I have lately been the subject of one of them. The scribbler had not genius enough in verse to turn my age, as indeed I am an old maid, into raillery, for affecting a youthier turn than is consistent with my time of day; and therefore he makes the title of his madrigal, the character of Mrs. Judith Lovebane, born in the year 1680. What I desire of you is, that you disallow that a coxcomb, who pretends to write verse, should put the most malicious thing he can say in prose. This I humbly conceive will disable our country wits, who indeed take a great deal of pains to say any thing in rhyme, though they say it very ill.

‘I am, sir,

‘Your humble servant,

‘SUSANNAH LOVEBANE.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘WE are several of us, gentlemen and ladies, who board in the same house, and after dinner one of our company (an agreeable man enough otherwise) stands up, and reads your paper to us all. We are the civillest people in the world to one another, and therefore I am forced to this way of desiring our reader, when he is doing this office, not to stand afore the fire. This will be a general good to our family this cold weather. He will, I know, take it to be our common request when he comes to these words, “Pray, sir, sit down;” which I desire you to insert, and you will particularly oblige

‘Your daily reader,

‘CHARITY FROST.’

‘SIR,

‘I AM a great lover of dancing, but cannot perform so well as some others; however, by my out-of-the-way capers, and some original grimaces, I do not fail to divert the company, particularly the

ladies, who laugh immoderately all the time. Some, who pretend to be my friends, tell me they do it in derision, and would advise me to leave it off; withal that I make myself ridiculous. I do not know what to do in this affair, but I am resolved not to give over upon any account, till I have the opinion of the Spectator.

‘Your humble servant,
JOHN TROTT.’

If Mr. Trott is not awkward out of time, he has a right to dance, let who will laugh; but if he has no ear he will interrupt others: and I am of opinion he should sit still. Given under my hand this 5th of February, 1711-12.

THE SPECTATOR.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 297. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1711-12.

*velut si
Egregio insperans reprehendas corpore neros.*
HOR. Sat. vi. l. i. ver. 66.

As perfect beauties often have a mole.
CREECH.

AFTER what I have said in my last Saturday's paper, I shall enter on the subject of this without further preface, and remark the several defects which appear in the fable, the characters, the sentiments, and the language of Milton's *Paradise Lost*; not doubting but the reader will pardon me, if I allege at the same time whatever may be said for the extenuation of such defects. The first imperfection which I shall observe in the fable is, that the event of it is unhappy.

The fable of every poem is, according to Aristotle's division, either simple or implex. It is called simple when there is no change of fortune in it; implex, when the fortune of the chief actor changes from bad to good, or from good to bad. The implex fable is thought the most perfect; I suppose, because it is more proper to stir up the passions of the reader, and to surprise him with a greater variety of accidents.

The implex fable is therefore of two kinds; in the first the chief actor makes his way through a long series of dangers and difficulties, until he arrives at honour and prosperity, as we see in the stories of Ulysses and *Æneas*. In the second, the chief actor in the poem falls from some eminent pitch of honour and prosperity, into misery and disgrace. Thus we see Adam and Eve sinking from a state of innocence and happiness, into the most abject condition of sin and sorrow.

The most taking tragedies among the ancients were built on this last sort of implex fable, particularly the tragedy of *Edipus*, which proceeds upon a story, if we may believe Aristotle, the most proper for tragedy that could be invented by the wit of man. I have taken some pains in a former paper to show, that this kind of implex fable, wherein the event is unhappy, is more apt to affect an audience than that of the first kind; notwithstanding many excellent pieces among the ancients, as well as most of those which have been written of late years in our own country, are raised upon contrary plans. I must however own, that I think this kind of fable, which is the most perfect in tragedy, is not so proper for an heroic poem.

Milton seems to have been sensible of this imperfection in his fable, and has therefore endeavoured to cure it by several expedients; particu-

larly by the mortification which the great adversary of mankind meets with upon his return to the assembly of infernal spirits, as it is described in a beautiful passage of the tenth book; and likewise by the vision wherein Adam, at the close of the poem, sees his offspring triumphing over his great enemy, and himself restored to a happier paradise than that from which he fell.

There is another objection against Milton's fable, which is indeed almost the same with the former, though placed in a different light, namely—That the hero in the *Paradise Lost* is unsuccessful, and by no means a match for his enemies. This gave occasion to Mr. Dryden's reflection, that the devil was in reality Milton's hero. I think I have obviated this objection in my first paper. The *Paradise Lost* is an epic, or a narrative poem, and be that looks for an hero in it, searches for that which Milton never intended; but if he will needs fix the name of an hero upon any person in it, it is certainly the Messiah who is the hero, both in the principal action, and in the chief episodes. Paganism could not furnish out a real action for a fable greater than that of the *Iliad* or *Æneid*, and therefore an heathen could not form an higher notion of a poem than one of that kind, which they call an heroic. Whether Milton's is not of a sublimer nature I will not presume to determine: it is sufficient that I show there is in the *Paradise Lost* all the greatness of plan, regularity of design, and masterly beauties which we discover in Homer and Virgil.

I must in the next place observe, that Milton has interwoven in the texture of this fable, some particulars which do not seem to have probability enough for an epic poem, particularly in the actions which he ascribes to Sin and Death, and the picture which he draws of the 'Limbo of Vanity,' with other passages in the second book. Such allegories rather savour of the spirit of Spenser and Ariosto, than of Homer and Virgil.

In the structure of his poem he has likewise admitted too many digressions. It is finely observed by Aristotle, that the author of an heroic poem should seldom speak himself, but throw as much of his work as he can into the mouths of those who are his principal actors. Aristotle has given no reason for this precept: but I presume it is because the mind of the reader is more swayed, and elevated, when he hears *Æneas* or *Achilles* speak, than when Virgil or Homer talk in their own persons. Besides that assuming the character of an eminent man is apt to fire the imagination and raise the ideas of the author. Tully tell us, mentioning his Dialogue of Old Age, in which Cato is the chief speaker, that upon a review of it he was agreeably imposed upon, and fancied that it was Cato, and not he himself, who uttered his thoughts on that subject.

If the reader would be at the pains to see how the story of the *Iliad* and the *Æneid* is delivered by those persons who act in it, he will be surprised to find how little in either of these poems proceeds from the authors. Milton has, in the general disposition of his fable, very finely observed this great rule; inasmuch that there is scarce a tenth part of it which comes from the poet; the rest is spoken either by Adam and Eve, or by some good or evil spirit who is engaged, either in their destruction or defence.

From what has been here observed, it appears, that digressions are by no means to be allowed of, in an epic poem. If the poet, even in the ordinary course of his narration, should speak as little

as possible, he should certainly never let his narration sleep for the sake of any reflections of his own. I have often observed, with a secret admiration, that the longest reflection in the *Æneid*, is in that passage of the tenth book, where Turnus is represented as dressing himself in the spoils of Pallas, whom he had slain. Virgil here lets his fable stand still, for the sake of the following remark. 'How is the mind of man ignorant of futurity, and unable to bear prosperous fortune with moderation! The time will come when Turnus shall wish that he had left the body of Pallas untouched, and curse the day on which he dressed himself in these spoils.' As the great event of the *Æneid*, and the death of Turnus, whom *Æneas* slew because he saw him adorned with the spoils of Pallas, turns upon this incident, Virgil went out of his way to make this reflection upon it, without which so small a circumstance might possibly have slipped out of his reader's memory. Lucan, who was an injudicious poet, lets drop his story very frequently for the sake of his unnecessary digressions, or his *di-verticula*, as Scaliger calls them. If he gives us an account of the prodigies which preceded the civil war, he declaims upon the occasion, and shows how much happier it would be for man, if he did not feel his evil fortune before it comes to pass; and suffer, not only by its real weight, but by the apprehension of it. Milton's complaint for his blindness, his panegyric on marriage, his reflections on Adam and Eve's going naked, of the angels eating, and several other passages in his poem, are liable to the same exception, though I must confess there is so great a beauty in these very digressions, that I would not wish them out of his poem.

I have, in a former paper *, spoken of the characters of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and declared my opinion as to the allegorical persons who are introduced in it.

If we look into the sentiments, I think they are sometimes defective under the following heads; first, as there are several of them too much pointed, and some that degenerate even into puns. Of this last kind I am afraid is that in the first book, where, speaking of the pigmies, he calls them,

* ——— The small *infantry*
Warr'd on by cranes ———

Another blemish that appears in some of his thoughts, is his frequent allusion to heathen fables, which are not certainly of a piece with the divine subject of which he treats. I do not find fault with these allusions, where the poet himself represents them as fabulous, as he does in some places; but where he mentions them as truths and matters of fact. The limits of my paper will not give me leave to be particular in instances of this kind; the reader will easily remark them in his perusal of the poem.

A third fault in his sentiments, is an unnecessary ostentation of learning, which likewise occurs very frequently. It is certain that both Homer and Virgil were masters of all the learning of their times, but it shows itself in their works after an indirect and concealed manner. Milton seems ambitious of letting us know, by his excursions on freewill and predestination, and his many glances upon history, astronomy, geography, and the like, as well as by the terms and phrases he sometimes makes use of, that he was acquainted with the whole circle of arts and sciences.

* No 273.

If in the last place we consider the language of this great poet, we must allow what I have hinted in a former paper, that it is often too much laboured, and sometimes obscured by old words, transpositions, and foreign idioms. Seneca's objection to the style of a great author, '*Riget ejus oratio, nihil in eo placidum, nihil lenes*,' is what many critics make to Milton. As I cannot wholly refute it, so I have already apologized for it in another paper; to which I may further add, that Milton's sentiments and ideas were so wonderfully sublime, that it would have been impossible for him to have represented them in their full strength and beauty, without having recourse to these foreign assistances. Our language sunk under him, and was unequal to that greatness of soul which furnished him with such glorious conceptions.

A second fault in his language is, that he often affects a kind of jingle in his words, as in the following passages and many others:

' And brought into the world a world of woe.
—— Begirt th' almighty throne
Beseeking or besieging ———
This tempted our attempt ———
At one slight bound high overleapt all bound.'

I know there are figures for this kind of speech; that some of the greatest ancients have been guilty of it, and that Aristotle himself has given it a place in his rhetoric among the beauties of that art. But as it is in itself poor and trifling, it is, I think, at present universally exploded by all the masters of polite writing.

The last fault which I shall take notice of in Milton's style, is the frequent use of what the learned call technical words, or terms of art. It is one of the greatest beauties of poetry, to make hard things intelligible, and to deliver what is abstruse of itself in such easy language as may be understood by ordinary readers; besides that the knowledge of a poet should rather seem born with him, or inspired, than draws from books and systems. I have often wondered how Mr. Dryden could translate a passage out of Virgil after the following manner:

' Tack to the larboard and stand off to sea,
Veer starboard sea and land ———'

Milton makes use of larboard in the same manner. When he is upon building, he mentions doric pillars, pilasters, cornice, freeze, architrave. When he talks of heavenly bodies, you meet with 'ecliptic and eccentric, the trepidation, stars dropping from the zenith, rays culminating from the equator;' to which might be added many instances of the like kind in several other arts and sciences.

I shall in my next papers give an account of the many particular beauties in Milton, which would have been too long to insert under those general heads I have already treated of, and with which I intend to conclude this piece of criticism.

ADDISON.

L.

No 298. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1711-12.

Nusquam tuta fides ———
VIRG. *Æn.* iv. ver. 373.

Honour is no where safe.

* MR. SPECTATOR, Lond. Feb. 9, 1711-12.
' I AM a virgin, and in no case despicable; but yet such as I am I must remain, or else become, it is to be feared, less happy; for I find not the least

B Z

good effect from the just correction you some time since gave that too free, that looser part of our sex which spoils the men; the same connivance at the vices, the same easy admittance of addresses, the same vitiated relish of the conversation of the greatest of rakes (or in a more fashionable way of expressing one's self, of such as have seen the world most) still abounds, increases, multiplies.

'The humble petition therefore of many of the most strictly virtuous and of myself is, that you will once more exert your authority, and that according to your late promise, your full, your impartial authority, on this sillier branch of our kind; for why should they be the uncontrollable mistresses of our fate? Why should they with impunity indulge the males in licentiousness while single, and we have the dismal hazard and plague of reforming them when married? Strike home, sir, then, and spare not, or all our maiden hopes, our gilded hopes of nuptial felicity are frustrated, are vanquished, and you yourself, as well as Mr. Courtyly *, will, by smoothing over immodest practices with the gloss of soft and harmless names, for ever forfeit our esteem. Nor think that I am herein more severe than need be: if I have not reason more than enough, do you and the world judge from this ensuing account, which, I think, will prove the evil to be universal.

'You must know, then, that since your reprehension of this female degeneracy came out, I have had a tender of respects from no less than five persons, of tolerable figure too as times go: but the misfortune is, that four of the five are professed followers of the mode. They would face me down, that all women of good sense ever were, and ever will be, latitudinarians in wedlock: and always did and will give and take, what they profanely term conjugal liberty of conscience.

'The two first of them, a captain and a merchant, to strengthen their arguments, pretend to repeat after a couple of ladies of quality and wit, that Venus was always kind to Mars; and what soul that has the least spark of generosity can deny a man of bravery any thing? And how pitiful a trader that, whom no woman but his own wife will have correspondence and dealings with? Thus these; whilst the third, the country squire, confessed, that indeed he was surprised into good-breeding, and entered into the knowledge of the world unawares; that dining the other day at a gentleman's house, the person who entertained was obliged to leave him with his wife and nieces; where they spoke with so much contempt of an absent gentleman for being so slow at a hint, that he resolved never to be drowsy, unmannerly, or stupid for the future, at a friend's house; and on a hunting morning, not to pursue the game either with the husband abroad, or with the wife at home.

'The next that came was a tradesman, no less full of the age than the former; for he had the gallantry to tell me, that at a late junket which he was invited to, the motion being made, and the question being put, it was by maid, wife, and widow resolved, *nemo contradicente*, that a young sprightly journeyman is absolutely necessary in their way of business: to which they had the assent and concurrence of the husbands present. I dropt him a curtsy, and gave him to understand that was his audience of leave.

'I am reckoned pretty, and have had very many advances besides these; but have been very averse to hear any of them, from my observation on these

above-mentioned, till I hoped some good from the character of my present admirer, a clergyman. But I find even among them there are indirect practices in relation to love, and our treaty is at present a little in suspense, until some circumstances are cleared. There is a charge against him among the women, and the case is this: It is alleged, that a certain endowed female would have appropriated herself to, and consolidated herself with a church which my divine now enjoys (or, which is the same thing, did prostitute herself to her friend's doing this for her): that my ecclesiastic, to obtain the one, did engage himself to take off the other that lay on hand; but that on his success in the spiritual, he again renounced the carnal.

'I put this closely to him, and taxed him with disingenuity. He to clear himself made the subsequent defence, and that in the most solemn manner possible:—that he was applied to, and instigated to accept of a benefice:—that a conditional offer thereof was indeed made him at first, but with disdain by him rejected:—that when nothing (as they easily perceived) of this nature could bring him to their purpose, assurance of his being entirely unengaged before-hand, and safe from all their after-expectations (the only stratagem left to draw him in) was given him;—that pursuant to this the donation itself was without delay, before several reputable witnesses, tendered to him gratis, with the open profession of not the least reserve, or most minute condition; but that yet immediately after induction, his insidious introducer (or her crafty procurer, which you will) industriously spread the report which had reached my ears, not only in the neighbourhood of that said church, but in London, in the university, in mine and his own country, and wherever else it might probably obviate his application to any other woman, and so confine him to this alone: and, in a word—that as he never did make any previous offer of his service, or the least step to her affection; so on his discovery of these designs thus laid to trick him, he could not but afterwards, in justice to himself, vindicate both his innocence and freedom, by keeping his proper distance.

'This is his apology, and I think I shall be satisfied with it. But I cannot conclude my tedious epistle without recommending to you not only to resume your former chastisement, but to add to your criminals the simoniacal ladies, who seduce the sacred order into the difficulty of either breaking a mercenary troth made to them, whom they ought not to deceive, or by breaking or keeping it offending against him whom they cannot deceive. Your assistance and labours of this sort would be of great benefit, and your speedy thoughts on the subject would be very seasonable to,

SIR,

'YOUR most obedient servant,
'CHASTITY LOVEWORTH.'

STEELE.

T.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1711-12.

*Veneramus, quam te, Cornelia, mater
horum, et cum magnis virtutibus affers
te supercilium, et muneris in dote triumphos.
um procor Annibalem, victumque Syphacem
tris; et cum tota Carthagine migra.*

JUV. Sat. vi. ver. 166.

country-girl, scarce to a curtsy bred,
I much rather than Cornelia wed;
scilious, haughty, proud, and vain,
ought her father's triumphs in her train.
with all your Carthaginian state;
squish'd Hannibal without doors wait,
rily and too big to pass my narrow gate. }

DRYDEN.

erved, that a man improves more by read-
tory of a person eminent for prudence
y, than by the finest rules and precepts
y. In the same manner a representation
alamities and misfortunes which a weak
s from wrong measures, and ill-concerted
flife, is apt to make a deeper impression
minds, than the wisest maxims and in-
that can be given us, for avoiding the
s and indiscretions in our own private
It is for this reason that I lay before my
following letter, and leave it with him
is own use of it, without adding any re-
f my own upon the subject matter.

PECTATOR,
carefully perused a letter sent you by
bble, Esq. with your subsequent discourse
money *, I do presume to trouble you
ccount of my own case, which I look
e no less deplorable than that of Squire
I am a person of no extraction, having
world with a small parcel of rusty iron,
or some years commonly known by the
lack Anvil †. I have naturally a very
ius for getting money, insomuch that by
five and twenty, I had scraped together
and two hundred pounds five shillings
odd pence. I then launched out into
le business, and became a bold trader
a and land, which in a few years raised
a considerable fortune. For these my
ces I was knighted in the thirty-fifth
age, and lived with great dignity among
ighbours by the name of Sir John Anvil.
my temper very ambitious, I was now
making a family, and accordingly re-
t my descendants should have a dash of
l in their veins. In order to this, I made
Lady Mary Oddly, an indigent young
quality. To cut short the marriage-
threw her a *charte blanche*, as our news-
ll it, desiring her to write upon it her
y. She was very concise in her demands,
ly that the disposal of my fortune, and
ion of my family, should be entirely in
Her father and brothers appeared ex-
averse to this match, and would not see
me time; but at present are so well re-
hat they dine with me almost every day,
borrowed considerable sums of me;

een said, that this letter had reference to a Sir
owley and his lady. Sir Ambrose changed his
Crowley to Crawley: a folly which seems to be
re, by the change of Anvil into Enville, absurdly
lady.

which my Lady Mary very often twits me with,
when she would show me how kind her relations
are to me. She had no portion as I told you be-
fore; but what she wanted in fortune she makes
up in spirit. She at first changed my name to Sir
John Enville, and at present writes herself Mary
Enville. I have had some children by her, whom
she has christened with the surnames of her family,
in order, as she tells me, to wear out the homeliness
of their parentage by the father's side. Our eldest
son is the Honourable Oddly Enville, esq. and our
eldest daughter Harriot Enville. Upon her first
coming into my family, she turned off a parcel of
very careful servants, who had been long with me,
and introduced in their stead a couple of black-a-
moors, and three or four very genteel fellows in
laced liveries, besides her French woman, who is
perpetually making a noise in the house, in a lan-
guage which nobody understands, except my Lady
Mary. She next set herself to reform every room
of my house, having glazed all my chimney-pieces
with looking-glases, and planted every corner with
such heaps of china, that I am obliged to move
about my own house with the greatest caution and
circumspection, for fear of hurting some of our
brittle furniture. She makes an illumination once
a week with wax candles in one of the largest
rooms, in order, as she phrases it, to see company;
at which time she always desires me to be abroad,
or to confine myself to the cock-loft, that I may
not disgrace her among her visitants of quality.
Her footmen, as I told you before, are such beaux,
that I do not much care for asking them questions;
when I do, they answer me with a saucy frown,
and say that every thing, which I find fault with,
was done by my Lady Mary's order. She tells me,
that she intends they shall wear swords with their
next liveries, having lately observed the footmen
of two or three persons of quality hanging behind
the coach with swords by their sides. As soon as
the first honeymoon was over, I represented to her
the unreasonableness of those daily innovations
which she made in my family; but she told me, I
was no longer to consider myself as Sir John
Anvil, but as her husband; and added with a
frown, that I did not seem to know who she was.
I was surprised to be treated thus, after such fami-
liarities as had passed between us. But she has
since given me to know, that whatever freedoms
she may sometimes indulge me in, she expects in
general to be treated with the respect that is due
to her birth and quality. Our children have been
trained up from their infancy with so many ac-
counts of their mother's family, that they know the
stories of all the great men and women it has pro-
duced. Their mother tells them, that such an one
commanded in such a sea-engagement, that their
great-grand-father had a horse shot under him at
Edge-hill, that their uncle was at the siege of
Bada, and that her mother danced in a ball at
court with the Duke of Monmouth; with abun-
dant of fiddle-faddle of the same nature. I was
the other day a little out of countenance at a
question of my little daughter Harriot, who asked
me with a great deal of innocence, why I never
told them of the generals and admirals that had
been in my family? As for my eldest son Oddly,
he has been so spirited up by his mother, that if he
does not mend his manners I shall go near to dis-
inherit him. He drew his sword upon me before
he was nine years old, and told me that he ex-
pected to be used like a gentleman: upon my
offering to correct him for his insolence, my Lady
Mary stepped in between us, and told me that I

ought to consider there was some difference between his mother and mine. She is perpetually finding out the features of her own relations in every one of my children, though, by the way, I have a little chub-faced boy as like me as he can stare, if I durst say so: but what most angers me, when she sees me playing with any of them upon my knee, she has begged me more than once to converse with the children as little as possible, that they may not learn any of my awkward tricks.

'You must further know, since I am opening my heart to you, that she thinks herself my superior in sense, as much as she is in quality, and therefore treats me like a plain well-meaning man, who does not know the world. She dictates to me in my own business, sets me right in points of trade, and if I disagree with her about any of my ships at sea, wonders that I will dispute with her, when I know very well that her great-grandfather was a flag officer.

'To complete my sufferings she has teased me for this quarter of a year last past, to remove into one of the squares at the other end of the town, promising for my encouragement, that I shall have as good a cock-loft as any gentleman in the square; to which the Honourable Oddly Enville, esq. always adds, like a jack-a-napes as he is, that he hopes it will be as near the court as possible.

'In short, Mr. Spectator, I am so much out of my natural element, that to recover my old way of life I would be content to begin the world again, and be plain Jack Anvil: but alas! I am in for life, and am bound to subscribe myself, with great sorrow of heart,

'Your humble servant,

'JOHN ENVILLE, KNT.'

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 300. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1711-12.

— *Diversum vitio vitium prope majus.*
HOR. Ep. xviii. l. 1. ver. 5.

— Another failing of the mind,
Greater than this, of a quite different kind.
POOLEY.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'WHEN you talk of the subject of love, and the relations arising from it, methinks you should take care to leave no fault unobserved which concerns the state of marriage. The great vexation that I have observed in it, is, that the wedded couple seem to want opportunities of being often enough alone together, and are forced to quarrel and be fond before company. Mr. Hotspur and his lady, in a room full of their friends, are ever saying something so smart to each other, and that but just within rules, that the whole company stand in the utmost anxiety and suspense, for fear of their falling into extremities which they could not be present at. On the other side, Tom Fiddle and his pretty spouse, wherever they come, are billing at such a rate, as they think must do our hearts good to behold them. Cannot you possibly propose a mean between being wasps and doves in public? I should think if you advised to hate or love sincerely, it would be better: for if they would be so discreet as to hate from the very bottom of their hearts, their aversion would be too strong for little gibes every moment: and if they loved with that calm and noble value which dwells in the heart, with a warmth like that of life-blood, they would not be so impatient of their passions as to fall into observable fondness. This method, in each case,

would save appearances; but as those who offend on the fond side are by much the fewer, I would have you begin with them, and go on to take notice of a most impertinent licence married women take, not only to be very loving to their spouses in public, but also make numerous allusions to private familiarities, and the like. Lucina is a lady of the greatest discretion, you must know, in the world; and withal very much a physician. Upon the strength of these two qualities, there is nothing she will not speak of before us virgins; and she every day talks with a very grave air in such a manner, as is very improper so much as to be hinted at but to obviate the greatest extremity. Those whom they call good bodies, notable people, hearty neighbours, and the purest goodest company in the world, are the great offenders in this kind. Here I think I have laid before you an open field for pleasure; and hope you will show these people that at least they are not witty: in which you will save from many a blush a daily sufferer, who is very much

'Your most humble servant,

'SUSANNAH LOVEWORTH.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'IN yours of Wednesday the 30th past, you and your correspondents are very severe on a sort of men, whom you call male coquettes; but without any other reason, in my apprehension, than that of paying a shallow compliment to the fair sex, by accusing some men of imaginary faults, that the women may not seem to be the more faulty sex; though at the same time you suppose there are some so weak as to be imposed upon by fine things and false addresses. I cannot persuade myself that your design is to debar the sexes the benefit of each other's conversation within the rules of honour; nor will you, I dare say, recommend to them, or encourage the common tea-table talk, much less that of politics and matters of state: and if there are forbidden subjects of discourse, then as long as there are any women in the world who take pleasure in hearing themselves praised, and can bear the sight of a man prostrate at their feet, as long I shall make no wonder that there are those of the other sex who will pay them those impudent humiliations. We should have few people such fools as to practise flattery, if all were so wise as to despise it. I do not deny but you would do a meritorious act, if you could prevent all impositions on the simplicity of young women; but I must confess, I do not apprehend you have laid the fault on the proper persons; and if I trouble yet with my thoughts upon it, I promise myself your pardon. Such of the sex as are raw and innocent and most exposed to these attacks, have, or their parents are much to blame if they have not, not to advise and guard them, and are obliged themselves to take care of them; but if these who ought to hinder men from all opportunities of this sort of conversation, instead of that encourage and promote it, the suspicion is very just that there are some private reasons for it; and I will leave it to you to determine on which side a part is there acted. Some women there are who are arrived at years of discretion, I mean are got out of the hands of their parents and governors, and are set up for themselves, who are yet liable to these attempts; but if these are prevailed upon, you must excuse me if I lay the fault upon them, that their wisdom is not grown with their years. My client, Mr. Strephon, whom you summoned to declare him

gives you thanks however for your warning, begs the favour only to enlarge his time for a day, or to the last day of the term, and then he appear gratis, and pray no day over.

Yours,

'PHILANTHROPOS.'

MR. SPECTATOR,

For last night to visit a lady whom I much love, and always took for my friend; but met so very different a reception from what I expected, that I cannot help applying myself to you in this occasion. In the room of that civility and familiarity I used to be treated with by her, an affected strangeness in her looks, and coldness in her behaviour, plainly told me I was not the welcome guest which the regard and tenderness she often expressed for me gave me reason to expect myself to think I was. Sir, this is certainly my fault, and I assure you a very common one; for I hope you will think it a fit subject for part of a Spectator. Be pleased to acquaint me how we must behave ourselves towards this ordinary friendship, subject to so many heats and colds, and you will oblige,

SIR,

'Your humble servant,

'MIRANDA.'

MR,

ANNOT forbear acknowledging the delight your Spectators on Saturdays have given me; for they are writ in the honest spirit of criticism, and I find to my mind the following four lines I had long since in a prologue to a play called *the Cæsar**, which has deserved a better fate. Verses are addressed to the little critics:

Show your small talent, and let that suffice ye;
It grows not vain upon it, I advise ye.
Or every fop can find out faults in plays:
You'll ne'er arrive at knowing when to praise."

'Yours,

'D. G.'

T.

RELE.

A tragedy by William Alexander, earl of Stirling, &c. and much the most regular dramatic piece of this noble earl. "His style (says the author of the *Biographia literaria*) is sententious, but neither pure nor correct; rich, however, his lordship pleads his country."

DI. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1711-12.

Possint ut juvenes visere fervidi

Multo non sine risu

Dilapsam in cineres facem.

HOR. *Od. xiii. l. 4. ver. 26.*

That all may laugh to see that glaring light,
Which lately shone so fierce and bright,
End in a stink at last, and vanish into night.

ANON.

are generally so much pleased with any little accomplishments, either of body or mind, which once made us remarkable in the world, that we endeavour to persuade ourselves it is not in the power of time to rob us of them. We are eternally using the same methods which first procured us applause of mankind. It is from this notion that an author writes on, though he is come to age; without ever considering that his memory is impaired, and that he hath lost that life, and those spirits, which formerly raised his fancy, and his imagination. The same folly hinders a

man from submitting his behaviour to his age, and makes Clodius, who was a celebrated dancer at five-and-twenty, still love to hobble in a minuet, though he is past threescore. It is this, in a word, which fills the town with elderly fops and superannuated coquettes.

Canidia, a lady of this latter species, passed by me yesterday in her coach. Canidia was an haughty beauty of the last age, and was followed by crowds of adorers, whose passions only pleased her, as they gave her opportunities of playing the tyrant. She then contracted that awful cast of the eye and forbidding frown, which she has not yet laid aside, and has still all the insolence of beauty, without its charms. If she now attracts the eyes of any beholders, it is only by being remarkably ridiculous; even her own sex laugh at her affectation; and the men, who always enjoy an ill-natured pleasure in seeing an imperious beauty humbled and neglected, regard her with the same satisfaction that a free nation sees a tyrant in disgrace.

Will Honeycomb, who is a great admirer of the gallantries in King Charles the Second's reign, lately communicated to me a letter written by a wit of that age to his mistress, who it seems was a lady of Canidia's humour; and though I do not always approve of my friend Will's taste, I liked this letter so well, that I took a copy of it, with which I shall here present my reader:

TO CHLOE.

'MADAM,

'SINCE my waking thoughts have never been able to influence you in my favour, I am resolved to try whether my dreams can make any impression on you. To this end I shall give you an account of a very odd one which my fancy presented to me last night, within a few hours after I left you.

'Methought I was unaccountably conveyed into the most delicious place mine eyes ever beheld: it was a large valley divided by a river of the purest water I had ever seen. The ground on each side of it rose by an easy ascent, and was covered with flowers of an infinite variety, which, as they were reflected in the water, doubled the beauties of the place, or rather formed an imaginary scene more beautiful than the real. On each side of the river was a range of lofty trees, whose boughs were loaded with almost as many birds as leaves. Every tree was full of harmony.

'I had not gone far in this pleasant valley, when I perceived that it was terminated by a most magnificent temple. The structure was ancient and regular. On the top of it was figured the god Saturn, in the same shape and dress that the poets usually represent Time.

'As I was advancing to satisfy my curiosity by a nearer view, I was stopped by an object far more beautiful than any I had before discovered in the whole place. I fancy, madam, you will easily guess that this could hardly be any thing but yourself: in reality it was so; you lay extended on the flowers by the side of the river, so that your hands, which were thrown in a negligent posture, almost touched the water. Your eyes were closed; but if your sleep deprived me of the satisfaction of seeing them, it left me at leisure to contemplate several other charms, which disappear when your eyes are open. I could not but admire the tranquillity you slept in, especially when I considered the uneasiness you produce in so many others.

'While I was wholly taken up in these reflections, the doors of the temple flew open, with a very great noise; and lifting up my eyes, I saw

two figures, in human shape, coming into the valley. Upon a nearer survey, I found them to be Youth and Love. The first was encircled with a kind of purple light, that spread a glory over all the place; the other held a flaming torch in his hand. I could observe, that all the way as they came towards us, the colours of the flowers appeared more lively, the trees shot out in blossoms, the birds threw themselves into pairs, and serenaded them as they passed: the whole face of nature glowed with new beauties. They were no sooner arrived at the place where you lay, than they seated themselves on each side of you. On their approach methought I saw a new bloom arise in your face, and new charms diffuse themselves over your whole person. You appeared more than mortal; but to my great surprise, continued fast asleep, though the two deities made several gentle efforts to awaken you.

After a short time, Youth (displaying a pair of wings, which I had not before taken notice of) flew off. Love still remained, and holding the torch which he had in his hand before your face, you still appeared as beautiful as ever. The glaring of the light in your eyes at length awakened you; when, to my great surprise, instead of acknowledging the favour of the deity, you frowned upon him, and struck the torch out of his hand into the river. The god, after having regarded you with a look that spoke at once his pity and displeasure, flew away. Immediately a kind of gloom overspread the whole place. At the same time I saw a hideous spectre enter at one end of the valley. His eyes were sunk into his head, his face was pale and withered, and his skin puckered up in wrinkles. As he walked on the sides of the bank the river froze, the flowers faded, the trees shed their blossoms, the birds dropped from off the boughs, and fell dead at his feet. By these marks I knew him to be Old-Age. You were seized with the utmost horror and amazement at his approach. You endeavoured to have fled, but the phantom caught you in his arms. You may easily guess at the change you suffered in this embrace. For my own part, though I am still too full of the dreadful idea, I will not shock you with a description of it. I was so startled at the sight, that my sleep immediately left me, and I found myself awake, at leisure to consider of a dream which seems too extraordinary to be without a meaning. I am, Madam, with the greatest passion,

Your most obedient,

'most humble servant, &c.'

BUDGEKILL.

X.

Nº 302. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1711-12.

*Lachrymae decore,
Gratior et pulchro veniens in corpore virtus.*
VIRG. Æn. v. ver. 343.

Becoming sorrows, and a virtuous mind
More lovely, in a beauteous form enshrin'd.

I READ what I give for the entertainment of this day with a great deal of pleasure, and publish it just as it came to my hands. I shall be very glad to find there are many guessed at for Emilia *.

* This paper has been attributed by Mr. Duncomb to Mr. John Hughes; but the real writer was Dr. Brum, the clergyman of the parish in which the lady lived who is celebrated here under the name of Emilia. She was (we are told) the mother of Mrs. Ascham, of Conington in Cambridgeshire and grandmother of Lady Hutton.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'If this paper has the good fortune to be honoured with a place in your writings, I shall be the more pleased, because the character of Emilia is not an imaginary but a real one. I have industriously obscured the whole by the addition of one or two circumstances of no consequence, that the person it is drawn from might still be concealed; and that the writer of it might not be in the least suspected, and for some other reasons, I choose not to give it in the form of a letter: but if, besides the faults of the composition, there be any thing in it more proper for a correspondent than the Spectator himself to write, I submit it to your better judgment, to receive any other model you think fit.

'I am, sir,

'Your very humble servant.'

THERE is nothing which gives one so pleasing a prospect of human nature, as the contemplation of wisdom and beauty: the latter is the peculiar portion of that sex which is therefore called fair; but the happy concurrence of both these excellencies in the same person, is a character too celestial to be frequently met with. Beauty is an overbearing self-sufficient thing, careless of providing itself any more substantial ornaments; nay so little does it consult its own interests, that it too often defeats itself, by betraying that innocence which renders it lovely and desirable. As therefore virtue makes a beautiful woman appear more beautiful, so beauty makes a virtuous woman really more virtuous. Whilst I am considering these two perfections gloriously united in one person, I cannot help representing to my mind the image of Emilia.

Who ever beheld the charming Emilia, without feeling in her breast at once the glow of love, and the tenderness of virtuous friendship? The undidied graces of her behaviour, and the pleasing accents of her tongue, insensibly draw you on to wish for a nearer enjoyment of them; but even her smiles carry in them a silent reproof to the impulses of licentious love. Thus, though the attractives of her beauty play almost irresistibly upon you, and create desire, you immediately stand corrected, not by the severity, but the decency of her virtues. That sweetness and good-humour, which is so visible in her face, naturally diffuses itself into every word and action: a man must be a savage, who, at the sight of Emilia, is not more inclined to do her good, than gratify himself. Her person as it is thus studiously embellished by nature, thus adorned with unpremeditated grace, is a fit lodging for a mind so fair and lovely; there dwell rational piety, modest hope, and cheerful resignation.

Many of the prevailing passions of mankind do undeservedly pass under the name of religion; which is thus made to express itself in action, according to the nature of the constitution in which it resides: so that were we to make a judgment from appearances, one would imagine religion in some is little better than sullenness and reserve, in many fear, in others the despondings of a melancholy complexion, in others the formality of insignificant unaffected observances, in others severity, in others ostentation. In Emilia it is a principle founded in reason and enlivened with hope; it does not break forth into irregular fits and sallies of devotion, but is an uniform and consistent tenour of action: it is strict without severity; compassionate without weakness; it is the perfection of that good-humour which proceeds from the understanding, not the effect of an easy constitution.

a generous sympathy in nature, we feel ourselves disposed to mourn when any of our fellow-creatures are afflicted; but injured innocence and distress, is an object that carries in it something inexpressibly moving: it softens the hardest heart with the tenderest sensations of compassion, till at length it confesses its guilt, and flows out into tears.

I relate that part of Emilia's life which gives her an opportunity of exerting the benefits of Christianity, it would make too sad, too long a story: but when I consider her alone in the midst of her distresses, looking beyond this vale of affliction and sorrow, into the joys of heaven and immortality, and when I see her in a situation thoughtless and easy, as if she were the happiest creature in the world, I am transported with admiration. Surely never did such a spiritous soul inhabit such a beautiful form! Beauty is often made a privilege against thought and reflection; it laughs at wisdom, and it abides the gravity of its instructions.

I am able to represent Emilia's virtues in their true colours, and their due proportions, love or friendship might perhaps be thought to have drawn a picture larger than life; but as this is but an exact draught of so excellent a character, and I cannot, will not, hope to have any interest in my son, all that I can say of her is but impartially extorted from me by the prevailing excess of her virtues. So rare a pattern of excellence ought not to be concealed, but be set out to the view and imitation of the world: for how amiable does virtue appear thus, when made visible to us, in so fair an ex-

pression's disposition is of a very different turn: her thoughts are wholly bent upon conquest and glory and power. That she has some wit and beauty she denies, and therefore has the esteem of all in proportion to her want of them: she has no maintenance as a woman of an agreeable conversation; but (whatever her husband thinks of it) that is not sufficient for Honoria: she has that title to respect as a mean acquisition: she demands veneration in the right of another reason: this reason her natural desire of life is always checked with an inconsistent fear of death and old age.

Emilia cannot be supposed ignorant of her perfections, though she seems to be so; but she holds her happiness upon so precarious a foundation, whilst her mind is adorned with beauties of an exalted and lasting nature. When in the bloom of youth and beauty we saw her surrounded with a crowd of adorers, she took no pleasure in slaughter and destruction, gave no false hopes which might increase the torments of disappointed lovers; but having for some time been in the decency of a virgin coyness, she mined the merit of their several pretensions, at length gratified her own, by resigning her to the ardent passion of Bromius. Bromius, a master of many good qualities and a great fortune, which was soon after unexpectedly increased to a plentiful estate. This for a while proved his misfortune, as it furnished him with the opportunities of dissipation, and a sensual life. He might have wandered in the labyrinths of vice and had not Emilia's prudent conduct won him to the government of his reason. Her ingenuity has been constantly employed in humanizing his passions and refining his pleasures. She has shown him by her own example, that virtue is

consistent with decent freedoms, and good-humour, or rather that it cannot subsist without them. Her good sense readily instructed her, that a silent example, and an easy unrepining behaviour, will always be more persuasive than the severity of lectures and admonitions; and that there is so much pride interwoven into the make of human nature, that an obstinate man must only take the hint from another, and then be left to advise and correct himself. Thus by an artful train of management, and unseen persuasions, having at first brought him not to dislike, and at length to be pleased with that which otherwise he would not have bore to hear of, she then knew how to press and secure this advantage, by approving it as his thought, and seconding it as his proposal. By this means she has gained an interest in some of his leading passions, and made them accessory to his reformation.

There is another particular of Emilia's conduct which I cannot forbear mentioning: to some, perhaps, it may at first sight appear but a trifling inconsiderable circumstance; but for my part, I think it highly worthy of observation, and to be recommended to the consideration of the fair sex. I have often thought wrapping-gowns and dirty linen, with all that huddled economy of dress which passes under the general name of 'a mob,' the bane of conjugal love, and one of the readiest means imaginable to alienate the affection of an husband, especially a fond one. I have heard some ladies, who have been surprised by company in such a deshabille, apologize for it after this manner: 'Truly, I am ashamed to be caught in this pickle: but my husband and I were sitting all alone by ourselves, and I did not expect to see such good company.'—This, by the way, is a fine compliment to the good man, which it is ten to one but he returns in dogged answers and a churlish behaviour, without knowing what it is that puts him out of humour.

Emilia's observation teaches her, that as little inadvertencies and neglects cast a blemish upon a great character; so the neglect of apparel, even among the most intimate friends, does insensibly lessen their regards to each other, by creating a familiarity too low and contemptible. She understands the importance of those things which the generality account trifles; and considers every thing as a matter of consequence, that has the least tendency towards keeping up or abating the affection of her husband; him she esteems as a fit object to employ her ingenuity in pleasing, because he is to be pleased for life.

By the help of these, and a thousand other nameless arts, which it is easier for her to practise than for another to express, by the obstinacy of her goodness and unprovoked submission, in spite of all her afflictions and ill usage, Bromius becomes a man of sense and a kind husband, and Emilia a happy wife.

Ye guardian angels, to whose care heaven has intrusted its dear Emilia, guide her still forward in the paths of virtue, defend her from the insolence and wrongs of this undiscerning world; at length, when we must no more converse with such purity on earth, lead her gently hence innocent and unrepining to a better place, where, by an easy transition from what she now is, she may shine forth an angel of light.

STEELE.

T^o.

* See, on this signature, the note in p. 4.

Nº 303. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1711-12.

— *volet hæc sub luce videri,
Judicis argutum quæ non formidat acumen.*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 363.

— Some choose the clearest light,
And boldly challenge the most piercing eye.
ROMCOMMON.

I HAVE seen, in the works of a modern philosopher, a map of the spots in the sun. My last paper of the faults and blemishes in Milton's *Paradise Lost* may be considered as a piece of the same nature. To pursue the allusion: as it is observed; that among the bright parts of the luminous body above-mentioned, there are some which glow more intensely, and dart a stronger light than others; so notwithstanding I have already shown Milton's poem to be very beautiful in general, I shall now proceed to take notice of such beauties as appear to me more exquisite than the rest. Milton has proposed the subject of his poem in the following verses:

'Of man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world and all our woe,
With loss of Eden, till one greater man
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat,
Sing heav'nly muse!—'

These lines, are, perhaps, as plain, simple, and unadorned, as any of the whole poem, in which particular the author has conformed himself to the example of Homer, and the precept of Horace.

His invocation to a work, which turns in a great measure upon the creation of the world, is very properly made to the Muse who inspired Moses in those books from whence our author drew his subject, and to the Holy Spirit who is therein represented as operating after a particular manner in the first production of nature. This whole exordium rises very happily into noble language and sentiment, as I think the transition to the fable is exquisitely beautiful and natural.

The nine days' astonishment, in which the angels lay entranced after their dreadful overthrow and fall from heaven, before they could recover either the use of thought or speech, is a noble circumstance, and very finely imagined. The division of hell into seas of fire, and into firm ground impregnated with the same furious element, with that particular circumstance of the exclusion of hope from those infernal regions, are instances of the same great and fruitful invention.

The thoughts in the first speech and description of Satan, who is one of the principal actors in this poem, are wonderfully proper to give us a full idea of him. His pride, envy and revenge, obstinacy, despair and impotence, are all of them very artfully interwoven. In short, his first speech is a complication of all those passions which discover themselves separately in several other of his speeches in the poem. The whole part of this great enemy of mankind is filled with such incidents as are very apt to raise and terrify the reader's imagination. Of this nature, in the book now before us, is his being the first that awakens out of the general trance, with his posture on the burning lake, his rising from it, and the description of his shield and spear:

'Thus Satan talking to his nearest mate,
With head uplift above the wave, and eyes

That sparkling blaz'd, his other parts beside
Prone on the flood, extended long and large,
Lay floating many a rood—
Forthwith upright he rears from off the pool
His mighty stature; on each hand the flames
Driv'n backward slope their pointing spires, and roll'd
In billows, leave i' th' midst a horrid vale.
Then with expanded wings he steers his flight
Aloft, incumbent on the dusky air
That felt unusual weight—

His pond'rous shield
Ethereal temper, massy, large, and round,
Behind him cast; the broad circumference
Hung on his shoulders like the moon, whose orb
Thro' optic glass the Tuscan artists view
At ev'ning, from the top of Fesole,
Or in Valdarno, to decry new lands,
Rivers, or mountains, on her spotted globe.
His spear (to equal which the tallest pine
Hewn on Norwegian hills to be the mast
Of some great admiral, were but a wand)
He walk'd with, to support uneasy steps
Over the burning marl—'

To which we may add his call to the fallen angels that lay plunged and stupified in the sea of fire:

'He call'd so loud, that all the hollow deep
Of hell resounded.'

But there is no single passage in the whole poem worked up to a greater sublimity, than that where in his person is described in those celebrated lines:

'— He, above the rest
In shape and gesture proudly eminent,
Stood like a tower, &c.'

His sentiments are every way answerable to his character, and suitable to a created being of the most exalted and most depraved nature. Such is that in which he takes possession of his place of torments:

'— Hail horrors! hail
Infernal world! and thou profoundest hell
Receive thy new possessor, one who brings
A mind not to be chang'd by place or time.'

And afterwards:

'— Here at least
We shall be free! th' Almighty hath not built
Here for his envy; will not drive us hence:
Here we may reign secure; and in my choice
To reign is worth ambition, tho' in hell:
Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven.'

Amidst those impleties which this enraged spirit utters in other places of the poem, the author has taken care to introduce none that is not big with absurdity, and incapable of shocking a religious reader; his words, as the poet himself describes them, bearing only a 'semblance of worth, not substance.' He is likewise with great art described as owning his adversary to be Almighty. Whatever perverse interpretation he puts on the justice, mercy, and other attributes of the Supreme Being, he frequently confutes his omnipotence, that being the perfection he was forced to allow him, and the only consideration which could support his pride under the shame of his defeat.

Nor must I here omit that beautiful circumstance of his bursting out in tears, upon his survey of those innumerable spirits whom he had involved in the same guilt and ruin with himself:

'— He now prepar'd
To speak; whereat their doubled ranks they bend
From wing to wing, and half inclose him round
With all his peers: Attention beld them mute.
Thrice he assay'd, and thrice, in spite of scorn,
Tears, such as angels weep, burst forth —'

The catalogue of evil spirits has abundance of learning in it, and a very agreeable turn of poetry;

riches in a great measure from its describing scenes where they were worshipped, by those faithful marks of rivers so frequent among the poets. The author had doubtless in this Homer's catalogue of ships, and Virgil's list of rivers, in his view. The characters of Moloch and Belial prepare the reader's mind for their idle speeches and behaviour in the second book. The account of Thammuz is finely descriptive, and suitable to what we read among the nations of the worship which was paid to that

— Thammuz came next behind,
 His annual wound in Lebanon allur'd
 Syrian damsels to lament his fate,
 A pious dittie all a summer's day;
 His smooth Adonis from his native rock
 Purple to the sea, suppos'd with blood
 Thammuz yearly wounded: the love-lorn
 Queen Sion's daughters with like heat,
 Wear wanton passions in the sacred porch;
 Her I saw; when, by the vision led,
 To eye survey'd the dark idolatries
 Obscenated Judah —

The reader will pardon me if I insert as a note a beautiful passage, the account given us by the ingenious Mr. Maundrell of this ancient worship, and probably the first occasion of a superstition. 'We came to a fair large lowland the ancient river Adonis, so far from the idolatrous rites performed here in honour of Adonis. We had the fortune to see the day be supposed to be the occasion of that which Lucian relates concerning this river, at this stream, at certain seasons of the year, especially about the feast of Adonis, is of a bloody colour which the heathens looked upon as proof from a kind of sympathy in the river for the death of Adonis, who was killed by a wild boar on the mountains, out of which this stream issues something like this we saw actually come from the water was stained to a surprising colour; and, as we observed in travelling, had shed red the sea a great way into a reddish hue, and doubtless by a sort of minium, or red washed into the river by the violence of the flood not by any stain from Adonis's blood.' This passage in the catalogue, explaining the manner how spirits transform themselves by contraction or enlargement of their dimensions, is filled with great judgment, to make way for surprising accidents in the sequel of the poem. There follows one at the very end of the book, which is what the French critics call *le tour*, but at the same time probable by reason of the passage last mentioned. As soon as the banquet palace is finished, we are told the multitude of spirits immediately shrunk into a small compass, that there might be room for such a numberless assembly in this hall. But it is the poet's refinement upon the thought which I most admire, and which is in my opinion noble in itself. For he tells us, that standing the vulgar among the fallen spirits shed their forms, those of the first rank and still preserved their natural dimensions:

As incorporeal spirits to smallest forms
 Could their shapes immense, and were at large,
 Though without number, still amidst the hall
 Of infernal court. But far within,
 In their own dimensions like themselves,
 Great seraphic lords and cherubim
 In recess and secret concave sat,
 Around demi-gods on golden seats,
 Sent and full —

The character of Mammon, and the description of the Pandæmonium, are full of beauties.

There are several other strokes in the first book wonderfully poetical, and instances of that sublime genius so peculiar to the author. Such is the description of Azazel's stature, and the infernal standard which he unfurls; as also of that ghastly light by which the fiends appear to one another in their place of torments:

'The seat of desolation, void of light,
 Save what the glimm'ring of those livid flames
 Casts pale and dreadful —'

The shout of the whole host of fallen angels when drawn up in battle array:

' — The universal host up sent
 A shout that tore hell's concave, and beyond
 Frighted the reign of Chaos and old Night.'

The review which the leader makes of his infernal army:

' — He thro' the armed files
 Darts his experienc'd eye, and soon traverse
 The whole battalion views, their order due,
 Their visages and stature as of gods,
 Their number last he sums; and now his heart
 Distends with pride, and hard'ning in his strength
 Glories —'

The flash of light which appeared upon the drawing of their swords:

'He spake; and to confirm his words out flew
 Millions of flaming swords, drawn from the thighs
 Of mighty cherubim; the sudden blaze
 Far round illumin'd hell —'

The sudden production of the Pandæmonium

'Adon out of the earth a fabric huge
 Rose like an exhalation, with the sound
 Of dulcet symphonies and voices sweet.'

The artificial illuminations made in it:

' — From the arch'd roof
 Pendent by subtle magic, many a row
 Of starry lamps and blazing cressets, fed
 With naphtha and asphaltus, yielded light
 As from a sky —'

There are also several noble similes and allusions in the first book of *Paradise Lost*. And here I must observe, that when Milton alludes either to things or persons, he never quits his simile till it rises to some very great idea, which is often foreign to the occasion that gave birth to it. The resemblance does not, perhaps, last above a line or two, but the poet runs on with the hint till he has raised out of it some glorious image or sentiment, proper to inflame the mind of the reader, and to give it that sublime kind of entertainment, which is suitable to the nature of an heroic poem. Those who are acquainted with Homer's and Virgil's way of writing, cannot but be pleased with this kind of structure in Milton's similitudes. I am the more particular on this head, because ignorant readers, who have formed their taste upon the quaint similes, and little turns of wit, which are so much in vogue among modern poets, cannot relish these beauties which are of a much higher nature, and are therefore apt to censure Milton's comparisons, in which they do not see any surprising points of likeness. Monsieur Perrault was a man of this vitiated relish, and for that very reason has endeavoured to turn into ridicule several of Homer's similitudes, which he calls '*comparaisons à longue queue*,' 'long-tailed comparisons.' I shall conclude this paper on the first book of Milton with the answer which Mon-

seur Boileau makes to Perfaunt on this occasion: 'Comparisons,' says he, 'in odes and epic poems, are not introduced only to illustrate and embellish the discourse, but to amuse and relax the mind of the reader, by frequently disengaging him from too painful an attention to the principal subject, and by leading him into other agreeable images. Homer,' says he, 'excelled in this particular, whose comparisons abound with such images of nature as are proper to relieve and diversify his subjects. He continually instructs the reader, and makes him take notice, even in objects which are every day before our eyes, of such circumstances as we should not otherwise have observed.' To this he adds, as a maxim universally acknowledged, 'that it is not necessary in poetry for the points of the comparison to correspond with one another exactly, but that a general resemblance is sufficient, and that too much nicety in this particular savours of the rhetorician and epigrammatist.'

In short, if we look into the conduct of Homer, Virgil, and Milton, as the great fable is the soul of each poem, so, to give their works an agreeable variety, their episodes are so many short fables, and their similes so many short episodes; to which you may add, if you please, that their metaphors are so many short similes. If the reader considers the comparisons in the first book of Milton, of the sun in an eclipse, of the sleeping leviathan, of the bees swarming about their hive, of the fairy dance, in the view wherein I have here placed them, he will easily discover the great beauties that are in each of those passages.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 304. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1711-12.

Vulnus alit venis et cecum carpitur igni.

VIRG. Æn. iv. ver. 2.

A latent fire preys on his feverish veins.

THE circumstances of my correspondent, whose letter I now insert, are so frequent, that I cannot want compassion so much as to forbear laying it before the town. There is something so mean and inhuman in a direct Smithfield bargain for children, that if this lover carries his point, and observes the rules he pretends to follow, I do not only wish him success, but also that it may animate others to follow his example. I know not one motive relating to this life which could produce so many honourable and worthy actions, as the hopes of obtaining a woman of merit. There would ten thousand ways of industry and honest ambition be pursued by young men, who believed that the persons admired had value enough for their passion, to attend the event of their good fortune in all their applications, in order to make their circumstances fall in with the duties they owe to themselves, their families, and their country. All these relations a man should think of who intends to go into the state of marriage, and expects to make it a state of pleasure and satisfaction.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

* I HAVE for some years indulged a passion for a young lady of age and quality suitable to my own, but very much superior in fortune. It is the fashion with parents (how justly I leave you to judge) to make all regards give way to the article of wealth. From this one consideration it is, that I have concealed the ardent love I have for her; but

I am beholden to the force of my love for many advantages which I reaped from it towards the better conduct of my life. A certain complacency to all the world, a strong desire to oblige wherever it lay in my power, and a circumspect behaviour in all my words and actions, have rendered me more particularly acceptable to all my friends and acquaintance. Love has had the same good effect upon my fortune; and I have increased in riches, in proportion to my advancement in those arts which make a man agreeable and amiable. There is a certain sympathy which will tell my mistress from these circumstances, that it is I who writ this for her reading, if you will please to insert it. There is not a downright enmity, but a great coldness between our parents; so that if either of us declared any kind sentiments for each other, her friends would be very backward to lay an obligation upon our family, and mine to receive it from hers. Under these delicate circumstances, it is so easy matter to act with safety. I have no reason to fancy my mistress has any regard for me, but from a very disinterested value which I have for her. If from any hint in any future paper of yours, she gives me the least encouragement, I doubt not but I shall surmount all other difficulties, and inspired by so noble a motive for the care of my fortune, as the belief she is to be concerned in it, I will not despair of receiving her one day from her father's own hand.

'I am, MR,

'Your most obedient humble servant,

'CLYLANDER.'

'TO HIS WORSHIP THE SPECTATOR.

'The humble petition of Anthony Title-page, stationer, in the centre of Lincoln's-Inn-Fields,

'SHEWETH,

'THAT your petitioner, and his forefathers, have been sellers of books for time immemorial: that your petitioner's ancestor, Crouch-back Title-page, was the first of that vocation in Britain; who, keeping his station (in fair weather) at the corner of Lothbury, was, by way of eminency, called "The Stationer," a name which from him all succeeding booksellers have affected to bear: that the station of your petitioner and his father has been in the place of his present settlement ever since that square has been built: that your petitioner has formerly had the honour of your worship's custom, and hopes you never had reason to complain of your pennyworths: that particularly he sold you your first Lilly's Grammar, and at the same time a Wit's Commonwealth, almost as good as new: moreover, that your first rudimental essays in spectatorship were made in your petitioner's shop, were you often practised for hours together, sometimes on his books upon the rails, sometimes on the little hieroglyphics, either gilt, silvered, or plain, which the Egyptian woman on the other side of the shop had wrought in gingerbread, and sometimes on the English youth, who in sundry places there were exercising themselves in the traditional sports of the field.

'From these considerations it is, that your petitioner is encouraged to apply himself to you, and to proceed humbly to acquaint your worship, that he has certain intelligence that you receive great numbers of defamatory letters designed by their authors to be published, which you throw aside and totally neglect. Your petitioner therefore prays, that you will please to bestow on him

refuse letters, and he hopes by printing them a more plentiful provision for his family; the worst, he may be allowed to sell them pound weight to his good customers the cooks of London and Westminster. And your petitioner shall ever pray, &c.'

'TO THE SPECTATOR.

The humble petition of Bartholomew Ladylove, of Round-court, in the parish of St. Martin's-the-Fields, in behalf of himself and neighbours,

SWEET,
Your petitioners have with great industry application, arrived at the most exact art of flattery or entreaty: that by a beseeching air, persuasive address, they have for many years sat peaceably drawn in every tenth passenger whether they intended or not to call at their door to come in and buy; and from that softness of behaviour have arrived, among tradesmen, at the appellation of "The Fawners."

At there have of late set up amongst us, persons from Moamouth-street and Long-lane, by the strength of their arms, and loudness in throats, draw off the regard of all passengers from your said petitioners; from which victory they are distinguished by the name of "The Warriors."

At while your petitioners stand ready to receive passengers with a submissive bow, and repeat a gentle voice, "Ladies, what do you want? Look in here:" the Warriors reach out their pistols, and seize the customers at arms.

At while the Fawners strain and relax the muscles of their faces, in making distinction between a spinster in a coloured scarf and an handmaid in a straw hat, the Warriors use the same address to both, and prevail upon the easiness of passengers, to the impoverishment of your petitioners.

Your petitioners, therefore, most humbly pray, the Warriors may not be permitted to inhabit noisier parts of the town; and that Round-court may remain a receptacle for buyers of a more education.

'And your petitioners, &c.'

* *The petition of the New-Exchange, concerning arts of buying and selling, and particularly of goods by the complexion of the seller, will be considered on another occasion.*

ELL.

T.

6. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1711-12.

*Non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis
Tempus eget*

VIRG. Æn. ii. ver. 521.

These times want other aids.

DYDEN.

late newspapers being full of the project now set on in the court of France, for establishing a political academy, and I myself having received letters from several virtuosos among my foreign correspondents, which give some light into that affair, I intend to make it the subject of this day's relation. A general account of this project

may be met with in the Daily Courant of last Friday, in the following words, translated from the Gazette of Amsterdam:

Paris, February 12. 'It is confirmed, that the king has resolved to establish a new academy for politics, of which the Marquis de Torcy, minister and secretary of state, is to be protector. Six academicians are to be chosen, endowed with proper talents for beginning to form this academy, into which no person is to be admitted under twenty-five years of age; they must likewise have each an estate of two thousand livres a year, either in possession, or to come to them by inheritance. The king will allow to each a pension of a thousand livres. They are likewise to have able masters to teach them the necessary sciences, and to instruct them in all the treaties of peace, alliance, and others, which have been made in several ages past. These members are to meet twice a week at the Louvre. From this seminary are to be chosen secretaries to embassies, who by degrees may advance to higher employments.'

Cardinal Richelieu's politics made France the terror of Europe. The statesmen who have appeared in that nation of late years have, on the contrary, rendered it either the pity or contempt of its neighbours. The Cardinal erected that famous academy which has carried all the parts of polite learning to the greatest height. His chief design in that institution was, to divert the men of genius from meddling with politics, a province in which he did not care to have any one else interfere with him. On the contrary, the Marquis de Torcy seems resolved to make several young men in France as wise as himself, and is therefore taken up at present in establishing a nursery of statesmen.

Some private letters add, that there will also be erected a seminary of petticoat politicians, who are to be brought up at the feet of Madame de Maintenon, and to be dispatched into foreign courts upon any emergencies of state; but as the news of this last project has not been yet confirmed, I shall take no further notice of it.

Several of my readers may doubtless remember that upon the conclusion of the last war, which had been carried on so successfully by the enemy, their generals were many of them transformed into ambassadors; but the conduct of those who have commanded in the present war, has, it seems, brought so little honour and advantage to their great monarch, that he is resolved to trust his affairs no longer in the hands of those military gentlemen.

The regulations of this new academy very much deserve our attention. The students are to have in possession or reversion an estate of two thousand French livres per annum, which, as the present exchange runs, will amount to at least one hundred and twenty-six pounds English. This, with the royal allowance of a thousand livres, will enable them to find themselves in coffee and snuff; not to mention newspapers, pens and ink, wax and wafers, with the like necessities for politicians.

A man must be at least five-and-twenty before he can be initiated into the mysteries of this academy, though there is no question, but many grave persons of a much more advanced age, who have been constant readers of the Paris Gazette, will be glad to begin the world anew, and enter themselves upon this list of politicians.

The society of these hopeful young gentlemen

is to be under the direction of six professors, who, it seems, are to be speculative statesmen, and drawn out of the body of the royal academy. These six wise masters, according to my private letters, are to have the following parts allotted them.

The first is to instruct the students in state legendein; as how to take off the impression of a seal, to split a wafer, to open a letter, to fold it up again, with other the like ingenious feats of dexterity and art. When the students have accomplished themselves in this part of their profession, they are to be delivered into the hands of their second instructor, who is a kind of posture-master.

This artist is to teach them how to nod judiciously, to shrug up their shoulders in a dubious case, to connive with either eye; and, in a word, the whole practice of political grimace.

The third is a sort of language-master, who is to instruct them in the style proper for a minister in his ordinary discourse. And to the end that this college of statesmen may be thoroughly practised in the political style, they are to make use of it in their common conversations, before they are employed either in foreign or domestic affairs. If one of them asks another, what o'clock it is, the other is to answer him indirectly, and if possible, to turn off the question. If he is desired to change a *louis d'or*, he must beg time to consider of it. If it be inquired of him, whether the king is at Versailles or Marly, he must answer in a whisper. If he be asked the news of the late Gazette, or the subject of a proclamation, he is to reply, that he has not yet read it; or if he does not care for explaining himself so far, he needs only draw his brow up in wrinkles, or elevate the left shoulder.

The fourth professor is to teach the whole art of political characters and hieroglyphics; and to the end that they may be perfect also in this practice, they are not to send a note to one another (though it be but to borrow a Tacitus or a Machiavel) which is not written in cipher.

Their fifth professor, it is thought, will be chosen out of the society of Jesuits, and is to be well read in the controversies of probable doctrines, mental reservation, and the rights of princes. This learned man is to instruct them in the grammar, syntax, and construing part of Treaty Latin; how to distinguish between the spirit and the letter, and likewise demonstrate how the same form of words may lay an obligation upon any prince in Europe, different from that which it lays upon his most Christian majesty. He is likewise to teach them the art of finding flaws, loop-holes, and evasions, in the most solemn compacts, and particularly a great rabbinical secret, revived of late years by the fraternity of Jesuits, namely, that contradictory interpretations of the same article may both of them be true and valid.

When our statesmen are sufficiently improved by these several instructors, they are to receive their last polishing from one who is to act among them as master of the ceremonies. This gentleman is to give them lectures upon the important points of the elbow-chair and the stair-head, to instruct them in the different situations of the right hand, and to furnish them with bows and inclinations of all sizes, measures, and proportions. In short, this professor is to give the society their stiffening, and infuse into their manners that beautiful political starch, which may qualify them for levees, conferences, visits, and make them shine in what vulgar minds are apt to look upon as trifles.

I have not yet heard any further particulars, which are to be observed in this society of unsledged statesmen; but I must confess, had I a son of five-and-twenty, that should take it into his head at that age to set up for a politician, I think I should go near to disinherit him for a blockhead. Besides, I should be apprehensive lest the same arts which are to enable him to negotiate between potentates, might a little infect his ordinary behaviour between man and man. There is no question but these young Machiavels will, in a little time, turn their college upside down with plots and stratagems, and lay as many schemes to circumvent one another in a frog or a sallad, as they may hereafter put in practice to over-reach a neighbouring prince or state.

We are told, that the Spartans, though they punished theft in the young men when it was discovered, looked upon it as honourable if it succeeded. Provided the conveyance was clean and unsuspected, a youth might afterwards boast of it. This, say the historians, was to keep them sharp, and to hinder them from being imposed upon, either in their public or private negotiations. Whether any such relaxations of morality, such little *jeux d'esprit*, ought not to be allowed in this intended seminary of politicians, I shall leave to the wisdom of their founder.

In the mean time, we have fair warning given us by this doughty body of statesmen: and as Sylla saw many Marius's in Caesar, so I think we may discover many Torcys in this college of academicians. Whatever we think of ourselves, I am afraid neither our Smyrna nor St. James's will be a match for it. Our coffee-houses are, indeed, very good institutions; but whether or no these our British schools of politics may furnish out as able *cavoys* and secretaries as an academy that is set apart for that purpose, will deserve our serious consideration, especially if we remember that our country is more famous for producing men of integrity than statesmen: and that, on the contrary, French truth and British policy make a conspicuous figure in *Nothing*; as the Earl of Rochester has very well observed in his admirable poem upon that barren subject.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 306. WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 1711-12.

Quæ forma, ut se tibi semper
Imputet? —

JUV. Sat. vi. ver. 177.

What beauty, or what chastity, can bear
So great a price, if stately and severe
She still insults!

DRYDEN.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I WRITE this to communicate to you a misfortune which frequently happens, and therefore deserves a consolatory discourse on the subject. I was within this half year in the possession of as much beauty and as many lovers as any young lady in England. But my admirers have left me, and I cannot complain of their behaviour. I have withstood that time had the small-pox: and this face, which (according to many amorous epistles which I have by me) was the seat of all that is beautiful in woman, is now disfigured with scars. It goes to the very soul of me to speak what I really think of my face; and though I think I did not over-rate my beauty while I had it, it has extremely advanced in its value with me, now it is lost. There

circumstance which makes my case very particular; the ugliest fellow that ever pretended to be so, and is most in my favour, and he treats me as I present the most unreasonably. If you make him return an obligation which he owes me, in liking a person that is not amiable—here is, I fear, no possibility of making passage by the rules of reason and gratitude. I say what you can to one who has survived, and knows not how to act in a new being. My rivals are at the feet of my rivals, my rivals every day bewailing me, and I cannot enjoy myself by reason of the distracting reflection what I was. Consider, the woman I did not die of old age, but I was taken off in prime of youth, and according to the course of nature may have forty years after-life to come. Nothing of myself left, which I like, but

'I am, SIR,
'Your most humble servant,
'PARTHENISSA *.'

Mr. Lewis of France had lost the battle of Marston, the addresses to him at that time were for his fortitude; and they turned his misfortune into his glory; in that, during his prosperity, he had never have manifested his heroic conduct under distresses, and so the world had lost the most eminent part of his character. Parthenissia's condition gives her the same opportunity: to resign conquests is a task as difficult in reality as an hero. In the very entrance upon the world she must burn all her love-letters; or, he is so candid as not to call her lovers, who were no longer, unfaithful, it would be a good beginning of a new life from that of a former; to send them back to those who writ them, is his honest inscription, 'Articles of a marriage broken off by the small-pox.' I have but one instance where a matter of this kind went on after a like misfortune, where the person who was a woman of spirit, writ this billet to her lover:

'You flattered me before I had this terrible mark, pray come and see me now: but, if you still liked me, stay away; for I am not the same.'

'CORINNA.'

The lover thought there was something so sprightly in her behaviour, that he answered:

'DAMN, I am not obliged, since you are not the same woman, to let you know whether I flattered you or not. I assure you I do not, when I tell you I like you above all your sex, and hope you will bear what may befall me when we are both well as you do what happens to yourself. You are single; therefore I am ready to take you for my companion as soon as you are.'

'AMILCAR.'

Parthenissia can now possess her own mind, and as little of her beauty as she ought to

* A letter is ascribed to Mr. Hughes; and the person to, under the name of Parthenissia, is said to have been Miss Rotherham, afterwards married to the Rev. Mr. Master of Felsted-school, in Essex.

have done when she had it, there will be no great diminution of her charms; and if she was formerly affected too much with them, an easy behaviour will more than make up for the loss of them. Take the whole sex together, and you find those who have the strongest possession of men's hearts are not eminent for their beauty. You see it often happens, that those who engage men to the greatest violence, are such as those who are strangers to them would take to be remarkably defective for that end. The fondest lover I know, said to me one day in a crowd of women at an entertainment of music, 'You have often heard me talk of my beloved: that woman there,' continued he, smiling, when he had fixed my eye, 'is her very picture.' The lady he showed me was by much the least remarkable for beauty of any in the whole assembly; but having my curiosity extremely raised, I could not keep my eyes off her. Her eyes at last met mine, and with a sudden surprise she looked round her to see who near her was remarkably handsome that I was gazing at. This little act explained the secret. She did not understand herself for the object of love, and therefore she was so. The lover is a very honest plain man; and what charmed him was, a person that goes along with him in the cares and joys of life, not taken up with herself, but sincerely attentive, with a ready and cheerful mind, to accompany him in either.

I can tell Parthenissia for her comfort, that the beauties, generally speaking, are the most impertinent and disagreeable of women. An apparent desire of admiration, a reflection upon their own merit, and a precise behaviour in their general conduct, are almost inseparable accidents in beauty. All you obtain of them, is granted to importunity and solicitation for what did not deserve so much of your time, and you recover from the possession of it as out of a dream.

You are ashamed of the vagaries of fancy which so strangely misled you, and your admiration of a beauty, merely as such, is inconsistent with a tolerable reflection upon yourself. The cheerful good-humoured creatures, into whose heads it never entered that they could make any man unhappy, are the persons formed for making men happy. There is Miss Liddy can dance a jig, raise a paste, write a good hand, keep an account, give a reasonable answer, and do as she is bid; while her eldest sister, Madam Martha, is out of humour, has the spleen, learns by reports of people of higher quality new ways of being uneasy and displeased. And this happens for no reason in the world, but that poor Liddy knows she has no such thing as a certain negligence that is so becoming; that there is not I know not what in her air; and that if she talks like a fool, there is no one will say, 'Well! I know not what it is, but every thing pleases when she speaks it.'

Ask any of the husbands of your great beauties, and they will tell you that they hate their wives nine hours of every day they pass together. There is such a particularity for ever affected by them, that they are encumbered with their charms in all they say or do. They pray at public devotions as they are beauties. They converse on ordinary occasions as they are beauties. Ask Belinda what it is o'clock, and she is at a stand whether so great a beauty should answer you. In a word, I think, instead of offering to administer consolation to Parthenissia, I should congratulate her metamorphosis; and however she thinks she was not in the least insolent in the prosperity of her charms, she

was enough so to find she may make herself a much more agreeable creature in her present adversity. The endeavour to please is highly promoted by a consciousness that the approbation of the person you would be agreeable to, is a favour you do not deserve; for in this case, assurance of success is the most certain way to disappointment. Good-nature will always supply the absence of beauty, but beauty cannot long supply the absence of good-nature.

P. 8.

'MADAM,

'February 18.

'I HAVE yours of this day, wherein you twice bid me not disoblige you; but you must explain yourself further before I know what to do.

'Your most obedient servant,

'THE SPECTATOR.'

STEEL.

T.

N° 307. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1711-12.

— *Versate dis, quid ferre recusant,
Quid valcant humeri* —.

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 39.

— Often try what weight you can support,
And what your shoulders are too weak to bear.

ROSCOMMON.

I AM so well pleased with the following letter, that I am in hopes it will not be a disagreeable present to the public:

'SIR,

'THOUGH I believe none of your readers more admire your agreeable manner of working up trifles than myself, yet as your speculations are now swelling into volumes, and will in all probability pass down to future ages, methinks I would have no single subject in them, wherein the general good of mankind is concerned, left unfinished.

'I have a long time expected with great impatience that you would enlarge upon the ordinary mistakes which are committed in the education of our children. I the more easily flattered myself that you would one time or other resume this consideration, because you tell us that your 168th paper was only composed of a few broken hints; but finding myself hitherto disappointed, I have ventured to send you my own thoughts on this subject.

'I remember Pericles, in his famous oration at the funeral of those Athenian young men who perished in the Samian expedition, has a thought very much celebrated by several ancient critics, namely, that the loss which the commonwealth suffered by the destruction of its youth, was like the loss which the year would suffer by the destruction of the spring. The prejudice which the public sustains from a wrong education of children, is an evil of the same nature, as it in a manner starves posterity, and defrauds our country of those persons who, with due care, might make an eminent figure in their respective posts of life.

'I have seen a book written by Juan Huartes, a Spanish physician, entitled *Examen de Ingenios**, wherein he lays it down as one of his first positions, that nothing but nature can qualify a man for learning; and that without a proper temperament for the particular art or science which he

studies, his utmost pains and application, assisted by the ablest masters, will be to no purpose.

'He illustrates this by the example of Tully's son Marcus.

'Cicero, in order to accomplish his son in that sort of learning which he designed him for, sent him to Athens, the most celebrated academy at that time in the world, and where a vast concourse, out of the most polite nations, could not but furnish the young gentleman with a multitude of great examples and accidents that might immensely have instructed him in his designed studies. He placed him under the care of Cratippus, who was one of the greatest philosophers of the age; and, as if all the books which were at that time written had not been sufficient for his use, he composed others on purpose for him: notwithstanding all this, history informs us that Marcus proved a mere blockhead, and that nature (who it seems was even with the son for her prodigality to the father) rendered him incapable of improving by all the rules of eloquence, the precepts of philosophy, his own endeavours, and the most refined conversation in Athens. This author therefore proposes, that there should be certain triers or examiners appointed by the state, to inspect the genius of every particular boy, and to allot him the part that is most suitable to his natural talents.

'Plato, in one of his dialogues, tells us, that Socrates, who was the son of a midwife, used to say, that as his mother, though she was very skilful in her profession, could not deliver a woman unless she was first with child, so neither could he himself raise knowledge out of a mind where nature had not planted it.

'Accordingly, the method this philosopher took, of instructing his scholars by several interrogatories or questions, was only helping the birth, and bringing their own thoughts to light.

'The Spanish doctor above mentioned, as his speculations grew more refined, asserts, that every kind of wit has a particular science corresponding to it, and in which alone it can be truly excellent. As to those geniuses which may seem to have an equal aptitude for several things, he regards them as so many unfinished pieces of nature wrought of in haste.

'There are indeed but very few to whom nature has been so unkind, that they are not capable of shining in some science or other. There is a certain bias towards knowledge in every mind, which may be strengthened and improved by proper applications.

'The story of Clavius* is very well known. He was entered in a college of Jesuits, and, after having been tried at several parts of learning, was upon the point of being dismissed as an hopeless blockhead, until one of the fathers took it into his head to make an essay of his parts in geometry, which, it seems, hit his genius so luckily, that he afterwards became one of the greatest mathematicians of the age. It is commonly thought that the sagacity of the fathers, in discovering the talent of a young student, has not a little contributed to the figure which their order has made in the world.

'How different from this manner of education is that which prevails in our own country! where nothing is more usual than to see forty or fifty boys of several ages, tempers, and inclinations, ranged

* There is an English translation under the title of 'The Trial of Wits,' &c.

* Christopher Clavius, a German Jesuit, distinguished for his mathematical knowledge, and employed by Gregory XIII. in the reformation of the calendar, was author of five volumes in folio, and died at Rome in 1612, aged 73.

er in the same class, employed upon the same, and enjoined the same tasks! Whatever natural genius may be, they are all to be poets, historians, and orators alike. They are obliged to have the same capacity, to bring the same tale of verse, and to furnish out the portion of prose. Every boy is bound to a good memory as the captain of the form. In brief, instead of adapting studies to the peculiar genius of a youth, we expect from the man that he should adapt his genius to his studies. This, I must confess, is not so much to be expected of the instructor, as to the parent, who never be brought to believe, that his son is not capable of performing as much as his neighbour's, that he may not make him whatever he has a mind to.

In the present age is more laudable than those that have gone before it in any single particular, that generous care which several well-disposed persons have taken in the education of poor children; and as in these charity-schools there is little left for the overweening fondness of a parent, the directors of them would make them useful to the public, if they considered the manner in which I have been thus long inculcating. I might easily, by well examining the parts of their conduct under their inspection, make a just distribution of them into proper classes and divisions, and to them this or that particular study, as their qualifications them for professions, trades, handicraft, or service by sea or land.

Now is this kind of regulation wanting in the great professions!

In the South, complaining of persons who took them holy orders, though altogether unequal to the sacred function, says somewhere, that a man runs his head against a pulpit, who have done his country excellent service at a private trade.

In like manner many a lawyer, who makes but a different figure at the bar, might have made a more elegant waterman, and have shined at the lowest stairs, though he can get no business in the

have known a corn-cutter, who with a right intention would have been an excellent physician. I descend lower, are not our streets filled with gracious draymen, and politicians in liveries! I have several tailors of six foot high, and meet many a broad pair of shoulders that are thrown upon a barber, when perhaps at the same time I see a pigmy porter reeling under a burden, might have managed a needle with much dexterity or have snapped his fingers with great ease to himself, and advantage to the public.

In Sparta, though they acted with the spirit of I am here speaking of, carried it much further than what I propose. Among them it was not allowed for the father himself to bring up his children after his own fancy. As soon as they were seven years old, they were all listed in several companies, and disciplined by the public. The old were spectators of their performances, who raised quarrels among them, and set them at with one another, that by those early discoveries they might see how their several talents lay, without any regard to their quality, disposed them accordingly, for the service of the commonwealth. By this means Sparta soon became the mistress of Greece, and famous through the whole world for her civil and military discipline.

If you think this letter deserves a place among

your speculations, I may perhaps trouble you with some other thoughts on the same subject *.

'I am, &c.'

BUDGELL

X.

Nº 308. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1711-12.

— Jam protervus,
Fronte petes Lalage mirum.
HOR. Od. v. l. ii. ver. 15.

— Lalage will soon proclaim
Her love, nor blush to own her flame.
CREECH.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I GIVE you this trouble in order to propose myself to you as an assistant in the weighty cares which you have thought fit to undergo for the public good. I am a very great lover of women, that is to say, honestly; and as it is natural to study what one likes, I have industriously applied myself to understand them. The present circumstance relating to them is, that I think there wants under you, as Spectator, a person to be distinguished and vested in the power and quality of a censor on marriages †. I lodge at the Temple, and know, by seeing women come hither, and afterwards observing them conducted by their counsel to judges' chambers, that there is a custom in case of making conveyance of a wife's estate, that she is carried to a judge's apartment, and left alone with him, to be examined in private, whether she has not been frightened or sweetened by her spouse into the act she is going to do, or whether it is of her own free will. Now if this be a method founded upon reason and equity, why should there not be also a proper officer for examining such as are entering into the state of matrimony, whether they are forced by parents on one side, or moved by interest only on the other, to come together, and bring forth such awkward heirs as are the product of half love and constrained compliances? There is no body, though I say it myself, would be fitter for this office than I am: for I am an ugly fellow, of great wit and sagacity. My father was an hale country squire, my mother a witty beauty of no fortune. The match was made by consent of my mother's parents against her own, and I am the child of the rape on the wedding-night; so that I am as healthy and as homely as my father, but as sprightly and agreeable as my mother. It would be of great ease to you, if you would use me under you, that matches might be better regulated for the future, and we might have no more children of squabbles. I shall not reveal all my pretensions till I receive your answer; and am,

'SIR,

'Your most humble servant,

'MULES FALSEBRY.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM one of those unfortunate men within the city-walls, who am married to a woman of quality, but her temper is something different from that of Lady Anvil ‡. My lady's whole time and thoughts are spent in keeping up to the mode both in apparel and furniture. All the goods in my house have been changed three times in seven years. I have had seven children by her; and by our marriage-

* See Nos. 313 and 337.

† See the 4th letter in No 310.

‡ No 299.

articles she was to have her apartment new furnished as often as she lay-in. Nothing in our house is useful but that which is fashionable; my pewter holds out generally half a year, my plate a full twelvemonth; chairs are not fit to sit in that were made two years since, nor beds fit for any thing but to sleep in, that have stood up above that time. My dear is of opinion that an old-fashioned grate consumes coals, but gives no heat. If she drinks out of glasses of last year, she cannot distinguish wine from small beer. Oh, dear sir, you may guess all the rest.

Yours.

'P. S. I could bear even all this, if I were not obliged also to eat fashionably. I have a plain stomach, and have a constant loathing of whatever comes to my own table; for which reason I dine at the chop-house three days in a week; where the good company wonders they never see you of late. I am sure, by your unprejudiced discourses, you love broth better than soup.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

Will's, Feb. 19.

'You may believe you are a person as much talked of as any man in town. I am one of your best friends in this house, and have laid a wager, you are so candid a man, and so honest a fellow, that you will print this letter, though it is in recommendation of a new paper called *The Historian*. I have read it carefully, and find it written with skill, good sense, modesty, and fire. You must allow the town is kinder to you than you deserve; and I doubt not but you have so much sense of the world's change of humour, and instability of all human things, as to understand, that the only way to preserve favour is to communicate it to others with good-nature and judgment. You are so generally read, that what you speak of will be read. This with men of sense and taste, is all that is wanting to recommend *The Historian*.

'I am, sir,

'Your daily advocate,

'READER GENTLE.'

I was very much surprised this morning, that any one should find out my lodging, and know it so well, as to come directly to my closet-door, and knock at it, to give me the following letter. When I came out I opened it, and saw, by a very strong pair of shoes and a warm coat the bearer had on, that he walked all the way to bring it me, though dated from York. My misfortune is that I cannot talk, and I found the messenger had so much of me, that he could think better than speak. He had, I observed, a polite discerning, hid under a shrewd rusticity. He delivered the paper with a Yorkshire tone and a town leer.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THE privilege you have indulged John Trot* has proved of very bad consequence to our illustrious assembly, which, besides the many excellent maxims it is founded upon, is remarkable for the extraordinary decorum always observed in it. One instance of which is, that the carders (who are always of the first quality) never begin to play till the French dances are finished, and the country dances begin: but John Trot having now got your commission in his pocket (which every one here has a profound respect for), has the assurance to set up for a minuet-dancer. Not only so, but he has

brought down upon us the whole body of the Trot, which are very numerous, with their auxiliaries the Hobbler and the Skipper, by which means the time is so much wasted, that, unless we break all rules of government, it must redound to the utter subversion of the brag-table, the discreet members of which value time as Fribble's wife does her pin-money*. We are pretty well assured that your indulgence to Trot was only in relation to country-dances; however we have deferred the issuing an order of council upon the premises, hoping to get you to join with us, that Trot, nor any of his clan, presume for the future to dance any but country-dances, unless a hornpipe upon a festival day. If you will do this, you will oblige a great many ladies, and particularly

'Your most humble servant,

'York, Feb. 16.'

'ELIZ. SWEEPSTAKE.'

'I NEVER meant any other than that Mr. Trot should confine himself to country-dances. And I further direct, that he shall take out none but his own relations, according to their nearness of blood, but any gentlewoman may take out him.

'London, Feb. 21.'

'THE SPECTATOR.'

STERLE.

T.

Nº 309. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1711-12

*Di, quibus imperium est animarum, umbræque silentis,
Et Chaos, et Phlegethon, loca nocte silentia late:
Sit mihi fas audita loqui! et numine vestro
Panderet res alta terra et caligine mœras.*

VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 264.

Ye realms yet unreveal'd to human sight,
Ye gods who rule the regions of the night,
Ye gliding ghosts, permit me to relate
The mystic wonders of your silent state.

DRYDEN.

I HAVE before observed in general, that the persons whom Milton introduces into his poem always discover such sentiments and behaviour as are in a peculiar manner conformable to their respective characters. Every circumstance in their speeches and actions is with great justice and delicacy adapted to the persons who speak and act. As the poet very much excels in this consistency of his characters, I shall beg leave to consider several passages of the second book in this light. That superior greatness and mock-majesty which is ascribed to the prince of the fallen angels, is admirably preserved in the beginning of this book. His opening and closing the debate; his taking on himself that great enterprise, at the thought of which the whole infernal assembly trembled; his encountering the hideous phantom who guarded the gates of hell, and appeared to him in all his terrors; are instances of that proud and daring mind which could not brook submission, even to Omnipotence:

'Satan was now at hand, and from his seat

The monster moving onward came as fast

With horrid strides; hell trembled as he strode;

Th' undaunted bend what this might be admir'd,

Admir'd, not fear'd —'

The same boldness and intrepidity of behaviour discovers itself in the several adventures which he meets with during his passage through the regions of unformed matter, and particularly in his address to those tremendous powers who are described as presiding over it.

* See Nº 296.

* See Nº 295.

of Moloch is likewise, in all its circumference of that fire and fury which distinguish it from the rest of the fallen angels. He is in the first book as besmeared with the human sacrifices, and delighted with the parents, and the cries of children. In the book he is marked out as the fiercest spirit in heaven: and if we consider the figure makes in the sixth book, where the battle is described, we find it every way answerable to the same furious, enraged character:

— Where the might of Gabriel fought,
With fierce ensigns pierc'd the deep array
Of, furious king, who him defy'd,
His chariot-wheels to drag him bound
En'd, nor from the Holy One of heav'n
W'd his tongue blasphemous: but anon
Loved to the waist, with shatter'd arms
In scathful pain fell belowing.

be worth while to observe, that Milton sented this violent impetuous spirit, who on by such precipitate passions, as the rises in that assembly, to give his opinion present posture of affairs. Accordingly, as himself abruptly for war, and appears at his companions for losing so much time to deliberate upon it. All his sentiments audacious, and desperate. Such is that themselves with their tortures, and turn-punishments upon him who inflicted

— No, let us rather choose,
With hell-flames and fury, all at once
Seven's high towers to force resistless way,
To our tortures into horrid arms
The torturer; when to meet the noise
Almighty engine he shall hear
Thunder, and for lightning see
Fire and horror shot with equal rage
His angels; and his throne itself
With Tartarean sulphur, and strange fire,
A invented torments.

ferring annihilation to shame or misery, highly suitable to his character; as the commands from their disturbing the peace of it if it be not victory it is revenge, is a truly diabolical, and becoming the bitthis implacable spirit.

as described in the first book, as the idol and luxurious. He is in the second suant to that description, characterised as and slothful; and if we look into the sixth find him celebrated in the battle of anything but that scoffing speech which he Satan, on their supposed advantage over. As his appearance is uniform, and of these three several views, we find his in the infernal assembly every way con-to his character. Such are his apprehending second battle, his horrors of annihilapreferring to be miserable, rather than e. I need not observe, that the contrast in this speech, and that which precedes agreeable variety to the debate.

on's character is so fully drawn in the, that the poet adds nothing to it in the We were before told, that he was the taught mankind to ransack the earth for silver, and that he was the architect of ruin, or the infernal palace, where the were to meet in council. His speech in is every way suitable to so depraved a. How proper is that reflection, of their able to taste the happiness of heaven y actually there, in the mouth of one,

who, while he was in heaven, is said to have had his mind dazzled with the outward pomps and glories of the place, and to have been more intent on the riches of the pavement than on the beatific vision. I shall also leave the reader to judge how agreeable the following sentiments are to the same character:

— This deep world
Of darkness do we dread! How oft amidst
Thick clouds and dark doth heav'n's all-ruling sire
Choose to reside, his glory unobscured,
And with the majesty of darkness round
Covers his throne; from whence deep thunders roar
Mustering their rage, and heav'n resembles bell!
As he our darkness, cannot we his light
Imitate when we please? This desert soil
Wants not her hidden lustre, gems and gold;
Nor want we skill or art, from whence to raise
Magnificence; and what can heav'n show more!

Beelzebub, who is reckoned the second in dignity that fell, and is in the first book the second that awakens out of the trance, and confers with Satan upon the situation of their affairs, maintains his rank in the book now before us. There is a wonderful majesty described in his rising up to speak. He acts as a kind of moderator between the two opposite parties, and proposes a third undertaking, which the whole assembly gives into. The motion he makes of detaching one of their body in search of a new world is grounded upon a project devised by Satan, and cursorily proposed by him in the following lines of the first book:

— Space may produce new worlds, whereof so ripe
There went a fame in heav'n, that be ere-long
Intended to create, and therein plant
A generation, whom his choice regard
Should favour equal to the sons of heav'n;
Thither, if but to pry, shall be perhaps
Our first eruption, thither or elsewhere:
For this infernal pit shall never hold
Celestial spirits in bondage, nor th' abyss
Long under darkness cover. But these thoughts
Full counsel must mature: —

It is on this project that Beelzebub grounds his proposal:

— What if we find
Some easier enterprise! There is a place
(If ancient and prophetic fame in heav'n
Err not) another world, the happy seat
Of some new race call'd *Mans*, about this time
To be created like to us, though less
In power and excellence, but favour'd more
Of him who rules above; so was his will
Pronounc'd among the gods, and by an oath,
That shook heav'n's whole circumference, confirm'd.

The reader may observe how just it was, not to omit in the first book the project upon which the whole poem turns; as also that the prince of the fallen angels was the only proper person to give it birth, and that the next to him in dignity was the fittest to second and support it.

There is besides, I think, something wonderfully beautiful, and very apt to affect the reader's imagination in this ancient prophecy or report in heaven, concerning the creation of man. Nothing could show more the dignity of the species, than this tradition which ran of them before their existence. They are represented to have been the talk of heaven before they were created. Virgil, in compliment to the Roman commonwealth, makes the heroes of it appear in their state of pre-existence; but Milton does a far greater honour to mankind in general, as he gives us a glimpse of them even before they are in being.

The rising of this great assembly is described in a very sublime and poetical manner:

— Their rising all at once was as the sound
Of thunder heard remote —

The diversions of the fallen angels, with the particular account of their place of habitation, are described with great pregnancy of thought, and copiousness of invention. The diversions are every way suitable to beings who had nothing left them but strength and knowledge misapplied. Such are their contentions at the race, and in feats of arms, with their entertainment in the following lines:

'Others with vast Typhoean rage more fell
Rend up both rocks and hills, and ride the air
In whirlwind, hell scarce holds the wild uproar.'

Their music is employed in celebrating their own criminal exploits, and their discourse in sounding the unfathomable depths of fate, free-will, and foreknowledge.

The several circumstances in the description of hell are finely imagined; as the four rivers which disgorge themselves into the sea of fire, the extremes of cold and heat, and the river of oblivion. The monstrous animals produced in that infernal world are represented by a single line, which gives us a more horrid idea of them than a much longer description would have done:

'——— Nature breeds,
Perverse, all monstrous, all prodigious things,
Abominable, inutterable, and worse
Than fables yet have feign'd, or fear conceiv'd,
Gorgons and hydras, and chimeras dire.'

This episode of the fallen spirits and their place of habitation, comes in very happily to unbend the mind of the reader from its attention to the debate. An ordinary poet would indeed have spun out so many circumstances to a great length, and by that means have weakened, instead of illustrated, the principal fable.

The flight of Satan to the gates of hell is finely imaged.

I have already * declared my opinion of the allegory concerning Sin and Death, which is however a very finished piece in its kind, when it is not considered as a part of an epic poem. The genealogy of the several persons is contrived with great delicacy. Sin is the daughter of Satan, and Death the offspring of Sin. The incestuous mixture between Sin and Death produces those monsters and hell-hounds which from time to time enter into their mother, and tear the bowels of her who gave them birth. These are the terrors of an evil conscience, and the proper fruits of Sin, which naturally rise from the apprehensions of Death. This last beautiful moral is, I think, clearly intimated in the speech of Sin, where, complaining of this her dreadful issue, she adds,

'Before mine eyes in opposition sits
Orin Death, my son and foe, who sets them on,
And me his parent would full soon devour
For want of other prey, but that he knows
His end with mine involv'd ———'

I need not mention to the reader the beautiful circumstance in the last part of this quotation. He will likewise observe how naturally the three persons concerned in this allegory are tempted by one common interest to enter into a confederacy together, and how properly Sin is made the portress of hell, and the only being that can open the gates to that world of tortures.

The descriptive part of this allegory is likewise very strong, and full of sublime ideas. The figure of Death, the regal crown upon his head, his menace of Satan, his advancing to the combat, the

outcry at his birth, are circumstances too noble to be passed over in silence, and extremely suitable to this king of terrors. I need not mention the justness of thought which is observed in the generation of these several symbolical persons; the Sin was produced upon the first revolt of Satan, that Death appeared soon after he was cast into hell, and that the terrors of conscience were conceived at the gate of this place of torment. The description of the gates is very poetical, as the opening of them is full of Milton's spirit:

'——— On a sudden open fly
With impetuous recoil and jarring sound
Th' infernal doors, and on their hinges grate
Harsh thunder, that the lowest bottom shook
Of Erebus. She open'd, but to shut
Excell'd her power; the gates wide open stood,
That with extended wings a banner'd host
Under spread ensigns marching might pass through
With home and chariots rank'd in loose array;
So wide they stood, and like a furnace mouth
Cast forth redounding smoke and ruddy flame.'

In Satan's voyage through the chaos there are several imaginary persons described, as residing in that immense waste of matter. This may perhaps be conformable to the taste of those critics who are pleased with nothing in a poet which has no life and manners ascribed to it; but for my own part, I am pleased most with those passages in the description which carry in them a greater measure of probability, and are such as might possibly have happened. Of this kind is his first mounting in the smoke that rises from the infernal pit, his falling into a cloud of nitre, and the like combustible materials, that by their explosion still hurried him forward in his voyage; his springing upward like a pyramid of fire, with his laborious passage through that confusion of elements which the poet calls

'The womb of Nature, and perhaps her grave.'

The glimmering light which shot into the chaos from the utmost verge of the creation, with the distant discovery of the earth that hung clear by the moon, are wonderfully beautiful and poetical.

ADDISON.

No 310. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1711-12

Connubio jungam stabili ———

VING. AN. I. VER. 7

I'll tie the indissoluble marriage-knot.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a certain young woman that love a certain young man very heartily; and my father and mother were for it a great while; but now they say I can do better, but I think I cannot. They bid me love him *, and I cannot unlove him. What must I do? Speak quickly.

'MRS. DOW-BALL'

'DEAR SPENC,

February 13, 1712

'I HAVE loved a lady entirely for this year and half, though for a great part of the time (which has contributed not a little to my pain) I have been debarred the liberty of conversing with her. The grounds of our difference was this: that when we had inquired into each other's circumstances, we found that at our first settling out into the world we should owe five hundred pounds more than his fortune would pay off. My estate is seven hun-

* Meaning, 'they once bade me love him.'

ids a year, besides the benefit of tin mines.
r Spec, upon this state of the case, and
positive declaration that there is still no
ction, I beg you will not fail to insert
your opinion, as soon as possible, whe-
ought to be esteemed a just cause or impe-
y we should not be joined, and you will
dige

Yours sincerely,

DICK LOVEMICK.

Sir, if I marry this lady by the assist-
our opinion, you may expect a favour

CTATOR,

misfortune to be one of those unhappy
e distinguished by the name of discard-
ut I am the less mortified at my dis-
ue the young lady is one of those crea-
et up for negligence of men, are for-
ost rigidly virtuous in the world, and
ety will permit them at the command
go to bed to the most utter stranger
proposed to them. As to me myself,
uced by the father of my mistress; but
y being at first received to a compa-
estate with that of a former lover, and
w in like manner turned off to give
umble servant still richer than I am.
this treatment the more extravagant
young lady is in the management of
rand, and obeys her father's orders
usions without any manner of reluc-
ces it with the same air that one of
he world would signify the necessity
urning another out of office. When I
at night, I found this letter from my

will not think it is any manner of
our person or merit, that the intend-
tween us are interrupted. My fa-
s a much better offer for me than
and has ordered me to break off
ween us. If it had proceeded, I
aved myself with all salutable regard
it is, I beg we may be strangers for
ieu.

"LYDIA."

ndifference on the subject, and the
ves for making alliances, is what I
lly before you; and I beg of you
thoughts upon it. My answer to
llows, which I hope you will ap-
are to know the woman's family
ul case on these occasions, though
ould be painfully received on the

ed yours, and knew the prudence
well, that I always took care to
y your commands, though they
ou no more. Pray give my ser-
ed family. Adieu.

"CLITOPHON.

escription is full."

The censor of marriage to con-
ind report the common mages on
how many pounds or acres are
d sufficient reason for preferring
retender; with his opinion what

is proper to be determined in such cases for the
future*.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THERE is an elderly person lately left off business
and settled in our town, in order, as he thinks, to
retire from the world; but he has brought with him
such an inclination to tale-bearing, that he disturbs
both himself and all our neighbourhood. Notwith-
standing this frailty, the honest gentleman is so
happy as to have no enemy: at the same time he
has not one friend who will venture to acquaint him
with his weakness. It is not to be doubted, but if
this failing were set in a proper light, he would
quickly perceive the indecency and evil conse-
quences of it. Now, sir, this being an infirmity
which I hope may be corrected, and knowing that
he pays much deference to you, I beg that when
you are at leisure to give us a speculation on gos-
siping, you would think of my neighbour. You
will hereby oblige several who will be glad to find
a reformation in their grey-haired friend: and how
becoming will it be for him, instead of pouring
forth words at all adventures, to set a watch be-
fore the door of his mouth, to refrain his tongue,
to check its impetuosity, and guard against the
sallies of that little pert, forward, busy person,
which, under a sober conduct, might prove a use-
ful member of society! In compliance with those
intimations, I have taken the liberty to make this
address to you.

'I am, SIR,

'Your most obscure servant,
'PHILANTHROPOS.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

Feb. 16, 1712.

'THERE is to petition you in behalf of myself and
many more of your gentle readers, that at any
time when you may have private reasons against
letting us know what you think yourself, you
would be pleased to pardon us such letters of your
correspondents as seem to be of no use but to the
printer.

'It is further our humble request, that you would
substitute advertisements in the place of such epis-
tles; and that in order hereunto Mr. Buckley may
be authorised to take up of your zealous friend
Mr. Charles Lillie, any quantity of words he shall
from time to time have occasion for.

'The many useful parts of knowledge which
may be communicated to the public this way, will,
we hope, be a consideration in favour of your pe-
titioners.

'And your petitioners, &c.'

Note. That particular regard be had to this pe-
tition; and the papers marked letter B may be
carefully examined for the future,

STEEL.

T.

N^o 311. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1711-12.

*Nec Veneris pharetris macer est, aut Lampade strect:
Inde facta ardent, veniunt a dote sagitte.*

JUV. Sat. vi. ver. 137.

He sighs, adores, and courts her ev'ry hour:
Who wou'd not do as much for such a dow'r!

DRYDEN.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM amazed that among all the variety of cha-
racters with which you have enriched your specu-

* See the first letter of N^o 308.

lations, you have never given us a picture of those audacious young fellows among us, who commonly go by the name of fortune-stealers. You must know, sir, I am one who live in a continual apprehension of this sort of people, that lie in wait, day and night, for our children, and may be considered as a kind of kidnappers within the law. I am the father of a young heiress, whom I begin to look upon as marriageable, and who has looked upon herself as such for above these six years. She is now in the eighteenth year of her age. The fortune-hunters have already cast their eyes upon her, and take care to plant themselves in her view whenever she appears in any public assembly. I have myself caught a young jackanapes, with a pair of silver-fringed gloves, in the very fact. You must know, sir, I have kept her as a prisoner of state ever since she was in her teens. Her chamber-windows are cross-barred; she is not permitted to go out of the house but with her keeper, who is a staid relation of my own; I have likewise forbid her the use of pen and ink, for this twelvemonth last past, and do not suffer a hand-box to be carried into her room before it has been searched. Notwithstanding these precautions, I am at my wit's end, for fear of any sudden surprise. There were, two or three nights ago, some fiddles heard in the street, which I am afraid portend me no good; not to mention a tall Irishman that has been seen walking before my house more than once this winter. My kinswoman likewise informs me, that the girl has talked to her twice or thrice of a gentleman in a fair wig, and that she loves to go to church more than ever she did in her life. She gave me the slip about a week ago, upon which my whole house was in alarm. I immediately dispatched a hue and cry after her to the 'Change, to her mantua-maker, and to the young ladies that visit her; but after above an hour's search she returned of herself, having been taking a walk, as she told me, by Rosamond's pond. I have hereupon turned off her woman, doubled her guards, and given new instructions to my relation, who, to give her her due, keeps a watchful eye over all her motions. This, sir, keeps me in a perpetual anxiety, and makes me very often watch when my daughter sleeps, as I am afraid she is even with me, in her turn. Now, sir, what I would desire of you is, to represent to this fluttering tribe of young fellows, who are for making their fortunes by these indirect means, that stealing a man's daughter for the sake of her portion, is but a kind of a tolerated robbery; and that they make but a poor amends to the father whom they plunder after this manner, by going to bed with his child. Dear sir, be speedy in your thoughts on this subject, that, if possible, they may appear before the disbanding of the army.

I am, sir,

Your most humble servant,

TIM. WATCHWELL*.

Themistocles, the great Athenian general, being asked whether he would choose to marry his daughter to an indigent man of merit, or to a worthless man of an estate, replied, that he should prefer a man without an estate, to an estate without a man. The worst of it is, our modern fortune-hunters are those who turn their heads that way, because they are good for nothing else. If a young fellow finds he can make nothing of Coke and Littleton, he provides himself with a ladder of

ropes, and by that means very often enters upon the premises.

The same art of scaling has likewise been practised with good success by many military engineers. Stratagems of this nature make parts and industry superfluous, and cut short the way to riches.

Nor is vanity a less motive than idleness to this kind of mercenary pursuit. A fop, who admires his person in a glass, soon enters into a resolution of making his fortune by it, not questioning but every woman that falls in his way will do him as much justice as he does himself. When an heiress sees a man throwing particular graces into his eye, or talking loud within her hearing, she ought to look to herself; but if withal she observes a pair of red heels, a patch, or any other particularity in his dress, she cannot take too much care of her person. These are baits not to be trifled with, charms that have done a world of execution, and made their way into hearts which have been thought impregnable. The force of a man with these qualifications is so well known, that I am credibly informed there are several female undertakers about the 'Change, who, upon the arrival of a likely man out of a neighbouring kingdom, will furnish him with a proper dress from head to foot, to be paid for at a double price on the day of marriage.

We must, however, distinguish between fortune-hunters and fortune-stealers. The first are those audacious gentlemen who employ their whole lives in the chase, without ever coming at the quarry. Sufferus has combed and powdered at the ladies for thirty years together; and taken his stand at a side-box, till he is grown wrinkled under their eyes. He is now laying the same snares for the present generation of beauties, which he practised on their mothers. Cottilus, after having made his applications to more than you meet with in Mr. Cowley's ballad of mistresses, was at last smitten with a city lady of 20,000*l.* sterling; but died of old age before he could bring matters to bear. Nor must I here omit my worthy friend Mr. Honeycomb, who has often told us in the club, that for twenty years successively, upon the death of a children rich man, he immediately drew on his boots, called for his horse, and made up to the widow. When he is rallied upon his success, Will with his usual gaiety tells us, that he always found her pre-engaged.

Widows are indeed the great game of your fortune-hunters. There is scarce a young fellow in the town, of six foot high, that has not passed a review before one or other of these wealthy relics. Hudibras's Cupid, who

— took his stand

Upon a widow's* jointure land,

is daily employed in throwing darts, and kindling flames. But as for widows, they are such a noble generation of people, that they may be left to their own conduct; or, if they make a false step in it, they are answerable for it to nobody but themselves. The young innocent creatures, who have no knowledge and experience of the world, are those whose safety I would principally consult in this speculation. The stealing of such an one should, in my opinion, be as punishable as a rape. Where there is no judgment, there is no choice; and why the inveigling a woman before she is come to years of discretion, should not be as criminal as the seducing of her before she is ten years old, I am at a loss to comprehend.

ADDISON.

L

* See Grey's Hudibras, vol. i. part i. canto iii. vs. 31., 312.—The name of the widow was Tomson.

* This letter by Hughes.

912. WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27, 1711-12.

hinc officium, quæ laus, quod decus erit tanti, quod impet cum dolore corporis velis, qui dolorem summum malum sibi permiserit? Quam porro quis ignominiam, quam turpitudinem non pertulerit, ut effugiat orem, si id summum malum esse decreverit?

TULL.

duty will a man perform, what praise, what honour he think worth purchasing at the expense of his ; who is persuaded that pain is the greatest of evils? What ignominy, what baseness will he not submit in order to avoid pain, if he has determined it to be worst of misfortunes?

very melancholy reflection, that men are so weak, that it is absolutely necessary for know sorrow and pain, to be in their right Prosperous people (for happy there are re hurried away with a fond sense of their condition, and thoughtless of the mutability ne. Fortune is a term which we must use discourses as these, for what is wrought by en hand of the Disposer of all things. But the disposition of a mind which is truly that which makes misfortunes and sorrows en they befall ourselves, great and lament- n they befall other men. The most unpardonable factor in the world going to his death, ing it with composure, would win the pity who should behold him; and this not calamity is deplorable, but because he self not to deplore it. We suffer for him s sensible of his own misery, and are indispense him who sinks under the weight resses. On the other hand, without any envy, a temperate and well-governed is down on such as are exalted with suc- a certain shame for the imbecility of ure, that can so far forget how liable it nity, as to grow giddy with only the sorrow, which is the portion of all men. re who turns his face from the unhappy will not look again when his eye is cast at sorrow, who shuns affliction like a does but pamper himself up for a sacri- ntract in himself a greater aptitude to attempting to escape it. A gentleman, ppened to be last night, fell into a dish- I thought showed a good discerning e took notice, that whenever men have their heart for the idea of true excell- man nature, they have found it to con- ring after a right manner, and with a

Heroes are always drawn bearing ugling with adversities, undergoing all rdships, and having in the service of kind of appetite to difficulties and he gentleman went on to observe, that is secret sense of the high merit which patience under calamities, that the wances, when they attempt to furnish rs of the highest excellence, ransack ings terrible; they raise a new crea- ters, dragons, and giants; where the the hero ceases: when he won an ined his mistress, the rest of his story relating. My friend carried his dis- as to say, that it was for higher be- o to join happiness and greatness in ; but that in our condition we have of superlative excellence, or heroism, rounded with a shade of distress. nly the proper education we should

give ourselves to be prepared for the ill events and accidents we are to meet with in a life sentenced to be a scene of sorrow: but instead of this expectation, we soften ourselves with prospects of constant delight, and destroy in our minds the seeds of fortitude and virtue, which should support us in hours of anguish. The constant pursuit of pleasure has in it something insolent, and improper for our being. There is a pretty sober liveliness in the ode of Horace to Delius, where he tells him, loud mirth, or immoderate sorrow, inequality of behaviour either in prosperity or adversity, are alike ungraceful in man that is born to die. Moderation in both circumstances is peculiar to generous minds. Men of that sort ever taste the gratifications of health, and all other advantages of life, as if they were liable to part with them; and when bereft of them, resign them with a greatness of mind which shows they know their value and duration. The contempt of pleasure is a certain preparatory for the contempt of pain. Without this the mind is, as it were, taken suddenly by an unforeseen event; but he that has always, during health and prosperity, been abstinent in his satisfactions, enjoys, in the worst of difficulties, the reflection, that his anguish is not aggravated with the comparison of past pleasures which upbraid his present condition. Tully tells us a story after Pompey, which gives us a good taste of the pleasant manner the men of wit and philosophy had in old times, of alleviating the distresses of life by the force of reason and philosophy. Pompey, when he came to Rhodes, had a curiosity to visit the famous philosopher Posidonius; but finding him in his sick bed, he bewailed the misfortune that he should not hear a discourse from him: 'But you may,' answered Posidonius; and immediately entered into the point of stoical philosophy, which says, pain is not an evil. During the discourse, upon every puncture he felt from his distemper, he smiled, and cried out, 'Pain, pain, be as impertinent and troublesome as you please, I shall never own that thou art an evil.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'HAVING seen in several of your papers, a concern for the honour of the clergy, and their doing every thing as becomes their character, and particularly performing the public service with a due zeal and devotion; I am the more encouraged to lay before them, by your means, several expressions used by some of them in their prayers before sermon, which I am not well satisfied in; as their giving some titles and epithets to great men, which are indeed due to them in their several ranks and stations, but not properly used, I think, in our prayers. Is it not contradiction to say, illustrious, right reverend, and right honourable poor sinners? These distinctions are suited only to our state here, and have no place in heaven; we see they are omitted in the liturgy; which, I think, the clergy should take for their pattern in their own forms of devotion*. There is another expression which I would

* In the original publication of this paper in the Spectator in folio, was the following passage, which, however, was left out when the papers were collectively printed in volumes in 1712.

[Another expression which I take to be improper, is this, 'the whole race of mankind,' when they pray for all men; for race signifies lineage or descent; and if the race of mankind may be used for the present generation (though, I think, not very fitly), the whole race takes in all from the beginning to the end of the world. I do not remember to have met with that expression, in their use, any where but in the old version of Psalm xiv. which those men, I suppose, have but

not mention, but that I have heard it several times before a learned congregation, to bring in the last petition of the prayer in these words, "O let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but this once," as if there was no difference between Abraham's interceding for Sodom, for which he had no warrant, as we can find, and our asking those things which we are required to pray for; they would therefore have much more reason to fear his anger if they did not make such petitions to him. There is another pretty fancy. When a young man has a mind to let us know who gave him his scarf, he speaks a parenthesis to the Almighty. "Bless, as I am in duty bound to pray, the right honourable the countess;" is not that as much as to say, "Bless her, for thou knowest I am her chaplain?"

'Your humble servant,

J. O.

STEEL.

T.

N° 313. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1711-12.

*Erigite ut moros teneros seu pollos ducat,
Ut si quid cetera cultum facit*

JUV. Sat. vii. ver. 237.

Bid him besides his daily pains employ,
To form the tender manners of the boy,
And work him like a waxes babe, with art,
To perfect symmetry in ev'ry part.

CH. DRYDEN.

I SHALL give the following letter no other recommendation than by telling my readers that it comes from the same hand with that of last Thursday*.

'SIR,

'I SEND you, according to my promise, some further thoughts on the education of youth, in which I intend to discuss that famous question, "Whether the education at a public school, or under a private tutor, is to be preferred?"

'As some of the greatest men in most ages have been of very different opinions in this matter, I shall give a short account of what I think may be best urged on both sides, and afterwards leave every person to determine for himself.

'It is certain from Suetonius, that the Romans thought the education of their children a business properly belonging to the parents themselves; and Plutarch, in the life of Marcus Cato, tells us, that as soon as his son was capable of learning, Cato would suffer nobody to teach him but himself, though he had a servant named Chilo, who was an excellent grammarian, and who taught a great many other youths.

'On the contrary, the Greeks seemed more inclined to public schools and seminaries.

'A private education promises, in the first place, virtue and good-breeding; a public school manly assurance, and an early knowledge in the ways of the world.

'Mr. Locke, in his celebrated treatise of education, confesses, that there are inconveniencies to be feared on both sides: "If," says he, "I keep my

little esteem for. And some, when they have prayed for all schools and nurseries of good learning and true religion, especially the two universities, add these words, 'Grant that from them, and all other places dedicated to thy worship and service, may come forth such persons, &c.' But what do they mean by all other places? It seems to me, that this is either a tautology, as being the same with all schools and nurseries before expressed, or else it runs too far; for there are several places dedicated to the divine service, which cannot properly be intended here.]

* N° 307. See also N° 337.

son at home, he is in danger of becoming my young master; if I send him abroad, it is scarce possible to keep him from the reigning contagion of rudeness and vice. He will perhaps be more innocent at home, but more ignorant of the world, and more sheepish when he comes abroad." However, as this learned author asserts, that virtue is much more difficult to be obtained than knowledge of the world, and that vice is a more stubborn, as well as a more dangerous fault than sheepishness, he is altogether for a private education; and the more so, because he does not see why a youth, with right management, might not attain the same assurance in his father's house, as at a public school. To this end, he advises parents to accustom their sons to whatever strange faces come to the house: to take them with them when they visit their neighbours, and to engage them in conversation with men of parts and breeding.

'It may be objected to this method, that conversation is not the only thing necessary; but that unless it be a conversation with such as are in some measure their equals in parts and years, there can be no room for emulation, contention, and several of the most lively passions of the mind; which, without being sometimes moved by these means, may possibly contract a dulness and insensibility.

'One of the greatest writers our nation ever produced, observes, that a boy who forms parties, and makes himself popular in a school or a college, would act the same part with equal ease in a senate, or a privy-council; and Mr. Osborne, speaking like a man versed in the ways of the world, affirms, that the well laying and carrying on of a design to rob an orchard, trains up a youth insensibly to caution, secrecy, and circumspection, and fits him for matters of great importance.

'In short, a private education across the most natural method for the forming of a virtuous man; a public education for making a man of business. The first would furnish out a good subject for Plato's republic, the latter a member for a community overrun with artifice and corruption.

'It must, however, be confessed, that a person at the head of a public school has sometimes so many boys under his direction, that it is impossible he should extend a due proportion of his care to each of them. This is, however, in reality, the fault of the age, in which we often see twenty parents, who, though each expects his son should be made a scholar, are not contented altogether to make it worth while for any man of a liberal education to take upon him the care of their instruction.

'In our great schools indeed this fault has been of late years rectified, so that we have at present not only ingenious men for the chief masters, but such as have proper ushers and assistants under them. I must nevertheless own, that for the want of the same encouragement in the country, we have many a promising genius spoiled and abused in those little seminaries.

'I am the more inclined to this opinion, having myself experienced the usage of two rural masters, each of them very unfit for the trust they took upon them to discharge. The first imposed much more upon me than my parts, though some of the weakest, could endure; and used me barbarously for not performing impossibilities. The latter was of quite another temper; and a boy who would run upon his errands, wash his coffee-pot, or ring the bell, might have as little conversation with any of the classics as he thought fit. I have known a lad at this place excuse his exercise for assisting the cook-maid; and remember a neighbouring gra-

nan's son was among us five years, most of which time he employed in airing and watering master's grey pad. I scorned to compound for faults by doing any of these elegant offices, was accordingly the best scholar and the worst of any boy in the school.

I shall conclude this discourse with an advantage mentioned by Quintilian as accompanying a public way of education, which I have not yet taken notice of; namely, that we very often contract such friendships at school, as are a service to all the following parts of our lives.

I shall give you, under this head, a story very known to several persons, and which you may depend upon as real truth.

Every one, who is acquainted with Westminster-school, knows that there is a curtain which is to be drawn across the room, to separate the school from the lower. A youth happened, some mischance, to tear the above-mentioned curtain. The severity of the master was too well known for the criminal to expect any pardon for such a fault; so that the boy, who was of a quick temper, was terrified to death at the thoughts of his appearance; when his friend who sat next him bade him be of good cheer, for that he would take the fault on himself. He kept his word accordingly. As soon as they were grown up to be men, the civil war broke out, in which our two friends took the opposite sides; one of them fought for the parliament, the other the royal party. As their tempers were different, the youth who had torn the curtain endeavoured to raise himself to the civil list; and the other, who had borne the brunt of it, on the military. The first succeeded well, that he was in a short time made a judge and the protector. The other was engaged in an unhappy enterprise of Penruddock and Grove near west. I suppose, sir, I need not acquaint you with the event of that undertaking. Every one knows that the royal party was routed, and the heads of them, among whom was the champion, imprisoned at Exeter. It happened to be his friend's lot at that time to go the round circuit. The trial of the rebels, as they were then called, was very short, and nothing now remained but to pass sentence on them; when the judge, hearing the name of his old friend, and observing his face more attentively, which he had not seen for many years, asked him, If he was not formerly a Westminster-scholar? By the answer he was soon convinced that it was his former general friend; and without saying any thing more at that time, made the best of his way to London, and, employing all his power and interest with the protector, he saved his friend from the fate of unhappy associates.

The gentleman whose life was thus preserved the gratitude of his school-fellow, was afterwards the father of a son, whom he lived to see seated in the church, and who still deservedly one of the highest stations in it.

DELL.

X.

v. Busby.

The gentleman alluded to was Colonel Wake, whose son Mr. Wake, Bishop of Lincoln, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. The judge is supposed to have been Mr. de Nicholas.

Nº 314. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1711-12.

*Tandem dæmne matrem
Temptation acquit viro.*

HOR. Od. xxiil. l. 1. ver. 11.

Attend thy mother's heels no more,
Now grown mature for man, and ripe for joy.
CREECH.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Feb. 7, 1711-12.

'I AM a young man about eighteen years of age, and have been in love with a young woman of the same age about this half-year. I go to see her six days in the week, but never could have the happiness of being with her alone. If any of her friends are at home, she will see me in their company; but if they be not in the way, she flies to her chamber. I can discover no signs of her aversion: but either a fear of falling into the toils of matrimony, or a childish timidity, deprives us of an interview apart, and drives us upon the difficulty of languishing out our lives in fruitless expectation. Now, Mr. Spectator, if you think us ripe for economy, persuade the dear creature that to pine away into barrenness and deformity, under a mother's shade, is not so honourable, nor does she appear so amiable, as she would in full bloom.

[There is a great deal left out before he concludes.]

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Your humble servant,

'BOB HARMLESS.'

If this gentleman be really no more than eighteen, I must do him the justice to say, he is the most knowing infant I have yet met with. He does not, I fear, yet understand, that all he thinks of is another woman; therefore, until he has given a further account of himself, the young lady is hereby directed to keep close to her mother.

THE SPECTATOR.

I CANNOT comply with the request in Mr. Trot's letter; but let it go just as it came to my hands for being so familiar with the old gentleman, as rough as he is to him. Since Mr. Trot has an ambition to make him his father-in-law, he ought to treat him with more respect; besides, his style to me might have been more distant than he has thought fit to afford me: moreover, his mistress shall continue in her confinement until he has found out which word in his letter is not rightly spelt.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I SHALL ever own myself your obliged humble servant, for the advice you gave me concerning my dancing; which, unluckily, came too late: for, as I said, I would not leave off capering until I had your opinion of the matter. I was at our famous assembly the day before I received your papers, and there was observed by an old gentleman, who was informed I had a respect for his daughter. He told me I was an insignificant little fellow, and said, that for the future he would take care of his child; so that he did not doubt but to cross my amorous inclinations. The lady is confined to her chamber, and for my part I am ready to hang myself with the thoughts that I have danced myself out of favour with her father. I hope you will pardon the trouble I give; but shall take it for a mighty favour, if you will give me a little more of your advice to put me in a right way to cheat the

old dragon, and obtain my mistress. I am once more, SIR,

'Your obliged humble servant,
1711-12. JOHN TROT.

'Let me desire you to make what alterations you please, and insert this as soon as possible. Pardon mistakes by haste.'

I NEVER do pardon mistakes by haste.

THE SPECTATOR.

SIR,

'Feb. 27, 1711-12.

'PRAY be so kind as to let me know what you esteem to be the chief qualification of a good poet, especially of one who writes plays; and you will very much oblige,

SIR,

'Your very humble servant,
'N. B.'

To be a very well-bred man.

THE SPECTATOR.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'You are to know that I am naturally brave, and love fighting as well as any man in England. This gallant temper of mine makes me extremely delighted with battles on the stage. I give you this trouble to complain to you, that Nicolini refused to gratify me in that part of the opera for which I have most taste. I observe it is become a custom, that whenever any gentlemen are particularly pleased with a song, at their crying out "*Encore*," or "*Altro Volto*," the performer is so obliging as to sing it over again. I was at the opera the last time Hydaspes was performed. At that part of it where the hero engages with the lion, the graceful manner with which he put that terrible monster to death gave me so great a pleasure, and at the same time so just a sense of that gentleman's intrepidity and conduct, that I could not forbear desiring a repetition of it, by crying out "*Altro Volto*," in a very audible voice; and my friends flatter me that I pronounced those words with a tolerable good accent, considering that was but the third opera I had ever seen in my life. Yet, notwithstanding all this, there was so little regard had to me, that the lion was carried off, and went to bed, without being killed any more that night. Now, sir, pray consider that I did not understand a word of what Mr. Nicolini said to this cruel creature; besides, I have no ear for music; so that, during the long dispute between them, the whole entertainment I had was from my eyes. Why then have not I as much right to have a graceful action repeated as another has a pleasing sound, since he only hears, as I only see, and we neither of us know that there is any reasonable thing a doing? Pray, sir, settle the business of this claim in the audience, and let us know when we may cry, "*Altro Volto*," *Anglicè*, "*Again, Again*," for the future. I am an Englishman, and expect some reason or other to be given me, and perhaps an ordinary one may serve; but I expect your answer.

'I am, SIR,

'Your most humble servant,
'TOBY RENTFREE.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Nov. 29.

'You must give me leave, amongst the rest of your female correspondents, to address you about an affair which has already given you many a speculation; and which, I know, I need not tell you has

had a very happy influence over the adult part of our sex; but as many of us are either too old to learn, or too obstinate in the pursuit of the vanities which have been bred up with us from our infancy, and all of us quitting the stage whilst you are prompting us to act our part well; you ought, methinks, rather to turn your instructions for the benefit of that part of our sex who are yet in their native innocence, and ignorant of the vices and that variety of unhappinesses that reign amongst us.

'I must tell you, Mr. Spectator, that it is as much a part of your office to oversee the education of the female part of the nation as of the male; and to convince the world you are not partial, pray proceed to detect the mal-administration of governesses as successfully as you have exposed that of pedagogues; and rescue our sex from the prejudice and tyranny of education as well as that of your own, who, without your reasonable interposition, are like to improve upon the vices that are now in vogue.

'I who know the dignity of your post as Spectator, and the authority a skillful eye ought to bear in the female world, could not forbear consulting you, and beg your advice in so critical a point, as is that of the education of young gentlewomen. Having already provided myself with a very convenient house in a good air, I am not without hope but that you will promote this generous design. I must further tell you, sir, that all who shall be committed to my conduct, besides the usual accomplishments of the needle, dancing, and the French tongue, shall not fail to be your constant readers. It is therefore my humble petition, that you will entertain the town on this important subject, and so far oblige a stranger, as to raise a curiosity and inquiry in my behalf, by publishing the following advertisement.

'I am, SIR,

'Your constant admirer,
'M. W.'

ADVERTISEMENT.

The boarding-school for young gentlewomen, which was formerly kept on Mile-End-Green, being laid down, there is now one set up almost opposite to it, at the Two Golden Balls, and much more convenient in every respect; where, besides the common instructions given to young gentlewomen, they will be taught the whole art of pastry and preserving, with whatever may render them accomplished. Those who please to make trial of the vigilance and ability of the persons concerned, may inquire at the Two Golden Balls on Mile-End-Green, near Stepney, where they will receive further satisfaction.

This is to give notice, that the Spectator has taken upon him to be visitant of all boarding-schools where young women are educated; and designs to proceed in the said office after the same manner that the visitants of colleges do in the two famous universities of this land.

All lovers who write to the Spectator, are desired to forbear one expression which is in most of the letters to him, either out of laziness or want of invention, and is true of not above two thousand women in the whole world: viz. "She has in her all that is valuable in women."

STEEL.

T.

15. SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1711-12.

*fec deus interit, nihil dignus vindice nodus
inciderit*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 191.

ever presume to make a god appear,
ut for a business worthy of a god.

ROSCOMMON.

He advises a poet to consider thoroughly the and force of his genius. Milton seems to know perfectly well wherein his strength and has therefore chosen a subject entirely suitable to those talents of which he was master; his genius was wonderfully turned to the subject, his subject is the noblest that could have fallen into the thoughts of man. Every thing truly great and astonishing has a place in the whole system of the intellectual world; and the creation; heaven, earth, and man enter into the constitution of his poem.

In the first and second books represented the real world with all its horrors, the thread of the fable naturally leads him into the opposite of bliss and glory.

Milton's majesty forsakes him any where, it is in those parts of his poem where the divine person is introduced as speakers. One may, I observe, that the author proceeds with a fear and trembling, whilst he describes the person of the Almighty. He dares not give his imagination its full play, but chooses to confine himself to such thoughts as are drawn from the most orthodox divines, and to such notions as may be met with in scripture. The style, therefore, which we are to look for in his speeches, are not of a poetical nature, nor does he fill the mind with sentiments of grandeur with thoughts of devotion. The passions, they are designed to raise, are, a divine and religious fear. The particular beauty of his speeches in the third book, consists in that ease and perspicuity of style, in which the poet has described the greatest mysteries of Christianity, drawn together, in a regular scheme, the dispensation of Providence with respect to He has represented all the abstruse doctrines of predestination, free-will and grace, as also the points of incarnation and redemption, (which naturally grow up in a poem that treats of the fall) with great energy of expression, and in a more and stronger light than I ever met with in any other writer. As these points are dry in themselves to the generality of readers, the concise and manner in which he has treated them is very to be admired, as is likewise that particular which he has made use of in the interspersing those graces of poetry which the subject was not of receiving.

The survey of the whole creation, and of the things that is trammeled in it, is a prospect of Omnipotence, and as much above that which Virgil has drawn his Jupiter, as the idea of the Supreme Being is more raised and sublime than that of the heathens. The larger objects on which he is described to have his eye, are represented in the most beautiful and easy manner:

He had th' Almighty Father from above
In the pure Emphyrean where he sits
Thron'd above all height bent down his eye,
To view his own works and their works at once to view.

About him all the sanctities of heav'n
Stood thick as stars, and from his sight receiv'd
Beatitude past utterance. On his right
The radiant image of his glory sat,
His only Son. On earth he first beheld
Our two first parents, yet the only two
Of mankind, in the happy garden plac'd,
Keeping immortal fruits of joy and love;
Uninterrupted joy, untrivall'd love,
In blissful solitude. He then survey'd
Hell and the gulf between, and Satan there
Coasting the wall of heav'n on this side night,
In the dun air sublime; and ready now
To stoop with wearied wings and willing feet
On the bare outside of this world, that seem'd
Firm land imbosom'd without firmament;
Uncertain which, in ocean, or in air.
Him God beholding from his prospect high,
Wherein past, present, future he beholds,
Thus to his only Son foreseeing spake.

Satan's approach to the confines of the creation is finely imaged in the beginning of the speech which immediately follows. The effects of this speech in the blessed spirits, and in the divine person to whom it was addressed, cannot but fill the mind of the reader with a secret pleasure and complacency:

'Thus while God spake, ambrosial fragrance fill'd
All heav'n, and in the blessed spirits elect
Sense of new joy ineffable diffus'd.
Beyond compare the Son of God was seen
Most glorious; in him all his Father shone
Substantially express'd; and in his face
Divine compassion visibly appear'd,
Love without end, and without measure grace.'

I need not point out the beauty of that circumstance wherein the whole host of Angels are represented as standing mute; nor show how proper the occasion was to produce such a silence in heaven. The close of this divine colloquy, with the hymn of angels that follows upon it, are so wonderfully beautiful and poetical, that I should not forbear inserting the whole passage, if the bounds of my paper would give me leave:

'No sooner had th' Almighty ceas'd, but all
The multitude of angels with a shout
(Loud as from numbers without number, sweet
As from blest voices) uttering joy, heav'n rang
With jubilee, and loud Hosannas fill'd
Th' eternal regions, &c. &c.'

Satan's walk upon the outside of the universe, which at a distance appeared to him of a globular form, but upon his nearer approach looked like an unbounded plain, is natural and noble; as his roaming upon the frontiers of the creation between that mass of matter, which was wrought into a world, and that shapeless unformed heap of materials, which still lay in chaos and confusion, strikes the imagination with something astonishingly great and wild. I have before spoken of the Limbo of Vanity, which the poet places upon this outermost surface of the universe, and shall here explain myself more at large on that, and other parts of the poem, which are of the same shadowy nature.

Aristotle observes, that the fable of an epic poem should abound in circumstances that are both credible and astonishing; or, as the French critics choose to phrase it, the fable should be filled with the probable and the marvellous. This rule is as fine and just as any in Aristotle's whole Art of Poetry.

If the fable is only probable, it differs nothing from a true history; if it is only marvellous, it is no better than a romance. The great secret, therefore, of heroic poetry is, to relate such circumstances as may produce in the reader at the same time both belief and astonishment. This is brought

to pass in a well-chosen fable, by the account of such things as have really happened, or at least of such things as have happened according to the received opinions of mankind. Milton's fable is a masterpiece of this nature; as the war in heaven, the condition of the fallen angels, the state of innocence, the temptation of the serpent, and the fall of man, though they are very astonishing in themselves, are not only credible, but actual points of faith.

The next method of reconciling miracles with credibility, is by a happy invention of the poet; as in particular, when he introduces agents of a superior nature, who are capable of effecting what is wonderful, and what is not to be met with in the ordinary course of things. Ulysses's ship being turned into a rock, and Æneas's fleet into a shoal of water-nymphs, though they are very surprising accidents, are nevertheless probable, when we are told, that they were the gods who thus transformed them. It is this kind of machinery which fills the poems both of Homer and Virgil with such circumstances as are wonderful but not impossible, and so frequently produce in the reader the most pleasing passion that can rise in the mind of man, which is admiration. If there be any instance in the *Æneid* liable to exception upon this account, it is in the beginning of the third book, where Æneas is represented as tearing up the myrtle that dropped blood. To qualify this wonderful circumstance, Polydorus tells a story from the root of the myrtle, that the barbarous inhabitants of the country having pierced him with spears and arrows, the wood which was left in his body took root in his wounds, and gave birth to that bleeding tree. This circumstance seems to have the marvels without the probable, because it is represented as proceeding from natural causes, without the interposition of any God, or other supernatural power capable of producing it. The spears and arrows grow of themselves without so much as the modern help of enchantment. If we look into the fiction of Milton's fable, though we find it full of surprising incidents, they are generally suited to our notions of the things and persons described, and tempered with a due measure of probability. I must only make an exception to the Limbo of Vanity, with his episode of Sin and Death, and some of the imaginary persons in his chaos. These passages are astonishing, but not credible; the reader cannot so far impose upon himself as to see a possibility in them; they are the description of dreams and shadows, not of things or persons. I know that many critics look upon the stories of Circe, Polyphemus, the Sirens, nay, the whole *Odyssey* and *Iliad*, to be allegories; but allowing this to be true, they are fables, which, considering the opinions of mankind that prevailed in the age of the poet, might possibly have been according to the letter. The persons are such as might have acted what is ascribed to them, as the circumstances in which they are represented, might possibly have been truths and realities. This appearance of probability is so absolutely requisite in the greater kinds of poetry, that Aristotle observes the ancient tragic writers made use of the names of such great men as had actually lived in the world, though the tragedy proceeded upon adventures they were never engaged in, on purpose to make the subject more credible. In a word, besides the hidden meaning of an epic allegory, the plain literal sense ought to appear probable. The story should be such as an ordinary reader may acquiesce in, what-

ever natural, moral, or political truth may be discovered in it by men of greater penetration.

Satan, after having long wandered upon the surface, or outmost wall of the universe, discovers at last a wide gap in it, which led into the creation, and is described as the opening through which the angels pass to and fro into the lower world, upon their errands to mankind. His sitting upon the brink of this passage, and taking a survey of the whole face of nature that appeared to him new and fresh in all its beauties, with the simile illustrating this circumstance, fills the mind of the reader with as surprising and glorious an idea as any that arises in the whole poem. He looks down into that vast hollow of the universe with the eye, or (as Milton calls it in his first book) with the eyes of an angel. He surveys all the wonders in this immense amphitheatre that lie between both the poles of heaven, and takes in at one view the whole round of the creation.

His sight between the several worlds that shined on every side of him, with the particular description of the sun, are set forth in all the wantonness of a luxuriant imagination. His shape, speech, and behaviour, upon his transforming himself into an angel of light, are touched with exquisite beauty. The poet's thought of directing Satan to the sun, which, in the vulgar opinion of mankind, is the most conspicuous part of the creation, and the placing in it an angel, is a circumstance very finely contrived, and the more adjusted to a poetical probability, as it was a received doctrine among the most famous philosophers, that every orb had in intelligence; and as an apostle in sacred writ is said to have seen such an angel in the sun. In the answer which this angel returns to the disguised evil spirit, there is such a becoming majesty as is altogether suitable to a superior being. The part of it in which he represents himself as present at the creation, is very noble in itself, and not only proper where it is introduced, but requisite to prepare the reader for what follows in the seventh book:

'I saw when at his word the formless mass,
This world's material mould, came to a heap:
Confusion heard his voice, and wild uproar
Stood rul'd, stood vast infinitude confin'd;
Till at his second bidding darkness sed,
Light shone, &c.'

In the following part of the speech he points out the earth with such circumstances, that the reader can scarce forbear fancying himself employed as the same distant view of it:

'Look downward on the globe whose hither side
With light from thence, tho' but reflected, shines,
That place is earth, the seat of man, that light
His day, &c.'

I must not conclude my reflections upon this third book of *Paradise Lost*, without taking notice of that celebrated complaint of Milton with which it opens, and which certainly deserves all the praise that have been given it; though, as I have before hinted, it may rather be looked upon as an excrescence, than as an essential part of the poem. The same observation might be applied to that beautiful digression upon hypocrisy in the same book.

ADDISON.

L.

316. MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1711-12.

vis qua res, tamen respicit inertem.

VIRG. Ecl. l. ver. 28.

dom; which came at length, tho' slow to come.
DRYDEN.

SPECTATOR,

I never read a letter which is sent with the leisure for the reality of its complaints, I have reason to hope for a favourable answer; and if time be the most irretrievable regret which follow will be thought, I hope, justifiable. The regaining of my liberty from a state of indolence and inactivity, and of resisting the further encroachment of make me apply to you; and the uneasiness which I recollect the past years, and the anxiety with which I expect the future, soon led me to it. Idleness is so general a distemper that I cannot but imagine a speculation which will be of universal use. There is no person without some allay of it; and besides myself spend more time in uncertainty which to begin first of two affairs would have been sufficient to have me both. The occasion of this seems to want of some necessary employment, to irritate in motion, and awaken them out of idleness. If I had less leisure, I should have I should then find my time distinguished into some for business, and others for the pleasures; but now one face of idleness spreads the whole, and I have no land to direct myself by. Were one's time allotted by business, like water inclosed in dikes, it would have some determined use; unless it be put into some channel it overflows, but becomes a deluge without circulation.

Scanderbeg, prince of Epirus, was dead, who had but too often felt the force of the battles he had won from them, but by wearing a piece of his bones near his heart, they should be animated with a virtue like to that which inspired him when he was alive.

I am like to be but of little use whilst I am resolved to do what good I can after my manner; and have accordingly ordered my affairs as I am disposed of in this manner for the good of my countrymen, who are troubled with too excessive a degree of fire. All fox-hunters upon the hills, would in a short time be brought to bed in a morning, and perhaps even with regret at ten. Instead of hurrying use a poor animal, and run away from thoughts, a chair or a chariot would be the most desirable means of performing one's duty in one place to another. I should be of the unnatural desire of John Trot for a specific to lessen the inclination to idleness, has to motion, and cause her always approbation to the present place she is in, no Egyptian mummy was ever half so lively, as I should be to these feverish, to repress the violent sallies of youth, and to action its proper weight and re-

lie any violent inclination, and oppose anger, or the solicitations of revenge.

But indolence is a stream which flows on, but yet undermines the founda-

tion of every virtue. A vice of a more lively nature were a more desirable tyrant than this rust of the mind, which gives a tincture of its nature to every action of one's life. It were as little hazard to be tossed in a storm, as to lie thus perpetually becalmed: and it is to no purpose to have within one the seeds of a thousand good qualities, if we want the vigour and resolution necessary for the exerting them. Death brings all persons back to an equality; and this image of it, this slumber of the mind, leaves no difference between the greatest genius and the meanest understanding. A faculty of doing things remarkably praiseworthy, thus concealed, is of no more use to the owner, than a heap of gold to the man who dares not use it.

To-morrow is still the fatal time when all is to be rectified. To-morrow comes, it goes, and still I please myself with the shadow, whilst I lose the reality; unmindful that the present time alone is ours, the future is yet unborn, and the past is dead, and can only live (as parents in their children) in the actions it has produced.

The time we live ought not to be computed by the number of years, but by the use that has been made of it; thus it is not the extent of ground, but the yearly rent which gives the value to the estate. Wretched and thoughtless creatures, in the only place where covetousness were a virtue, we turn prodigals! Nothing lies upon our hands with such uneasiness, nor has there been so many devices for any one thing, as to make it slide away imperceptibly and to no purpose. A shilling shall be hoarded up with care, whilst that which is above the price of an estate, is flung away with disregard and contempt. There is nothing now-a-days so much avoided, as a solicitous improvement of every part of time; it is a report must be shunned as one tenders the name of a wit and a fine genius, and as one fears the dreadful character of a laborious plodder: but notwithstanding this, the greatest wits any age has produced thought far otherwise; for who can think either Socrates or Demosthenes lost any reputation, by their continual pains both in overcoming the defects, and improving the gifts of nature. All are acquainted with the labour and assiduity with which Tully acquired his eloquence. Seneca in his letters to Lucilius assures him, there was not a day in which he did not either write something, or read and epitomize some good author; and I remember Pliny in one of his letters, where he gives an account of the various methods he used to fill up every vacancy of time, after several employments which he enumerates; "sometimes," says he, "I hunt: but even then I carry with me a pocket-book, that whilst my servants are busied in disposing of the nets and other matters, I may be employed in something that may be useful to me in my studies; and that if I miss of my game, I may at the least bring home some of my own thoughts with me, and not have the mortification of having caught nothing all day."

Thus, sir, you see how many examples I recollect to mind, and what arguments I use with myself, to regain my liberty: but as I am afraid it is no ordinary persuasion that will be of service, I shall expect your thoughts on this subject with the greatest impatience, especially since the good will not be confined to me alone, but will be of universal use. For there is no hopes of amendment where men are pleased with their ruin, and whilst they think laziness is a desirable character; whether it be that they like the state itself, or that they

think it gives them a new lustre when they do exert themselves, seemingly to be able to do that without labour and application, which others attain to but with the greatest diligence.

'I am, SIR,
'Your most obliged humble servant,
'SAMUEL SLACK.'

CLYTANDER TO CLEONE.

'MADAM,
'PERMISSION to love you is all that I desire, to conquer all the difficulties those about you place in my way, to surmount and acquire all those qualifications you expect in him who pretends to the honour of being,

'MADAM,
'Your most humble servant,
'CLYTANDER.'

[The Author unknown.]

Æ.

Nº 317. TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1711-12.

— *Fruges consumere nati.*
HOR. Ep. II. l. i. ver. 37.
— Born to drink and eat.
CREECH.

Augustus, a few moments before his death, asked his friends who stood about him, if they thought he had acted his part well; and upon receiving such an answer as was due to his extraordinary merit, 'Let me, then,' says he, 'go off the stage with your applause;' using the expression with which the Roman actors made their exit at the conclusion of a dramatic piece*. I could wish that men, while they are in health, would consider well the nature of the part they are engaged in, and what figure it will make in the minds of those they leave behind them: whether it was worth coming into the world for; whether it be suitable to a reasonable being; in short, whether it appears graceful in this life, or will turn to an advantage in the next. Let the sycophant or buffoon, the satirist or the good companion, consider with himself, when his body shall be laid in the grave, and his soul pass into another state of existence, how much it would redound to his praise to have it said of him, that no man in England ate better, that he had an admirable talent at turning his friends into ridicule, that nobody outdid him at an ill-mannered jest, or that he never went to bed before he had dispatched his third bottle. These are, however, very common funeral orations, and eulogiums on deceased persons who have acted among mankind with some figure and reputation.

But if we look into the bulk of our species, they are such as are not likely to be remembered a moment after their disappearance. They leave behind them no traces of their existence, but are forgotten as though they had never been. They are neither wanted by the poor, regretted by the rich, nor celebrated by the learned. They are neither missed in the commonwealth, nor lamented by private persons. Their actions are of no significance to mankind, and might have been performed by creatures of much less dignity than those who are distinguished by the faculty of reason. An eminent French author speaks somewhere to the following

* *For valets et plebeii.*—See the final note to the 'Andria,' in Cooke's Terence.

purpose: I have often seen from my chamber window two noble creatures, both of them of an erect countenance and endowed with reason. These two intellectual beings are employed from morning to night, in rubbing two smooth stones one upon another; that is, as the vulgar phrase it, in polishing marble.

My friend, Sir Andrew Freeport, as we were sitting in the club last night, gave us an account of a sober citizen, who died a few days since. This honest man being of greater consequence in his own thoughts, than in the eye of the world, had for some years past kept a journal of his life. Sir Andrew showed us one week of it. Since the occurrences set down in it mark out such a read of action as that I have been speaking of, I shall present my reader with a faithful copy of it; after having first informed him, that the deceased person had in his youth been bred to trade, but finding himself not so well turned for business, he had for several years last past lived altogether upon a moderate annuity.

MONDAY, eight o'clock. I put on my cloath, and walked into the parlour.

Nine o'clock ditto. Tied my knee-strings, and washed my hands.

Ten, eleven, and twelve. Smoked three pipes of Virginia. Read the Supplement and Daily Courant. Things go ill in the north. Mr. Nisby's opinion thereupon.

One o'clock in the afternoon. Chid Ralph for mislaying my tobacco-box.

Two o'clock. Sat down to dinner. Mem. Too many plums, and no suit.

From three to four. Took my afternoon's nap.

From four to six. Walked into the fields. Wind S.S.E.

From six to ten. At the club. Mr. Nisby's opinion about the peace.

Ten o'clock. Went to bed, slept sound.

TUESDAY, being holiday, eight o'clock. Rose as usual.

Nine o'clock. Washed hands and face, shaved, put on my double-soled shoes.

Ten, eleven, twelve. Took a walk to Islington.

One. Took a pot of mother Cob's mild.

Between two and three. Returned, dined on a knuckle of veal and bacon. Mem. Sprouts wanting.

Three. Nap as usual.

From four to six. Coffee-house. Read the news. A dish of twist: Grand Visier strangled.

From six to ten. At the club. Mr. Nisby's account of the Great Turk.

Ten. Dream of the Grand Visier. Broke asleep.

WEDNESDAY, eight o'clock. Tongue of my shoe-buckle broke. Hands but not face.

Nine. Paid off the butcher's bill. Mem. To be allowed for the last leg of mutton.

Ten, eleven. At the coffee-house. More warts in the north. Stranger in a black wig asked me how stocks went.

From twelve to one. Walked in the fields. Wind to the south.

From one to two. Smoked a pipe and a half.

Two. Dined as usual. Stomach good.

Three. Nap broke by the falling of a pewter dish. Mem. Cook-maid in love, and grown careless.

From four to six. At the coffee-house. Advice

Says that the Grand Visier was first of all glad, and afterwards behatted.

At a quarter of twelve in the evening. Was half an hour at the club before any body else came. Mr. Nisby informs that the Grand Visier was not strangled at that instant.

At a quarter of twelve at night. Went to bed. Slept without waking until nine the next morning.

THURSDAY, nine o'clock. Staid within until twelve for Sir Timothy; who did not bring me my money according to his promise.

At a quarter of twelve in the afternoon. Sat down to dinner. No appetite. Small-beer sour. Beef overdone.

At a quarter of twelve. Could not take my nap. At a quarter of five. Gave Ralph a box on the ear. Had off my cook-maid. Sent a messenger to Sir Timothy. Mem. I did not go to the club to-day. Went to bed at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY. Passed the morning in meditation upon Sir Timothy, who was with me a quarter before twelve.

At a quarter of twelve o'clock. Bought a new head to my sword and a tongue to my buckle. Drank a glass of port to recover appetite.

At a quarter of twelve and three. Dined and slept well. At a quarter of four to six. Went to the coffee-house. Mr. Nisby there. Smoked several pipes. Nisby of opinion that laced coffee is bad for the head.

At a quarter of twelve o'clock. At the club as steward. Sat late. At a quarter of twelve o'clock. Went to bed, dreamt that I had small beer with the Grand Visier.

SATURDAY. Waked at eleven, walked in the park. Wind N.E.

At a quarter of twelve. Caught in a shower. At a quarter of twelve in the afternoon. Returned home and dried myself.

At a quarter of twelve. Mr. Nisby dined with me. First course, oxtongues; second, ox-cheek, with a bottle of port and Hellier.

At a quarter of twelve. Overslept myself.

At a quarter of twelve. Went to the club. Like to have fallen into the water. Grand Visier certainly dead, &c.

It is not but the reader will be surprised at the above-mentioned journalist taking so much care of a life that was filled with such inconceivable actions, and received so very small immunities; and yet if we look into the behaviour of any whom we daily converse with, we shall find that most of our hours are taken up in those important articles of eating, drinking, and sleeping. I do not suppose that a man loses his time who is not engaged in public affairs, or in the serious course of action. On the contrary, I find our hours may very often be more profitably laid out in such transactions as make no figure in the world, than in such as are apt to draw upon the attention of mankind. One may become wiser and better by several methods of employing himself in secrecy and silence, and do what is profitable without noise or ostentation. I would, therefore, recommend to every one of my readers, to keep a journal of their lives for one week, setting down punctually their whole series of movements during that space of time. This kind of examination would give them a true state of themselves, and incline them to consider seriously what they are about. One day would rectify the errors of another, and make a man weigh all

those indifferent actions, which, though they are easily forgotten, must certainly be accounted for.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 318. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1711-12.

non omnia possumus omnes.

VIRG. Ecl. viii. ver. 63.

With different talents form'd, we variously excel.

MR. SPECTATOR,

A CERTAIN vice which you have lately attacked, has not yet been considered by you as growing so deep in the heart of man, that the affectation outlives the practice of it. You must have observed, that men who have been bred in arms preserve to the most extreme and feeble old age a certain daring in their aspect. In like manner, they who have passed their time in gallantry and adventure, keep up, as well as they can, the appearance of it, and carry a petulant inclination to their last moments. Let this serve for a preface to a relation I am going to give you of an old beau in town, that has not only been amorous, and a follower of women in general, but also, in spite of the admonition of grey hairs, been from his sixty-third year to his present seventieth, in an actual pursuit of a young lady, the wife of his friend, and a man of merit. The gay old Ecalus has wit, good health, and is perfectly well-bred; but from the fashion and manners of the court when he was in his bloom, has such a natural tendency to amorous adventure, that he thought it would be an endless reproach to him to make no use of a familiarity he was allowed at a gentleman's house, whose good-humour and confidence exposed his wife to the addresses of any who should take it in their head to do him the good office. It is not impossible that Ecalus might also resent that the husband was particularly negligent of him; and though he gave many intimations of a passion towards the wife, the husband either did not see them, or put him to the contempt of overlooking them. In the mean time Isabella, for so we shall call our heroine, saw his passion, and rejoiced in it as a foundation for much diversion, and an opportunity of indulging herself in the dear delight of being admired, addressed to, and flattered, with no ill consequence to her reputation. This lady is of a free and disengaged behaviour, ever in good humour, such as is the image of innocence with those who are innocent, and an encouragement to vice with those who are abandoned. From this kind of carriage, and an apparent approbation of his gallantry, Ecalus had frequent opportunities of laying amorous epistles in her way, of fixing his eyes attentively upon her action, of performing a thousand little offices which are neglected by the unconcerned, but are so many approaches towards happiness with the enamoured. It was now, as is above hinted, almost the end of the seventh year of his passion, when Ecalus from general terms, and the ambiguous respect which criminal lovers retain in their addresses, began to bewail that his passion grew too violent for him to answer any longer for his behaviour towards her, and that he hoped she would have consideration for his long and patient respect, to excuse the emotions of a heart now no longer under the direction of the unhappy owner of it. Such, for some months, had been the language of Ecalus both in his talk and his letters to Isabella; who returned all

the profusion of kind things which had been the collection of fifty years, with "I must not hear you; you will make me forget that you are a gentleman; I would not willingly lose you as a friend;" and the like expressions, which the skillful interpret to their own advantage, as well knowing that a feeble denial is a modest assent. I should have told you, that Isabella, during the whole progress of this amour, communicated it to her husband; and that an account of Escalus's love was their usual entertainment after half a day's absence. Isabella, therefore, upon her lover's late more open assaults, with a smile told her husband she could hold out no longer, but that his fate was now come to a crisis. After she had explained herself a little further, with her husband's approbation, she proceeded in the following manner: The next time that Escalus was alone with her, and repeated his importunity, the crafty Isabella looked on her fan with an air of great attention, as considering of what importance such a secret was to her; and upon the repetition of a warm expression, she looked at him with an eye of fondness, and told him he was past that time of life which could make her fear he would boast of a lady's favour; then turned away her head, with a very well acted confusion, which favoured the escape of the aged Escalus. This adventure was matter of great pleasantry to Isabella and her spouse; and they had enjoyed it two days before Escalus could recollect himself enough to form the following letter:

"MADAM,
"WHAT happened the other day, gives me a lively image of the inconsistency of human passions and inclinations. We pursue what we are denied, and place our affections on what is absent, though we neglected it when present. As long as you refused my love, your refusal did so strongly excite my passion, that I had not once the leisure to think of recalling my reason to aid me against the design upon your virtue. But when that virtue began to comply in my favour, my reason made an effort over my love, and let me see the baseness of my behaviour in attempting a woman of honour. I own to you, it was not without the most violent struggle, that I gained this victory over myself; nay, I will confess my shame, and acknowledge I could not have prevailed but by flight. However, Madam, I beg that you will believe a moment's weakness has not destroyed the esteem I had for you, which was confirmed by so many years of obstinate virtue. You have reason to rejoice that this did not happen within the observation of one of the young fellows, who would have exposed your weakness, and gloried in his own brutish inclinations.

"I am, MADAM,
"Your most devoted humble servant."

'Isabella, with the help of her husband, returned the following answer:

"SIR,
"I CANNOT but account myself a very happy woman, in having a man for a lover that can write so well, and give so good a turn to a disappointment. Another excellence you have above all other pretenders I ever heard of; on occasions where the most reasonable men lose all their reason, you have yours most powerful. We have each of us to thank our genius, that the passion of one abated in proportion as that of the other grew violent.

Does it not yet come into your head to imagine, that I knew my compliance was the greatest cruelty I could be guilty of towards you? In return for your long and faithful passion, I must let you know that you are old enough to become a little more gravity; but if you will leave me and coquette it any where else, may your mistress yield!

"ISABELLA."
T.

STEELE.

Nº 319. THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1711-12.

Quo tenam cultus mutantem Proten node?
HOR. Ep. l. l. i. ver. 30.

What chain can hold this varying Proteus fast?
CREECH.

I HAVE endeavoured in the course of my papers to do justice to the age, and have taken care as much as possible to keep myself a neuter between both sexes. I have neither spared the ladies out of complaisance, nor the men out of partiality; but notwithstanding the great integrity with which I have acted in this particular, I find myself taxed with an inclination to favour my own half of the species. Whether it be that the women afford a more fruitful field for speculation, or whether they run more in my head than the men, I cannot tell, but I shall set down the charge as it is laid against me in the following letter:

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I ALWAYS make one among a company of young females, who peruse your speculations every morning. I am at present commissioned by our whole assembly to let you know, that we fear you are a little inclined to be partial towards your own sex. We must however acknowledge, with all due gratitude, that in some cases you have given us our revenge on the men, and done us justice. We could not easily have forgiven you several strokes in the dissection of the coquette's heart, if you had not, much about the same time, made a sacrifice to us of a bean's skull.

'You may further, sir, please to remember, that not long since you attacked our hoods and commodities in such manner, as, to use your own expression, made very many of us ashamed to show our heads. We must, therefore, beg leave to represent to you, that we are in hopes, if you would please to make a due inquiry, the men in all ages would be found to have been little less whimsical in adorning that part than ourselves. The different forms of their wigs, together with the various coats of their hats, all flatter us in this opinion.

'I had an humble servant last summer, who the first time he declared himself was in a full-bottomed wig; but the day after, to my no small surprise, he accosted me in a thin natural one. I received him at this our second interview as a perfect stranger, but was extremely confounded when his speech discovered who he was. I resolved, therefore, to fix his face in my memory for the future; but, as I was walking in the Park the same evening, he appeared to me in one of those wigs that I think you call a night-cap, which had altered him more effectually than before. He afterwards played a couple of black riding-up upon me with the same success; and, in short, assumed a new face almost every day in the first month of his courtship.

• Nº 281 and 275.

† Nº 285.

observed afterwards that the variety of cocks which he moulded his hat, had not a little contributed to his impositions upon me.

Yet, as if all these ways were not sufficient to distinguish their heads, you must doubtless, sir, observed, that great numbers of young fellows, for several months last past, taken upon themselves feathers.

We hope, therefore, that these may, with as justice, be called Indian princes, as you have seen a woman in a coloured hood an Indian; and that you will in due time take these gentlemen into consideration.

We the more earnestly beg that you would put up to this practice, since it has already lost us some of the most agreeable members of our society, after having refused several good estates, and titles, was lured from us last week by a mixed crew.

I am ordered to present you with the respects of the whole company, and am,

‘SIR,

‘Your very humble servant,
‘DORINDA.

Note. The person wearing the feather, though friend took him for an officer in the guards, was said to be an arrant linen-draper *.

I am not now at leisure to give my opinion upon it and feather; however, to wipe off the pre-imputation, and gratify my female correspondent, I shall here print a letter which I lately received from a man of mode, who seems to have a very extraordinary genius in his way.

MR. RESUME I need not inform you, that among of dress it is a common phrase to say, “Mr. A-one has struck a bold stroke;” by which understand that he is the first man who has had good enough to lead up a fashion. Accordingly, our tailors take measure of us, they always ask “whether we will have a plain suit, or a bold stroke.” I think I may without vanity, that I have struck some of the boldest most successful strokes of any man in Great Britain. I was the first that struck the long pocket two years since; I was likewise the author of the frosted button, which, when I saw the town readily into, being resolved to strike while on was hot, I produced much about the same the scallop flap, the knotted cravat, and made a push for the silver-clocked stocking.

A few months after I brought up the modish hat, or the coat with close sleeves. I struck it first in a plain Doily; but that failing, I struck it a second time in blue camlet; and repeated the stroke in several kinds of cloth, until it took effect. There are two or three young fellows at the other end of the town, who always turn their eye upon me, and answer me for stroke. I was once so unwary as to show my fancy in relation to a new-fashioned coat before one of these gentlemen, who was generous enough to steal my thought, and by means prevented my intended stroke.

I have a design this spring to make very considerable innovations in the waistcoat; and have already begun with a *coup d’essai* upon the sleeves, which has succeeded very well.

I must further inform you, if you will promise

* the folio edition, the words are, “only an ensign in rain-bands.”

to encourage, or at least to connive at me, that it is my design to strike such a stroke the beginning of the next month as shall surprise the whole town.

‘I do not think it prudent to acquaint you with all the particulars of my intended dress; but will only tell you as a sample of it, that I shall very speedily appear at White’s in a cherry-coloured hat. I took this hint from the ladies’ hoods, which I look upon as the boldest stroke that sex has struck for these hundred years last past.

‘I am, sir,

‘Your most obedient,

‘most humble servant,

‘WILL. SPRIGHTLY.’

I have not time at present to make any reflections on this letter, but must not however omit, that having shown it to Will Honeycomb, he desires to be acquainted with the gentleman who writ it.

BUDGELL.

X

Nº 320. FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1711-12.

— non pronuba Juno,
Nor Hymeneus adest, non illi Gratia lecto
Eumenides straverunt torum —

OVID Met. vi. ver. 428.

Nor Hymen, nor the Graces here preside,
Nor Juno, to befriend the blooming bride;
But bends with funeral brands the process led,
And furies waited at the genial bed.

CROXAL.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘You have given many hints in your papers to the disadvantage of persons of your own sex, who lay plots upon women. Among other hard words you have published the term “Male Coquets,” and been very severe upon such as give themselves the liberty of a little dalliance of heart, and playing fast and loose between love and indifference, until perhaps an easy young girl is reduced to sighs, dreams, and tears; and languishes away her life for a careless coxcomb, who looks astonished, and wonders at such an effect from what in him was all but common civility. Thus you have treated the men who are irresolute in marriage; but if you design to be impartial, pray be so honest as to print the information I now give you, of a certain set of women who never coquette for the matter, but, with an high hand, marry whom they please to whom they please. As for my part, I should not have concerned myself with them, but that I understand I am pitched upon by them to be married, against my will, to one I never saw in my life. It has been my misfortune, sir, very innocently, to rejoice in a plentiful fortune, of which I am master, to bespeak a fine chariot, to give directions for two or three handsome snuff-boxes, and as many suits of fine clothes; but before any of these were ready, I heard reports of my being to be married to two or three different young women. Upon my taking notice of it to a young gentleman who is often in my company, he told me, smiling, I was in the inquisition. You may believe I was not a little startled at what he meant, and more so when he asked me if I had bespoke any thing of late that was fine. I told him, several; upon which he produced a description of my person, from the tradesmen whom I had employed, and told me, that they had certainly informed against me. Mr. Spectator, whatever the world may think of me, I am more coxcomb than fool, and I grew very inquisitive upon this head,

not a little pleased with the novelty. My friend told me, there were a certain set of women of fashion, whereof the number of six made a committee, who sat thrice a week, under the title of "The Inquisition on Maids and Bachelors." It seems, whenever there comes such an unthinking gay thing as myself to town, he must want all manner of necessities, or be put into the inquisition by the first tradesman he employs. They have constant intelligence with cane-shops, perfumers, toymen, coach-makers, and china-houses. From these several places these undertakers for marriages have as constant and regular correspondence, as the funeral men have with vintners and apothecaries. All bachelors are under their immediate inspection, and my friend produced to me a report given in to their board, wherein an old uncle of mine, who came to town with me, and myself, were inserted, and we stood thus: the uncle smoky, rotten, poor; the nephew raw, but no fool; sound at present, very rich. My information did not end here; but my friend's advices are so good, that he could show me a copy of the letter sent to the young lady who is to have me; which I inclose to you:

"MADAM,
 "THIS is to let you know, that you are to be married to a bean that comes out on Thursday, six in the evening. Be at the Park. You cannot but know a virgin fop; they have a mind to look saucy, but are out of countenance. The board has denied him to several good families. I wish you joy.
 "CORINNA."

What makes my correspondent's case the more deplorable is, that as I find by the report from my censor of marriages, the friend he speaks of is employed by the inquisition to take him in, as the phrase is. After all that is told him, he has information only of one woman that is laid for him, and that the wrong one; for the lady commissioners have devoted him to another than the person against whom they have employed their agent his friend to alarm him. The plot is laid so well about this young gentleman, that he has no friend to retire to, no place to appear in, or part of the kingdom to fly into, but he must fall into the notice, and be subject to the power of the inquisition. They have their emissaries and substitutes in all parts of this united kingdom. The first step they usually take is, to find from a correspondence, by their messengers and whisperers, with some domestic of the bachelor (who is to be hunted into the toils they have laid for him), what are his manners, his familiarities, his good qualities, or vices; not as the good in him is a recommendation, or the ill a diminution, but as they affect to contribute to the main inquiry, what estate he has in him. When this point is well reported to the board, they can take in a wild roaring fox-hunter, as easily as a soft, gentle young fop of the town. The way is, to make all places uneasy to him, but the scenes in which they have allotted him to act. His brother huntsmen, bottle companions, his fraternity of fops, shall be brought into the conspiracy against him. Then this matter is not laid in so barefaced a manner before him as to have it intimated. Mrs. Such-a-one would make him a very proper wife; but by the force of their correspondence, they shall make it (as Mr. Waller said of the marriage of the dwarfs) as impracticable to have any woman besides her they design him, as it would have been in Adam to have refused Eve. The man named by

the commission for Mrs. Such-a-one, shall neither be in fashion, nor dare ever to appear in company, should he attempt to evade their determination.

The female sex wholly govern domestic life; and by this means, when they think fit, they can sow dissensions between the dearest friends, nay, make father and son irreconcilable enemies, in spite of all the ties of gratitude on one part, and the duty of protection to be paid on the other. The ladies of the inquisition understand this perfectly well; and where love is not a motive to a man's choosing one whom they allot, they can, with very much art, insinuate stories to the disadvantage of his honesty or courage, till the creature is too much dispirited to bear up against a general ill reception which he every where meets with, and in due time falls into their appointed wedlock for shelter. I have a long letter, bearing date the fourth instant, which gives me a large account of the policies of this court; and find there is now before them a very refractory person, who has escaped all their machinations for two years last past: but they have prevented two successive matches which were of his own inclination; the one by a report that his mistress was to be married, and the very day appointed, wedding-clothes bought, and all things ready for her being given to another; the second time by insinuating to all his mistress's friends and acquaintance, that he had been false to several other women, and the like. The poor man is now reduced to profess he design to lead a single life; but the inquisition give out to all his acquaintance, that nothing is intended but the gentleman's own welfare and happiness. When this is urged, he talks still more humbly, and protests he aims only at a life without pain or reproach; pleasure, honour, and riches, are things for which he has no taste. But notwithstanding all this, and what else he may defend himself with, as that the lady is too old or too young; of a suitable humour, or the quite contrary; and that it is impossible they can ever do other than wrangle from June to January, every body tells him all this is spleen, and he must have a wife; while all the members of the inquisition are unanimous in a certain woman for him, and they think they all together are better able to judge than he, or any other private person whatsoever.

'SIR,
 Temple, March 5, 1711.
 "YOUR speculation this day* on the subject of idleness has employed me, ever since I read it, in sorrowful reflections on my having loitered away the term (or rather the vacation) of ten years in this place, and unhappily suffered a good chamber and study to lie idle as long. My books (except those I have taken to sleep upon) have been totally neglected, and my Lord Coke and other venerable authors were never so slighted in their lives. I spend most of the day at a neighbouring coffee-house, where we have what I may call a lazy club. We generally come in night-gowns, with our stockings about our heels, and sometimes but one on. Our salutation at entrance is a yawn and a stretch, and then without more ceremony we take our place at the lolling-table, where our discourse is, what I fear you would not read out, therefore shall not insert. But I assure you, &c. I heartily lament this loss of time, and am now resolved (if possible, with double diligence) to retrieve it, being effectually awakened by the arguments of Mr. Slack, out of the senseless stupidity

as so long possessed me. And to demonstrate that penitence accompanies my confession, I mustancy my resolutions, I have locked my door a year, and desire you would let my com-
 as know I am not within.

'I am with great respect,

'SIR,

'Your most obedient servant,

'N. B.'

LE.

T.

II. SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1711-12.

stat ex pulchra esse poemata, dulcia nuntio.
 OVID. Ars Poet. ver. 99.

'Tis not enough a poem's finely writ;
 It must affect and captivate the soul.

who know how many volumes have been written on the poems of Homer and Virgil, will pardon the length of my discourse upon

The *Paradise Lost* is looked upon by the Ages, as the greatest production, or at least the best work of genius in our language, and it deserves to be set before an English reader in its full beauty. For this reason, though I endeavoured to give a general idea of its beauties and imperfections in my six first papers, I myself obliged to bestow one upon every particular. The first three books I have dispatched, and am now entering upon the

I need not acquaint my reader that there are multitudes of beauties in this great author, which I have not touched upon, it being my intention to point out those only which appear to me to be exquisite, or those which are not so obvious to ordinary readers. Every one that has read the *Odyssey*, the *Æneid*, the *Æneid*, knows very well, that though there is a great difference in their opinions of the great beauties of these poems, they have nevertheless each discovered several master-strokes, which have not escaped the observation of the rest. In the same manner, I question not but any writer, who shall treat of this subject after me, may find several beauties in Milton, which I have not taken notice of; and must likewise observe, that as the greatest of critical learning differ among one another as to some particular points in an epic poem, I have not bound myself scrupulously to the opinion of any one of them who has laid down upon this subject, but have taken the liberty sometimes to differ from one, and sometimes with another, and sometimes to differ from all of them, when I have thought that the reason of the thing was on my

side. I may consider the beauties of the fourth book, which I have now begun, in the first of those pictures of life, which we meet with in the description of *Paradise*, Adam's Bower, &c. In the description of the machines, which comprehend the nature and behaviour of the good and bad angels. In the last is the conduct of Adam and Eve, the principal actors in the poem.

In the description of *Paradise*, the poet has observed Aristotle's rule of lavishing all the ornaments of diction on the weak unactive parts of the poem, which are not supported by the beauty of the actions and characters. Accordingly the reader will observe, that the expressions are more florid

and elaborate in these descriptions, than in most other parts of the poem. I must further add, that though the drawings of gardens, rivers, rain-bows, and the like dead pieces of nature, are justly censured in an heroic poem, when they run out into an unnecessary length; the description of *Paradise* would have been faulty, had not the poet been very particular in it, not only as it is the scene of the principal action, but as it is requisite to give us an idea of that happiness from which our first parents fell. The plan of it is wonderfully beautiful, and formed upon the short sketch which we have of it in holy writ. Milton's exuberance of imagination has poured forth such a redundancy of ornaments on this seat of happiness and innocence, that it would be endless to point out each particular.

I must not quit this head without further observing, that there is scarce a speech of Adam or Eve in the whole poem, wherein the sentiments and allusions are not taken from their delightful habitation. The reader, during their whole course of action, always finds himself in the walks of *Paradise*. In short, as the critics have remarked, that in those poems wherein shepherds are actors, the thoughts ought always to take a tincture from the woods, fields, and rivers, so we may observe, that our first parents seldom lose sight of their happy station in any thing they speak or do; and, if the reader will give me leave to use the expression, that their thoughts are always 'Paradisiacal.'

We are in the next place to consider the machines of the fourth book. Satan being now within prospect of Eden, and looking round upon the glories of the creation, is filled with sentiments different from those which he discovered whilst he was in hell. The place inspires him with thoughts more adapted to it. He reflects upon the happy condition from whence he fell, and breaks forth into a speech that is softened with several transient touches of remorse and self-accusation: but at length he confirms himself in impentence, and in his design of drawing man into his own state of guilt and misery. This conflict of passions is raised with a great deal of art, as the opening of his speech to the sun is very bold and noble:

'O thou that, with surpassing glory crown'd,
 Look'st from thy sole dominion like the god
 Of this new world; at whose sight all the stars
 Hide their diminished heads; to thee I call,
 But with no friendly voice; and add thy name,
 O Sun! to tell thee how I hate thy beams,
 That bring to my remembrance from what state
 I fell, how glorious once above thy sphere.'

This speech is, I think, the finest that is ascribed to Satan in the whole poem. The evil spirit afterwards proceeds to make his discoveries concerning our first parents, and to learn after what manner they may be best attacked. His bounding over the walls of *Paradise*; his sitting in the shape of a cormorant upon the tree of life, which stood in the centre of it, and overtopped all the other trees of the garden; his alighting among the herd of animals, which are so beautifully represented as playing about Adam and Eve, together with his transforming himself into different shapes, in order to hear their conversation; are circumstances that give an agreeable surprise to the reader, and are devised with great art, to connect that series of adventures in which the poet has engaged this artificer of fraud.

The thought of Satan's transformation into a cormorant, and placing himself on the tree of life,

seems raised upon that passage in the *Iliad*, where two deities are described as perching on the top of an oak in the shape of vultures.

His planting himself at the ear of Eve under the form of a toad, in order to produce vain dreams and imaginations, is a circumstance of the same nature; as his starting up in his own form is wonderfully fine, both in the literal description, and in the moral which is concealed under it. His answer upon his being discovered, and demanded to give an account of himself, is conformable to the pride and intrepidity of his character:

'Know ye not then,' said Satan, fill'd with scorn,
'Know ye not me! Ye knew me once no mate
For you, there sitting where you durst not soar;
Not to know me, argues yourselves unknown,
The lowest of your throng—'

Zephon's rebuke, with the influence it had on Satan, is exquisitely graceful and moral. Satan is afterwards led away to Gabriel, the chief of the guardian angels, who kept watch in Paradise. His disdainful behaviour on this occasion is so remarkable a beauty, that the most ordinary reader cannot but take notice of it. Gabriel's discovering his approach at a distance is drawn with great strength and liveliness of imagination:

'O friends, I hear the tread of nimble feet
Hasting this way, and now by glimpse discern
Ithuriel and Zephon through the shade,
And with them comes a third of regal port,
But faded splendour wan; who by his gait
And fierce demeanour seems the prince of hell:
Not likely to part hence without contest;
Stand firm, for in his look defiance lowers.'

The conference between Gabriel and Satan abounds with sentiments proper for the occasion, and suitable to the persons of the two speakers. Satan clothing himself with terror when he prepares for the combat is truly sublime, and at least equal to Homer's description of Discord celebrated by Longinus, or to that of Fame in Virgil, who are both represented with their feet standing upon the earth, and their heads reaching above the clouds:

'While thus he spake, th' angelic squadron bright
Turn'd fiery red, sharpening in moaned horns
Their phalanx, and began to hem him round
With ported spears, &c.
— On th' other side Satan alarm'd,
Collecting all his might dilated stood
Like Teneriff or Atlas, unremov'd:
His stature reach'd the sky, and on his crest
Sat horror plum'd;—'

I must here take notice, that Milton is every where full of hints, and sometimes literal translations, taken from the greatest of the Greek and Latin poets. But this I may reserve for a discourse by itself, because I would not break the thread of these speculations, that are designed for English readers, with such reflections as would be of no use but to the learned.

I must, however, observe in this place, that the breaking off the combat between Gabriel and Satan, by the hanging out of the golden scales in heaven, is a refinement upon Homer's thought, who tells us, that before the battle between Hector and Achilles, Jupiter weigh'd the event of it in a pair of scales. The reader may see the whole passage in the 22d *Iliad*.

Virgil, before the last decisive combat, describes Jupiter in the same manner, as weighing the fates of Turnus and Æneas. Milton, though he fetched this beautiful circumstance from the *Iliad* and *Æneid*, does not only insert it as a poetical em-

bellishment, like the authors above-mentioned; but makes an artful use of it for the proper carrying on of his fable, and for the breaking off the combat between the two warriors, who were upon the point of engaging. To this we may further add, that Milton is the more justified in this passage, as we find the same noble allegory in holy writ, where a wicked prince, some few hours before he was assaulted and slain, is said to have been 'weighed in the scales, and to have been found wanting.'

I must here take notice, under the head of the machines, that Uriel's gliding down to the earth upon a sun-beam, with the poet's device to make him descend, as well in his return to the sun as in his coming from it, is a prettiness that might have been admired in a little fanciful poet, but seems below the genius of Milton. The description of the host of armed angels walking their nightly round in Paradise, is of another spirit:

'So saying, on he led his radiant files,
Dazzling the moon!'

as that account of the hymns which our first parents used to hear them sing in these their midnight walks, is altogether divine, and inexpressibly amusing to the imagination.

We are, in the last place, to consider the part which Adam and Eve act in the fourth book. The description of them, as they first appeared to Satan, is exquisitely drawn, and sufficient to make the fallen angel gaze upon them with all that astonishment, and those emotions of envy, in which he is represented:

'Two of far nobler shape erect and tall,
Godlike erect! with native honour clad
In naked majesty, seem'd lords of all;
And worthy seem'd: for in their looks divine
The image of their glorious Maker shone,
Truth, wisdom, sanctitude severe and pure;
Severe, but in true filial freedom plac'd;
For contemplation he and valour form'd,
For softness she and sweet attractive grace;
He for God only, she for God in him.
His fair large front, and eye sublime, declar'd
Absolute rule; and hyacinthin locks
Round from his parted forelock manly hung
Clust'ring, but not beneath his shoulders broad.
She, as a veil, down to her slender waist
Her unadorn'd golden tresses wore
Dishevel'd, but in wanton ringlets wav'd.
So pass'd they naked on, nor shunn'd the sight
Of God or angel, for they thought no ill:
So hand in hand they pass'd, the loveliest pair
That ever since in love's embraces met.'

There is a fine spirit of poetry in the lines which follow, wherein they are described as sitting on a bed of flowers by the side of a fountain, amidst a mixed assembly of animals.

The speeches of these two first lovers flow equally from passion and sincerity. The professions they make to one another are full of warmth; but at the same time founded on truth. In a word, they are the gallantries of Paradise:

'When Adam first of men—
"Sole partner and sole part of all these joys,
Dearer thyself than all;—
But let us ever praise him, and extol
His bounty, following our delightful task
To prune these growing plants, and tend these flowers,
Which were it toilsome, yet with thee were sweet."
To whom thus Eve reply'd. "O thou, for whom
And from whom I was form'd, flesh of thy flesh,
And without whom am to no end, my guide
And head, what thou hast said is just and right,
For we to him indeed all praises owe,
And daily thanks; I chiefly, who enjoy
So far the happier lot, enjoying thee
Pre-eminent by so much odds, while thou
Like consort to thyself canst nowhere find," &c.

the remaining part of Eve's speech, in which she gives an account of herself upon her first creation, and the manner in which she was brought to life, is, I think, as beautiful a passage as any in Milton, or perhaps in any other poet whatsoever.

These passages are all worked off with so much art, that they are capable of pleasing the delicate reader, without offending the most scrupulous.

That day I oft remember, when from sleep, &c.'

A poet of less judgment and invention than this author, would have found it very difficult to fill these tender parts of the poem with sentiments proper for a state of innocence; to describe the warmth of love, and the promises of it, without artifice or hyperbole; to make the man speak the most endearing words, without descending from his natural dignity, and the woman receiving them without degrading from the modesty of her character; in a word, to adjust the prerogatives of wisdom and beauty, and make each appear to the other in its proper force and loveliness. This mutual subordination of the two sexes is wonderfully kept up in the whole poem, as particularly in the speech of Adam before mentioned, and upon the conclusion of it in the following lines:

So spake our general mother, and with eyes
Of conjugal attraction unprov'd,
And meek surrender, half embracing lean'd
On our first father; half her swelling breast

Naked met his under the flowing gold
Of her loose tresses hid; he in delight
Both of her beauty and submissive charms
Smil'd with superior love——'

The poet adds, that the devil turned away with envy at the sight of so much happiness.

We have another view of our first parents in their evening discourses, which is full of pleasing images and sentiments suitable to their condition and characters. The speech of Eve, in particular, is dressed up in such a soft and natural turn of words and sentiments, as cannot be sufficiently admired.

I shall close my reflections upon this book, with observing the masterly transition which the poet makes to their evening worship in the following lines:

' Thus at their shady lodge arriv'd, both stood,
Both turn'd, and under open sky ador'd
The God that made both sky, air, earth, and heav'n,
Which they beheld, the moon's resplendent globe,
And starry pole: "Thou also mad'st the night,
Maker omnipotent, and thou the day," &c.

Most of the modern heroic poets have imitated the ancients in beginning a speech without pre-mising, that the person said thus or thus; but as it is easy to imitate the ancients in the omission of two or three words, it requires judgment to do it in such a manner as they shall not be missed, and that the speech may begin naturally without them. There is a fine instance of this kind out of Homer, in the twenty-third chapter of Longinus.

ADDISON.

L.

THE SPECTATOR.

VOL. V.

TO THE
EARL OF WHARTON*.

MY LORD,

THE author of the Spectator, having prefixed before each of his volumes the name of some great person to whom he has particular obligations, lays his claim to your Lordship's patronage upon the same account. I must confess, my Lord, had not I already received great instances of your favour, I should have been afraid of submitting a work of this nature to your perusal. You are so thoroughly acquainted with the characters of men, and all the parts of human life, that it is impossible for the least misrepresentation of them to escape your notice. It is your Lordship's particular distinction, that you are master of the whole compass of business, and have signalized yourself in all the different scenes of it. We admire some for the dignity, others for the popularity of their behaviour; some for their clearness of judgment, others for their happiness of expression; some for the laying of schemes, and others for the putting of them in execution. It is your Lordship only who enjoys these several talents united, and that too in as great perfection as others possess them singly. Your enemies acknowledge this great extent in your Lordship's character, at the same time that they use their utmost industry and invention to derogate from it. But it is for your honour that those who are now your enemies were always so. You have acted in so much consistency with yourself, and promoted the interests of your country in so uniform a manner, that even those who would misrepresent your generous designs for the public good, cannot but approve the steadiness and intrepidity with which you pursue them. It is a most sensible pleasure to me, that I have this opportunity of professing myself one of your great admirers, and, in a very particular manner, MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obliged
And most obedient, humble servant
THE SPECTATOR.

* Thomas Wharton; appointed by King William comp-roller of the household, justice in eyre south of Trent, and lord lieutenant of Oxfordshire; created Viscount Winchendon in the county of Bucks, and Earl of Wharton in the county of Westmorland, December 1706; appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland, November 1708 (when Mr. Addison became his secretary); lord privy seal, September 1714; and, in December of the same year, created Marquis of Wharton and Malmesbury in England, and Earl of Rathfarnham and Marquis Cathborough in Ireland. He died April 1715, in the 76th year of his age, and was succeeded by his son Philip, whom George I. in 1718, created Duke of Wharton, in consideration of the merits of his father.

Nº 322. MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1711-12.

— *Ad humum marore gravi deductus et angit.*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 110.
— Grief dejects, and wrings the tortur'd soul.
RUSCOMMON.

IT is often said, after a man has heard a story with extraordinary circumstances, 'it is a very good one if it be true;' but as for the following relation, I should be glad were I sure it were false. It is told with such simplicity, and there are so many artless touches of distress in it, that I fear it comes too much from the heart.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'SOME years ago it happened that I lived in the same house with a young gentleman of merit; with whose good qualities I was so much taken, as to make it my endeavour to show as many as I was able in myself. Familiar converse improved general civilities into an unfeigned passion on both sides. He watched an opportunity to declare himself to me; and I, who could not expect a man of so great an estate as his, received his addresses in such terms as gave him no reason to believe I was displeased with them, though I did nothing to make him think me more easy than was decent. His father was a very hard worldly man, and proud; so that there was no reason to believe he would easily be brought to think there was any thing in any woman's person or character that could balance the disadvantage of an unequal fortune. In the mean time, the son continued his application to me, and omitted no occasion of demonstrating the most disinterested passion imaginable to me; and in plain direct terms offered to marry me privately, and keep it so till he should be so happy as to gain his father's approbation, or become possessed of his estate. I passionately loved him, and you will believe I did not deny such a one what was my interest also to grant. However, I was not so young as not to take the precaution of carrying with me a faithful servant, who had been also my mother's maid, to be present at the ceremony. When that was over, I demanded a certificate, signed by the minister, my husband, and the servant I just now spoke of. After our nuptials, we conversed together very familiarly in the same house; but the restraints we were generally under, and the interviews we had being stolen and interrupted, made our behaviour to each other have rather the impatient fondness which is visible in lovers, than the regular and gratified affection which is to be observed in man and wife. This observation made the father very anxious for his son, and press him to a match he had in his eye for him. To relieve my husband from this importunity, and conceal the secret of our marriage, which I had reason to know would not be long in my power to town, it was resolved that I should retire into a remote place in the country, and converse under feigned names by letter. We long continued this way of commerce; and I with my needle, a few books, and reading over and over my husband's

rs, passed my time in a resigned expectation
etter days. Be pleased to take notice, that
in four months after I left my husband I was
ered of a daughter, who died within a few
after her birth. This accident, and the re-
manner of life I led, gave criminal hopes to
ighbouring brute of a country gentleman,
e folly was the source of all my affliction.
rustic is one of those rich clowns who supply
ant of all manner of breeding by the neglect
, and with noisy mirth, half understanding,
mple fortune, force themselves upon persons
things, without any sense of time or place.
oor ignorant people where I lay concealed,
ow passed for a widow, wondered I could be
and strange, as they called it, to the squire;
ere bribed by him to admit him whenever he
ht fit: I happened to be sitting in a little
ur which belonged to my own part of the
, and musing over one of the fondest of my
nd's letters, in which I always kept the cer-
e of my marriage, when this rude fellow
in, and with the nauseous familiarity of such
d brutes, snatched the papers out of my

I wr^d immediately under so great a con-
that I threw myself at his feet, and begged
to return them. He, with the same odious
ice to freedom and gaiety, swore he would
them. I grew more importunate, he more
s, till at last, with an indignation arising
a passion I then first discovered in him, he
the papers into the fire, swearing that since
s not to read them, the man who writ them
never be so happy as to have me read them
gain. It is insignificant to tell you my tears
approaches made the boisterous calf leave the
ashamed and out of countenance, when I
isure to ruminate on this accident with more
ordinary sorrow. However, such was then
nfidence in my husband, that I writ to him
fortune, and desired another paper of the
kind. He deferred writing two or three
and at last answered me in general, That he
not then send me what I asked for; but
he could find a proper conveyance, I should
e to have it. From this time his letters were
old every day than other; and as he grew
rent, I grew jealous. This has at last brought
town, where I find both the witnesses of my
ge dead, and that my husband, after three
cohabitation, has buried a young lady whom
ried in obedience to his father. In a word,
ns and disowns me. Should I come to the
and confront him, the father would join in
ting him against me, though he believed my
should I talk it to the world, what repara-
in I expect for an injury I cannot make out?
ve he means to bring me, through necessity,
in my pretensions to him for some provision
life: but I will die first. Pray bid him
ber what he said, and how he was charmed
e laughed at the heedless discovery I often
of myself; let him remember how awkward
in my dissembled indifference towards him
company; ask him how I, who could never
my love for him, at his own request can
with him for ever? Oh, Mr. Spectator, sen-
surity know no indifference in marriage: what
to you think is my piercing affliction!—I
you to represent my distress your own way,
ch I desire you to be speedy, if you have
sion for innocence exposed to infamy.

'*SESTAVIA.*'
T.

ENCE.

N^o 323. TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1711-12.

— *Modo vir, modo femina* —

VIRG^d.

Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman.

THE journal with which I presented my reader on
Tuesday last † has brought me in several letters,
with accounts of many private lives cast into that
form. I have the 'Rake's Journal,' the 'Sot's
Journal,' the 'Whoremaster's Journal,' and, among
several others, a very curious piece, intitled, 'The
Journal of a Mohock.' By these instances I find
that the intention of my last Tuesday's paper has
been mistaken by many of my readers. I did not
design so much to expose vice as idleness ‡, and
aimed at those persons who pass away their time
rather in trifles and impertinence, than in crimes
and immoralities. Offences of this latter kind are
not to be dallied with, or treated in so ludicrous a
manner. In short, my journal only holds up folly
to the light, and shows the disagreeableness of such
actions as are indifferent in themselves, and blam-
able only as they proceed from creatures endowed
with reason.

My following correspondent, who calls herself
Clarinda, is such a journalist as I require. She
seems by her letter to be placed in a modish state
of indifference between vice and virtue, and to be
susceptible of either, were there proper pains
taken with her. Had her journal been filled with
gallantries, or such occurrences as had shown her
wholly divested of her natural innocence, notwith-
standing it might have been more pleasing to the
generality of readers, I should not have published
it: but as it is only the picture of a life filled with
a fashionable kind of gaiety and laziness, I shall
set down five days of it, as I have received it from
the hand of my fair correspondent.

'DEAR MR. SPECTATOR,
'You having set your readers an exercise in one of
your last week's papers, I have performed mine
according to your orders, and herewith send it you
inclosed. You must know, Mr. Spectator, that I
am a maiden lady of a good fortune, who have had
several matches offered me for these ten years last
past, and have at present warm applications made
to me by 'A Very Pretty Fellow &c.' As I am at
my own disposal, I come up to town every winter,
and pass my time in it after the manner you will
find in the following journal, which I began to
write upon the very day after your Spectator upon
that subject.

TUESDAY night. Could not go to sleep till one
in the morning for thinking of my journal.

WEDNESDAY. From eight till ten. Drank two
dishes of chocolate in bed, and fell asleep after
them.

From ten to eleven. Eat a slice of bread and
butter, drank a dish of bohea, read the Spectator.

* There is no such line in Virgil.—Addison most likely
quoted from memory, and had reference to the following line
describing Ceneus:

— *juvenis quondam, nunc femina.*

Æn. vi. ver. 449.

A woman now, but formerly a man.

† N^o 317.

‡ See N^o 316.

† See Tat. Nos. 21 and 24.

From eleven to one. At my toilette; tried a new head. Gave orders for Veny to be combed and washed. Mem. I look best in blue.

From one till half an hour after two. Drove to the 'Change. Cheapened a couple of fans.

Till four. At dinner. Mem. Mr. Froth passed by in his new liveries.

From four to six. Dressed; paid a visit to old Lady Blithe and her sister, having before heard they were gone out of town that day.

From six to eleven. At basset. Mem. Never set again upon the ace of diamonds.

THURSDAY. From eleven at night to eight in the morning. Dreamed that I panted to Mr. Froth.

From eight to ten. Chocolate. Read two acts in *Aurengzebe* * a-bed.

From ten to eleven. Tea-table. Sent to borrow Lady Faddle's Cupid for Veny. Read the play-bills. Received a letter from Mr. Froth. Mem. Locked it up in my strong box.

Rest of the morning. Fontange, the tire-woman, her account of my Lady Blithe's wash. Broke a tooth in my little tortoise-shell comb. Sent Frank to know how my Lady Hectic rested after her monkey's leaping out at window. Looked pale. Fontange tells me my glass is not true. Dressed by three.

From three to four. Dinner cold before I sat down.

From four to eleven. Saw company. Mr. Froth's opinion of Milton. His account of the Mohocks. His fancy of a pincushion. Picture in the lid of his snuff-box. Old Lady Faddle promises me her woman to cut my hair. Lost five guineas at crimp. Twelve o'clock at night. Went to bed.

FRIDAY. Eight in the morning. A bed. Read over all Mr. Froth's letters. Cupid and Veny.

Ten o'clock. Stayed within all day, not at home.

From ten to twelve. In conference with my mantua-maker. Sorted a suit of ribbons. Broke my blue china cup.

From twelve to one. Shut myself up in my chamber, practised Lady Betty Modely's skuttle.

One in the afternoon. Called for my flowered handkerchief. Worked half a violet leaf in it. Eyes ached and head out of order. Threw by my work, and read over the remaining part of *Aurengzebe*.

From three to four. Dined.

From four to twelve. Changed my mind, dressed, went abroad, and played at crimp till midnight. Found Mrs. Spitley at home. Conversation: Mrs. Brilliant's necklace false stones. Old Lady Love-day going to be married to a young fellow that is not worth a groat. Miss Prue gone into the country. Tom Townley has red hair. Mem. Mrs. Spitley whispered in my ear that she had something to tell me about Mr. Froth; I am sure it is not true.

Between twelve and one. Dreamed that Mr. Froth lay at my feet, and called me *Indamora* †.

SATURDAY. Rose at eight o'clock in the morning. Sat down to my toilette.

From eight to nine. Shifted a patch for half an hour before I could determine it. Fixed it above my left eyebrow.

From nine to twelve. Drank my tea, and dressed.

From twelve to two. At chapel. A great deal

of good company. Mem. The third air in the new opera. Lady Blithe dressed frightfully.

From three to four. Dined. Miss Kitty called upon me to go to the opera before I was risen from table.

From dinner to six. Drank tea. Turned off a footman for being rude to Veny.

Six o'clock. Went to the opera. I did not see Mr. Froth till the beginning of the second act. Mr. Froth talked to a gentleman in a black wig; bowed to a lady in the front box. Mr. Froth and his friend clapped Nicolini in the third act. *Ma troua* cried out 'Ancora.' Mr. Froth led me to my chair. I think he squeezed my hand.

Eleven at night. Went to bed. Melancholy dreams. Methought Nicolini said he was Mr. Froth.

SUNDAY. Indisposed.

MONDAY. Eight o'clock. Waked by Miss Kitty. *Aurengzebe* lay upon the chair by me. Kitty repeated without book the eight best lines in the play. Went in our mobs to the dumb man * according to appointment. Told me that my lover's name began with a G. Mem. The conjurer was within a letter of Mr. Froth's name, &c.

'Upon looking back into this my journal, I find that I am at a loss to know whether I pass my time well or ill; and indeed never thought of considering how I did it before I perused your speculation upon that subject. I scarce find a single action in these five days that I can thoroughly approve of, except the working upon the violet-leaf, which I am resolved to finish the first day I am at leisure. As for Mr. Froth and Veny, I did not think they took up so much of my time and thought as I find they do upon my journal. The latter of them I will turn off if you insist upon it; and if Mr. Froth does not bring matters to a conclusion very suddenly, I will not let my life run away as a dream.

'Your humble servant,
'CLARINDA.'

To resume one of the morals of my first paper, and to confirm Clarinda in her good inclination, I would have her consider what a pretty figure she would make among posterity, were the history of her whole life published like these five days of it. I shall conclude my paper with an epitaph written by an uncertain author † on Sir Philip Sidney's sister, a lady who seems to have been of a temper very much different from that of Clarinda. The last thought of it is so very noble, that I dare say my reader will pardon me the quotation.

ON THE COUNTERS DOWAGER OF PEMBROKE.

'Underneath this marble hearse
Lies the subject of all verse,
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother:
Death, ere thou hast kill'd another,
Fair and learn'd, and good as she,
Thine shall throw a dart at thee.'

* Duncan Campbell. See also *Tat.* N^o 14.

† Generally supposed to be Ben Jonson.

* Dryden's *Tragedy*.

† A captive queen in the tragedy of *Aurengzebe*.

324. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1711 12.

O curæ in terris animæ, et celestium inanes!
PERS. Sat. 2. ver. 61.

O souls, in whom no heavenly fire is found,
Flat minds, and ever grov'ling on the ground!
DRYDEN.

MR. SPECTATOR,
The materials you have collected together to do a general history of clubs, make so bright a part of your speculations, that I think it is but justice we all owe the learned world, to furnish it with such assistance as may promote that use-work. For this reason I could not forbear communicating to you some imperfect informations of a set of men (if you will allow them a place in the species of being) who have lately erected themselves into a nocturnal fraternity, under the name of the Mohock-Club, a name borrowed, it is said, from a sort of cannibals in India, who subsist by plundering and devouring all the nations about them. The president is styled 'Emperor of Mohocks'; and his arms are a Turkish crescent, which his imperial majesty bears at present in very extraordinary manner engraven upon his forehead. Agreeable to their name, the avowed principle of their institution is mischief; and upon this foundation all their rules and orders are established. An outrageous ambition of doing all possible hurt to their fellow-creatures, is the great end of their assembly, and the only qualification required in the members. In order to exert this principle in its full strength and perfection, they take care to drink themselves to a pitch, that is, to the possibility of attending to any motions of reason or humanity; then make a general sally, and attack all that are so unfortunate as to walk through the streets which they patrol. Some are knocked down, others stabbed, others cut and mangled. To put the watch to a total rout, and mortify some of those inoffensive militia, is considered as a *coup-d'état*. The particular talents which these misanthropes are distinguished by from one another, consist in the various kinds of cruelties which they execute upon their prisoners. Some are celebrated for a happy dexterity in tipping the lion upon them; which is performed by striking the nose flat to the face, and boring out the eyes with their fingers. Others are called the cutting-masters, and teach their scholars to cut one another, by running swords through their legs; a cruel invention, whether originally French I cannot say.

A third sort are the tumblers, whose office it is to set women on their heads, and commit certain indecencies, or rather barbarities, on the limbs which they expose. But these I forbear to mention, because they cannot but be very shocking to a reader as well as the Spectator. In this manner they carry on a war against mankind; and, by standing maxims of their policy, are to enter into no alliances but one, and that is offensive and defensive with all bawdy-houses in general, of which they have declared themselves protectors and advocates.

I must own, sir, these are only broken incomplete memoirs of this wonderful society; but they

are the best I have been yet able to procure: for, being but of late establishment, it is not ripe for a just history; and, to be serious, the chief design of this trouble is, to hinder it from ever being so. You have been pleased, out of a concern for the good of your countrymen, to act, under the character of Spectator, not only the part of a looker-on, but an overseer of their actions; and whenever such enormities as this infest the town, we immediately fly to you for redress. I have reason to believe, that some thoughtless youngsters, out of a false notion of bravery, and an immoderate fondness to be distinguished for fellows of fire, are insensibly hurried into this senseless scandalous project. Such will probably stand corrected by your reproofs, especially if you inform them that it is not courage for half a score fellows, mad with wine and lust, to set upon two or three soberer than themselves; and that the manners of Indian savages are not becoming accomplishments to an English fine gentleman. Such of them as have been bullies and scowerers of a long standing, and are grown veterans in this kind of service, are, I fear, too hardened to receive any impressions from your admonitions. But I beg you would recommend to their perusal your ninth speculation. They may there be taught to take warning from the club of Duellists; and be put in mind, that the common fate of those men of honour was, to be hanged.

'I am, SIR,

'March the 10th, 'Your most humble servant,
1711-12. 'PHILANTHROPOS.'

The following letter is of a quite contrary nature; but I add it here, that the reader may observe, at the same view, how amiable ignorance may be when it is shown in its simplicities, and how detestable in barbarities. It is written by an honest countryman to his mistress, and came to the hands of a lady of good sense, wrapped about a thread-paper, who has long kept it by her as an image of artless love.

'To her I very much respect, Mrs. Margaret Clark.

'LOVELY, and oh that I could write loving Mrs. Margaret Clark, I pray you let affection excuse presumption. Having been so happy as to enjoy the sight of your sweet countenance and comely body, sometimes when I had occasion to buy treacle or liquorish powder at the apothecary's shop, I am so enamoured with you, that I can no more keep close my flaming desires to become your servant. And I am the more bold now to write to your sweet self, because I am now my own man, and may match where I please; for my father is taken away, and now I am come to my living, which is ten yard land, and a house; and there is never a yard land* in our field but it is well worth ten pounds a year as a thief is worth a halter, and all my brothers and sisters are provided for: besides I have good household-stuff, though I say it, both brass and pewter, linens and woollens; and though my house be thatched, yet, if you and I match, it shall go hard but I will have one half of it slated. If you think well of this motion, I will wait upon you as soon as my new clothes are made, and hay-harvest is in. I could, though I say

The title of Tee Yee Neen Ho Ga Row, one of the four kings who visited England in the reign of Queen Mary II. See No 50, and Tat. No 171.

* A yard land [*virgata terre*] in some counties contains 20, in some 24, and in others 30 acres of land. See *Les Termes de la Ley*.

it, have good——' The rest is torn off; and posterity must be contented to know, that Mrs. Margaret Clark was very pretty, but are left in the dark as to the name of her lover*.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 325. THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1711-12.

— *Quid frustra simulacra fugacia captas?
Quod petis, est nunquam: quod amas avertere, perdes.
Ista reperimus quam cernis umaginis umbra est,
Nil habes ista nisi; tecum veniunt, manetque,
Tecum discedet si tu discedere possis.*
OVID. Metam. iii. ver. 432.

[From the fable of NARCISSUS.]

What could, fond youth, this helpless passion move?
What kindled in thee this unpitied love?
Thy own warm blush within the water glows;
With thee the colour'd shadow comes and goes;
Its empty being on thyself relies;
Step thou aside, and the frail charmer dies.

ADDISON.

Will HONEYCOMB diverted us last night with an account of a young fellow's first discovering his passion to his mistress. The young lady was one, it seems, who had long before conceived a favourable opinion of him, and was still in hopes that he would some time or other make his advances. As he was one day talking with her in company of her two sisters, the conversation happening to turn upon love, each of the young ladies was, by way of railery, recommending a wife to him; when, to the no small surprise of her who languished for him in secret, he told them, with a more than ordinary seriousness, that his heart had been long engaged to one whose name he thought himself obliged in honour to conceal; but that he could show her picture in the lid of his snuff-box. The young lady, who found herself the most sensibly touched by this confession, took the first opportunity that offered of snatching his box out of his hand. He seemed desirous of recovering it, but finding her resolved to look into the lid, begged her that, if she should happen to know the person, she would not reveal her name. Upon carrying it to the window, she was very agreeably surprised to find there was nothing within the lid but a little looking-glass; in which, after she had viewed her own face with more pleasure than she had ever done before, she returned the box with a smile, telling him she could not but admire at his choice.

Will, fancying that this story took, immediately fell into a dissertation on the usefulness of looking-glasses; and, applying himself to me, asked if there were any looking-glasses in the times of the Greeks and Romans; for that he had often observed, in the translations of poems out of those languages, that people generally talked of seeing themselves in wells, fountains, lakes, and rivers. Nay, says he, I remember Mr. Dryden in his Ovid tells us of a swining fellow, called Polypheus, that made use of the sea for his looking-glass, and could never dress himself to advantage but in a calm.

My friend Will, to show us the whole compass of his learning upon this subject, further informed us, that there were still several nations in the world so very barbarous as not to have any looking-glasses among them; and that he had lately read a

voyage to the South Sea, in which it is said that the ladies of Chili always dressed their heads over a basin of water.

I am the more particular in my account of Will's last night's lecture on these natural mirrors, as it seems to bear some relation to the following letter, which I received the day before.

' SIR,

' I HAVE read your last Saturday's observations on the fourth book of Milton with great satisfaction, and am particularly pleased with the hidden moral which you have taken notice of in several parts of the poem. The design of this letter is, to desire your thoughts, whether there may not also be some moral couched under that place in the same book where the poet lets us know, that the first woman, immediately after her creation, ran to a looking-glass, and became so enamoured of her own face, that she had never removed to view any of the other works of nature, had not she been led off to a man. If you think fit to set down the whole passage from Milton, your readers will be able to judge for themselves, and the quotation will not a little contribute to the filling-up of your paper.

' Your humble servant,

' R. T.'

The last consideration urged by my querist is so strong, that I cannot forbear closing with it. The passage he alludes to is part of Eve's speech to Adam, and one of the most beautiful passages in the whole poem:

That day I oft remember, when from sleep
I first awak'd, and found myself repos'd
Under a shade of flow'rs, much wond'ring where
And what I was, whence thither brought, and how.
Not distant far from thence a murmuring sound
Of waters issu'd from a cave, and spread
Into a liquid plain, then staid unmov'd
Pure as th' expanse of heav'n: I thither went
With unexperienc'd thought, and laid me down
On the green bank, to look into the clear
Smooth lake, that to me seem'd another sky.
As I bent down to look, just opposite
A shape within the watery gleam appear'd,
Bending to look on me; I started back,
It started back; but pleas'd I soon return'd,
Pleas'd it return'd as soon with answering looks
Of sympathy and love: there I had fix'd
Mine eyes till now, and pined with vain desire,
Had not a voice thus warn'd me: 'What thou seest,
What there thou seest, fair creature, is thyself;
With thee it came and goes: but follow me,
And I will bring thee where no shadow stays
Thy coming, and thy soft embraces; be
Whose image thou art, him thou shalt enjoy
Inseparably thine, to him shalt bear
Multitudes like thyself, and thence be call'd
Mother of human race.' What could I do,
But follow straight, invisibly thus led?
Till I esp'd thee, fair indeed and tall,
Under a plantain; yet methought less fair,
Less winning soft, less amiably mild,
Than that smooth watery image: back I turn'd;
Thou following cry'dst aloud, 'Return, fair Eve,
Whom fly'st thou? Whom thou fly'st, of him thou art.
His flesh, his bone; to give thee being I lent
Out of my side to thee, nearest my heart,
Substantial life, to have thee by my side,
Henceforth an individual solace dear:
Part of my soul, I seek thee, and thee claim
My other half.'—With that thy gentle hand
Seiz'd mine; I yielded, and from that time see
How beauty is excell'd by manly grace
And wisdom, which alone is truly fair.
No spake our general mother—

BUDGELL.

1.

* See Ovid. Met. Lib. iii. ver. 477, &c.

326. FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1711-12.

*Inclusam Danaen turris aeneae,
Robustaque fores, et vigilum cernuum
Frates excubiae, munierant satis
Nocturnis ob adulteris;
et non*

HOR. Od. xvi. l. 3. ver. 1.

How's of brass, one would have said,
And locks, and bolts, and iron bars,
Might have preserv'd one innocent maidenhead;
But Venus laugh'd, &c.

COWLEY.

SPECTATOR,
A correspondent's letter relating to fortune,
& your subsequent discourse upon it*,
given me encouragement to send you a state
case, by which you will see, that the matter
in question is a common grievance both to city
and country.

I am a country gentleman of between five and
sixty years of age, and have used a year. It is my misfortune to have
a fine park and an only daughter; upon which
I have been so plagued with deer-stealers
& poachers, that for these four years past I have
enjoyed a moment's rest. I look upon my-
self to be in a state of war, and am forced to
keep a constant watch in my seat, as a governor
do that commanded a town on the frontier
of an enemy's country. I have indeed pretty well
filled my park, having for this purpose provided
a company of four keepers who are left-handed, and
a quarter-staff beyond any other fellows in
the country. And for the guard of my house, be-
sides a band of pensioner matrons and an old
relation whom I keep on constant duty, I
employ blunderbusses always charged, and fox-gins
laid in private places about my garden, of
which I have given frequent notice in the neigh-
bourhood; yet so it is, that in spite of all my
preparations I shall every now and then have a saucy ras-
cal, reconnoitring (as I think you call it)
my windows, as sprucely dressed as if he
were going to a ball. I am aware of this way of
living a mistress on horseback, having heard
it is a common practice in Spain; and have
therefore taken care to remove my daughter from
the back-side of the house, and to lodge her next
door. But, to cut short my story; what can
I do after all? I durst not stand for member-
ship at the last election, for fear of some ill
consequence from my being off my post. What I
therefore desire of you is, to promote a
bill that I have set on foot, and upon which I have
consulted with some of my friends; and that is, that
they may be taken to secure our daughters by law,
as our deer; and that some honest gentle-
man of a public spirit, would move for leave to
bring in a bill for the better preserving of the fe-
male.

'I am, SIR,
'Your humble servant.'

* Mile-End-Green, March 6, 1711-12.

SPECTATOR,
As a young man walks by our door every
day about the dusk of the evening. He looks up
at the window, as if to see me; and if I steal to
it to peep at him, he turns another way, and

* N° 911.

looks frightened at finding what he was looking
for. The air is very cold; and pray let him know
that, if he knocks at the door, he will be carried
to the parlour fire, and I will come down soon
after, and give him an opportunity to break his
mind.

'I am, SIR,
'Your humble servant,
'MARY COMFIT.'

'If I observe he cannot speak, I'll give him
time to recover himself, and ask him how he does.'

'DEAR SIR,
'I beg you to print this without delay, and by the
first opportunity give us the natural causes of long-
ing in women; or put me out of fear that my wife
will one time or other be delivered of something as
monstrous as any thing that has yet appeared to
the world; for they say the child is to bear a re-
semblance of what was desired by the mother. I
have been married upwards of six years, have had
four children, and my wife is now big with the fifth.
The expenses she has put me to in procuring what
she has longed for during her pregnancy with them,
would not only have handsomely defrayed the
charges of the month, but of their education too;
her fancy being so exorbitant for the first year or
two, as not to confine itself to the usual objects of
eatables and drinkables, but running out after
equipages and furniture, and the like extravagances.
To trouble you only with a few of them; when she
was with child with Tom, my eldest son, she came
home one day just fainting, and told me she had
been visiting a relation, whose husband had made
her a present of a chariot, and a stately pair of
horses; and that she was positive she could not
breathe a week longer, unless she took the air
in the fellow to it of her own within that time.
This, rather than lose an heir, I readily complied
with. Then the furniture of her best room must
be instantly changed, or she should mark the child
with some of the frightful figures in the old-fashioned
tapestry. Well, the upholsterer was called, and
her longing saved that bout. When she went
with Molly, she had fixed her mind upon a new
set of plate, and as much china as would have
furnished an Indian shop: these also I cheerfully
granted, for fear of being father to an Indian
pagod. Hitherto I found her demands rose upon
every concession; and had she gone on, I had been
ruined: but by good fortune, with her third, which
was Peggy, the height of her imagination came
down to the corner of a venison party, and brought
her once even upon her knees to gnaw off the ears
of a pig from the spit. The gratifications of her
palate were easily preferred to those of her vanity:
and sometimes a partridge, or a quail, a
wheat-ear, or the pestle of a lark, were cheer-
fully purchased; nay, I could be contented though
I were to feed her with green peas in April, or
cherries in May. But with the babe she now goes,
she is turned girl again, and fallen to eating of
chalk, pretending 'twill make the child's skin
white; and nothing will serve her but I must bear
her company, to prevent its having a shade of my
brown. In this, however, I have ventured to deny
her. No longer ago than yesterday, as we were
coming to town, she saw a parcel of crows so
heartily at breakfast upon a piece of horse-flesh,
that she had an invincible desire to partake with
them, and (to my infinite surprise) begged the
coachman to cut her off a slice as if it were for
himself, which the fellow did; and as soon as she

came home, she fell to it with such an appetite, that she seemed rather to devour than eat it. What her next sally will be I cannot guess: but in the meantime my request to you is, that if there be any way to come at these wild unaccountable ravings of imagination by reason and argument, you'd speedily afford us your assistance. This exceeds the grievance of pin-money, and I think in every settlement there ought to be a clause inserted, that the father should be answerable for the longings of his daughter. But I shall impatiently expect your thoughts in this matter; and am,

'ARR,
' Your most obliged and
' most faithful humble servant,

' T. B,
' Let me know whether you think the next child
will love horses as much as Molly does china-ware.'

STEEL.

T.

N° 327. SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1711-12.

—Major rerum mihi nascitur ordo.
VIRG. *Æn.* vii. ver. 44.
A larger scene of action is display'd.
DRYDEN.

WE were told in the foregoing book, how the evil spirit practised upon Eve as she lay asleep, in order to inspire her with thoughts of vanity, pride, and ambition. The author, who shows a wonderful art throughout his whole poem, in preparing the reader for the several occurrences that arise in it, founds, upon the above-mentioned circumstance, the first part of the fifth book. Adam upon his awaking finds Eve still asleep, with an unusual disposition in her looks. The posture in which he regards her, is described with a wonderful tenderness, as the whisper with which he awakens her is the softest that ever was conveyed to a lover's ear.

His wonder was, to find unawaken'd Eve
With tresses undiscompos'd, and glowing cheek,
As through unequal rest: he on his side
Leaning half-raisd, with looks of cordial love
Hung over her enamour'd, and beheld
Beauty, which, whether waking or asleep,
Shot forth peculiar graces: then, with voice
Mild as when Zephyrus on Flora breathes,
Her hand soft touching, whisper'd thus: 'Awake,
Heav'n's fairest, my spouse, my latest found,
Heav'n's last best gift, my ever new delight!
Awake: the morning shines, and the fresh field
Calls us; we lose the prime, to mark how spring
Our tender plants, how blows the citron grove,
What drops the myrrh, and what the balmy reed,
How nature paints her colours, how the bee
Sits on the bloom, extracting liquid sweet.'
Such whispering wak'd her, but with startled eye
On Adam, whom embracing, thus she spake:
'O sole, in whom my thoughts find all repose,
My glory, my perfection! glad I see,
Thy face, and morn return'd——.'

I cannot but take notice, that Milton, in the conferences between Adam and Eve, had his eye very frequently upon the book of Canticles, in which there is a noble spirit of eastern poetry, and very often not unlike what we meet with in Homer, who is generally placed near the age of Solomon. I think there is no question but the poet in the preceding speech remembered those two passages, which are spoken on the like occasion, and filled with the same pleasing images of nature.

'My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away; for lo the

winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig-tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

'Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field, let us get up early to the vineyards, let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grapes appear, and the pomegranates bud forth.'

His preferring the garden of Eden to that

'Where the sapient king
Held dalliance with his fair Egyptian spouse,'

shows that the poet had this delightful scene in his mind.

Eve's dream is full of those high conceits engendering pride, which, we are told, the devil endeavoured to instil into her. Of this kind is that part of it where she fancies herself awakened by Adam, in the following beautiful lines:

'Why sleep'st thou, Eve? Now is the pleasant time,
The cool, the silent, save where silence yields
To the night-warbling bird, that now awakes
Tunes sweetest his love-labour'd song; now reigns
Full or'd the moon, and with more pleasing light
Shadowy sets off the face of things. In vain,
If none regard. Heav'n wakes with all his eyes,
Whom to behold but thee, nature's desire,
In whose sight all things joy, with ravishment,
Attracted by thy beauty still to gaze!'

An injudicious poet would have made Adam talk through the whole work in such sentiment as these; but flattery and falsehood are not the courteship of Milton's Adam, and could not be heard by Eve in her state of innocence, excepting only in a dream produced on purpose to taint her imagination. Other vain sentiments of the same kind, in this relation of her dream, will be obvious to every reader. Though the catastrophe of the poem is finely prefigured on this occasion, the particulars of it are so artfully shadowed, that they do not anticipate the story which follows in the ninth book. I shall only add, that though the vision itself is founded upon truth, the circumstances of it are full of that wildness and inconsistency which are natural to a dream. Adam, conformable to his superior character for wisdom, instructs and comforts Eve upon this occasion:

'So cheer'd he his fair spouse, and she was cheer'd,
But silently a gentle tear let fall
From either eye, and wip'd them with her hair;
Two other precious drops, that ready stood
Each in their crystal sluice, he ere they fell
Kiss'd, as the gracious signs of sweet remorse
And pious awe, that fear'd to have offended.'

The morning hymn is written in imitation of one of those psalms, where, in the overflowings of gratitude and praise, the psalmist calls not only upon the angels, but upon the most conspicuous parts of the inanimate creation, to join with him in extolling their common Maker. Invocations of this nature fill the mind with glorious ideas of God's works, and awaken that divine enthusiasm which is so natural to devotion. But if this calling upon the dead parts of nature is at all times a proper kind of worship, it was in a particular manner suitable to our first parents, who had the creation fresh upon their minds, and had not seen the various dispensations of Providence, nor consequently could be acquainted with those many topics of praise which might afford matter to the devotions of their posterity. I need not remark, the beautiful spirit

y, which runs through this whole hymn; nor the
ess of that resolution with which it concludes.
iving already mentioned those speeches which
signed to the persons in this poem, I proceed
description which the poet gives of Raphael.
eparture from before the throne, and his flight
gh the choir of angels, is finely imaged. As
n every where fills his poem with circum-
es that are marvellous and astonishing, he de-
s the gate of heaven as framed after such a
er, that it opened of itself upon the approach
angel who was to pass through it.

‘———Till at the gate
heav’n arriv’d; the gate self-open’d wide,
golden hinges turning, as by work
vise the sovereign Architect had fram’d.’

poet here seems to have regarded two or
passages in the 18th Iliad; as that in parti-
where, speaking of Vulcan, Homer says, that
d made twenty tripods running on golden
s; which, upon occasion, might go of them-
to the assembly of the gods, and when there
o more use for them, return again after the
manner. Scaliger has rallied Homer very
ly upon this point, as M. Dacier has endeav-
l to defend it. I will not pretend to deter-
whether, in this particular of Homer, the
llous does not lose sight of the probable. As
iraculous workmanship of Milton’s gates is
extraordinary as this of the tripods, so I am
ded he would not have mentioned it, had he
en supported in it by a passage in the scrip-
which speaks of wheels in heaven that had
them, and moved of themselves, or stood
a conformity with the cherubims whom they
panied.
re is no question but Milton had this circum-
in his thoughts, because in the following
e describes the chariot of the Messiah with
wheels, according to the plan in Ezekiel’s

——Forth rush’d with whirlwind sound
e chariot of paternal Deity,
shing thick flames, wheel within wheel undrawn,
elf instinct with spirit——’

jection not but Bossu, and the two Daciers,
re for vindicating every thing that is cen-
in Homer, by something parallel in holy
would have been very well pleased had they
st of confronting Vulcan’s tripods with Eze-
wheels.

aphael’s descent to the earth, with the figure
person, is represented in very lively colours.
d of the French, Italian *, and English poets,
given a loose to their imaginations in the de-
on of angels: but I do not remember to have
ith any so finely drawn, and so conformable
notions which are given of them in scripture,
s in Milton. After having set him forth in
s heavenly plumage, and represented him as
ing upon the earth, the poet concludes his
ption with a circumstance which is altoge-
ew, and imagined with the greatest strength
cy :

‘———Like Maia’s son he stood,
d shook his plumes, that heav’nly fragrance fill’d
e circuit wide——’

* Tasso’s “Jerusalem Delivered,” Cant. 9. Stanz.

Hom. Il. xxiv. 339; and Virg. Æn. iv. 238. ‘It is
says Pope, ‘to determine which is more excellent,
or the original; but Milton’s description is better
sh.’

Raphael’s reception by the guardian angels, his
passing through the wilderness of sweets, his dis-
tant appearance to Adam, have all the graces that
poetry is capable of bestowing. The author after-
wards gives us a particular description of Eve in
her domestic employments :

‘So saying, with dispatchful looks in haste
She turns, on hospitable thoughts intent,
What choice to choose for delicacy best,
What order, so contriv’d, as not to mix
Tastes, not well join’d, inelegant, but bring
Taste after taste, upheld with kindest change;
Bestirs her then,’ &c.

Though in this, and other parts of the same book,
the subject is only the housewifery of our first pa-
rent, it is set off with so many pleasing images and
strong expressions, as make it none of the least
agreeable parts in this divine work.

The natural majesty of Adam, and, at the same
time, his submissive behaviour to the superior being
who had vouchsafed to be his guest; the solemn
‘hail’ which the angel bestows upon the mother of
mankind, with the figure of Eve ministering at the
table; are circumstances which deserve to be ad-
mired.

Raphael’s behaviour is every way suitable to the
dignity of his nature, and to that character of a
sociable spirit, with which the author has so judi-
ciously introduced him. He had received instruc-
tions to converse with Adam, as one friend con-
verses with another, and to warn him of the enemy
who was contriving his destruction: accordingly
he is represented as sitting down at table with
Adam, and eating of the fruits of Paradise. The
occasion naturally leads him to his discourse on the
food of angels. After having thus entered into con-
versation with man upon more indifferent subjects,
he warns him of his obedience, and makes a na-
tural transition to the history of that fallen angel
who was employed in the circumvention of our
first parents.

Had I followed Monsieur Bossu’s method in my
first paper on Milton, I should have dated the
action of Paradise Lost from the beginning of
Raphael’s speech in this book, as he supposes the
action of the Æneid to begin in the second book
of that poem. I could allege many reasons for my
drawing the action of the Æneid rather from its
immediate beginning in the first book, than from
its remote beginning in the second; and show why
I have considered the sacking of Troy as an eni-
sode, according to the common acceptation of that
word. But as this would be a dry unentertaining
piece of criticism, and perhaps unnecessary to those
who have read my first paper, I shall not enlarge
upon it. Whichever of the notions be true, the
unity of Milton’s action is preserved according to
either of them; whether we consider the fall of
man in its immediate beginning, as proceeding
from the resolutions taken in the infernal council,
or in its more remote beginning, as proceeding
from the first revolt of the angels in heaven. The
occasion which Milton assigns for this revolt, as it
is founded on hints in holy writ, and on the opinion
of some great writers, so it was the most proper
that the poet could have made use of.

The revolt in heaven is described with great
force of imagination, and a fine variety of circum-
stances. The learned reader cannot but be pleased
with the poet’s imitation of Homer in the last of
the following lines :

‘At length into the limits of the north
They came, and Satan took his royal seat
High on a hill, far blazing, as a mount

Rais'd on a mount, with pyramids and tow'rs
From diamond quarries hewn, and rocks of gold,
The palace of great Lucifer. (so call
That structure in the dialect of men
Interpreted) ———

Homer mentions persons and things, which he tells us in the language of the gods are called by different names from those they go by in the language of men. Milton has imitated him with his usual judgment in this particular place, wherein he has likewise the authority of scripture to justify him. The part of Abdiel, who was the only spirit that in this infinite host of angels preserved his allegiance to his Maker, exhibits to us a noble moral of religious singularity. The zeal of the seraphim breaks forth in a becoming warmth of sentiments and expressions, as the character which is given us of him denotes that generous scorn and intrepidity which attends heroic virtue. The author doubtless designed it as a pattern to those who live among mankind in their present state of degeneracy and corruption :

'So spake the seraph Abdiel, faithful found
Among the faithless, faithful only he;
Among innumerable false, unmov'd,
Unshaken, unsecul'd, untir'd;
His loyalty he kept, his love, his zeal:
Nor number nor example with him wrought
To swerve from truth, or change his constant mind,
Though single. From amidst them forth he pass'd,
Long way thro' hostile scorn, which he sustain'd
Superior, nor of violence fear'd aught;
And, with retorted scorn, his back he turn'd
On those proud tow'rs to swift destruction doom'd.'

ADDISON.

L.

N^o 328^e. MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1711-12.

Nullum a labore me recinat otium.
HOR. Epod. xvii. ver. 24.

No ease doth lay me down from pain.
CREECH.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'As I believe this is the first complaint that ever was made to you of this nature, so you are the first person I ever could prevail upon myself to lay it before. When I tell you I have a healthy, vigorous constitution, a plentiful estate, no inordinate desires, and am married to a virtuous lovely woman, who neither wants wit nor good-nature, and by whom I have a numerous offspring to perpetuate my family, you will naturally conclude me a happy man. But, notwithstanding these promising appearances, I am so far from it, that the prospect of being ruined and undone by a sort of extravagance, which of late years is in a less degree crept into every fashionable family, deprives me of all the comforts of my life, and renders me the most anxious, miserable man on earth. My wife, who was the only child and darling care of an indulgent mother, employed her early years in learning all those accomplishments we generally understand by good-breeding and polite education. She sings, dances, plays on the lute and harpsichord, paints prettily, is a perfect mistress of the French tongue,

* This is the only paper that now appears as N^o 328, in any edition of the Spectator in volumes, except an 8vo. edition, printed in 1797. This article, however, had no place in the original publication in folio; in which appeared, as N^o 328, what we have given immediately following this, and marked with an asterisk.—Either as being too trifling in itself, or offensive to some family, that paper was withdrawn when the Spectator came first to be re-published in volumes, and the present letter was given in its stead as N^o 328.

and has made a considerable progress in Italian. She is besides excellently skilled in all domestic sciences, as preserving, pickling, pastry, making wines of fruits of our own growth, embroidering, and needleworks of every kind. Hitherto you will be apt to think there is very little cause of complaint; but suspend your opinion till I have further explained myself, and then I make an question you will come over to mine. You are not to imagine I find fault that she either possesses or takes delight in the exercises of those qualifications I just now mentioned; 'tis the immoderate fondness she has to them that I lament, and that what is only designed for the innocent amusement and recreation of life, is become the whole business and study of hers. The six months we are in town (for the year is equally divided between that and the country), from almost break of day till noon, the whole morning is laid out in practising with her several masters; and to make up the losses occasioned by her absence in summer, every day in the week their attendance is required; and, as they are all people eminent in their professions, their skill and time must be recompensed accordingly. So how far these articles extend, I leave you to judge. Liking, one would think, is no expensive diversion; but, as she manages the matter, it is a very considerable addition to her disbursements; which you will easily believe, when you know she paints fans for all her female acquaintance, and draws all her relations pictures in miniature: the first must be mounted by nobody but Colmar, and the other set by nobody but Charles Mather. What follows, is still much worse than the former; for, as I told you, she is a great artist at her needle, it is incredible what sums she expends in embroidery; for, besides what is appropriated to her personal use, as mantua, petticoats, stomachers, handkerchiefs, purses, pincushions, and working aprons, she keeps four French protestants continually employed in making divers pieces of superfluous furniture, as quilts, toilets, hangings for closets, beds, window-curtains, easy-chairs, and tabourets: nor have I any hopes of ever reclaiming her from this extravagance, while she obstinately persists in thinking it a notable piece of good housewifery, because they are made at home, and she has had some share in the performance. There would be no end of relating to you the particulars of the annual charge, in furnishing her store-room with a profusion of pickles and preserves; for she is not contented with having every thing, unless it be done every way, in which she consults an hereditary book of receipts; for her female ancestors have been always fam'd for good housewifery, one of whom is made immortal, by giving a name to an eye-water, and two sorts of pudency. I cannot undertake to recite all her medicinal preparations, as salves, scree-cloths, powders, caustics, cordials, ratafia, persico, orange-flower, and cherry-brandy, together with innumerable sorts of simple waters. But there is nothing I lay so much to heart, as that detestable catalogue of counterfeited wines, which derive their names from the fruits, herbs, or trees, of whose juices they are chiefly compounded. They are loushouse to the taste, and pernicious to the health; and as they seldom survive the year, and then are thrown away, under a false pretence of frugality, I may affirm they stand me in more than if I entertained all our visitors with the best burgundy and champagne. Coffee, chocolate, green, imperial, &c.

* Then a fashionable toyman in Fleet-street.

bohea teas, seem to be trifles; but when the per appurtenances of the tea-table are added, swell the account higher than one would gine. I cannot conclude without doing her ice in one article; where her frugality is so markable, I must not deny her the merit of it, that is in relation to her children, who are all fined, both boys and girls, to one large room the remotest part of the house, with bolts on the rs, and bars to the windows, under the care tuition of an old woman, who had been drye to her grandmother. This is their residen e the year round; and, as they are never allowed appear, she prudently thinks it needless to be ny expense in apparel, or learning. Her eldest ghter to this day would have neither read nor te, if it had not been for the butler, who, be- the son of a country attorney, has taught her a hand as is generally used for ingrossing bills hancery. By this time I have sufficiently tired patience with my domestic grievances; which, pe, you will agree, could not well be contained narrower compass, when you consider what a adox I undertook to maintain in the beginning ny epistle, and which manifestly appears to be too melancholy a truth. And now I heartily e the relation I have given of my misfortunes e be of use and benefit to the public. By the mple I have set before them, the truly virtuous es may learn to avoid those errors which have unhappily misled mine, and which are visibly e three. First, In mistaking the proper ob- s of her esteem, and fixing her affections upon things as are only the trappings and decora- s of her sex. Secondly, In not distinguishing it becomes the different stages of life. And, y, The abuse and corruption of some excellent ities, which, if circumscribed within just bounds, d have been the blessing and prosperity of her ily, but, by a vicious extreme, are like to be hane and destruction of it.

UDISON.

L.

ADVERTISEMENT.

† To be seen some time longer, over against the Mews-Charing-cross, a little man, 3 feet high, and 32 years straight and proportionable: his wife 2 feet 9 inches, 30, now brought to bed after a long and tedious labour r the hands of several able physicians, being the least an that ever was with child in Europe; likewise their horse, 2 feet 4 inches high, which performs several lferal actions by the word of command, being so small it is kept in a box. See N° 271.

328*†. MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1711-12.

Delectata ille urbanitate tam dulcis.

PETRON. ARB.

Delighted with unaffected simplicity.

† Useful part of learning which consists in adations, knowledge of different readings, and like, is what in all ages persons extremely wise e learned have had in great veneration. For reason I cannot but rejoice at the following ale, which lets us into the true author of the er to Mrs. Margaret Clark, part of which I did self the honour to publish in a former paper. ust confess I do not naturally affect critical roing; but finding myself not so much regarded I am apt to flatter myself I may deserve from

some professed patrons of learning, I could not but do myself the justice to show I am not a stranger to such erudition as they smile upon, if I were duly encouraged. However, this is only to let the world see what I could do; and shall not give my reader any more of this kind, if he will forgive the ostentation I show at present.

‘SIR,

‘March 13, 1711-12.

‘UPON reading your paper of yesterday, I took the pains to look out a copy I had formerly taken, and remembered to be very like your last letter; comparing them, I found they were the very same; and have, underwritten, sent you that part of it which you say was torn off. I hope you will insert it, that posterity may know it was Gabriel Bullock that made love in that natural style of which you seem to be fond. But, to let you see I have other manuscripts in the same way, I have sent you inclosed three copies, faithfully taken by my own hand from the originals, which were wrote by a Yorkshire gentleman of a good estate to Madam Mary, and an uncle of hers, a knight very well known by the most ancient gentry in that and several other counties of Great Britain. I have exactly followed the form and spelling. I have been credibly informed that Mr. William Bullock, the famous comedian, is the descendant of this Gabriel, who begot Mr. William Bullock's great-grandfather on the body of the above-mentioned Mrs. Margaret Clark. As neither Speed, nor Baker, nor Selden, take notice of it, I will not pretend to be positive; but desire that the letter may be reprinted, and what is here recovered may be in *italics*.

‘I am, SIR,

‘Your daily Reader.’

‘To her I very much respect, Mrs. Margaret Clark.

‘LOVELY, and oh that I could write loving Mrs. Margaret Clark, I pray you let affection excuse presumption. Having been so happy as to enjoy the sight of your sweet countenance and comely body, sometimes when I had occasion to buy treacle or liquorish powder at the apothecary's shop, I am so enamoured with you, that I can no more keep close my flaming desire to become your servant. And I am the more bold now to write to your sweet self, because I am now my own man, and may match where I please; for my father is taken away; and now I am come to my living, which is ten yardland, and a house; and there is never a yardland* in our field but is as well worth ten pound a year, as a thief's worth a balter; and all my brothers and sisters are provided for: besides I have good household stuff, though I say it, both brass and pewter, linens and woollens; and though my house be thatched, yet if you and I match, it shall go hard but I will have one half of it slated. If you shall think well of this motion, I will wait upon you as soon as my new clothes are made, and hay-harvest is in. I could, though I say it, have good matches in our town; but my mother (God's peace be with her) charged me upon her death-bed to marry a gentlewoman, one who had been well trained up in the sewing and cookery. I do not think but that if you and I can agree to marry, and lay our means together, I shall be made grand jury-man ere two or three years come about, and that will be a great credit to us. If I could have got a messenger for sistance, I would have sent one on

From the original folio edition. See the first note to the clug paper.

* In some counties 20, in some 24, and in others 30 acres of land.

purpose, and some trifle or other for a token of my love; but I hope there is nothing lost for that neither. So hoping you will take this letter in good part, and answer it with what care and speed you can, I rest and remain,

'Yours, if my own,
'MR. GABRIEL BULLOCK,
'now my father is dead.

*'When the coal-carts come, I shall send oftener; and may come in one of them myself *.'*

'For sir William to go to london at westminster remember a parlement.

'SIR

'WILLIAM, i hope that you are well. i write to let you know that i am in troubel about a lady your nease; and I do desire that you will be my friend; for when i did com to see her at your hall, i was mighty Abused. i would fain a see you at topecliff, and thay would not let me go to you; but i desire that you will be our friend, for it is no dishonor neither for you nor she, for God did make us all. i wish that i might see you, for thay say that you are a good man; and many doth wonder at it, but madam norton is abused and ceted two i believe. i might a had many a lady, but i con have none but her with a good consens, for there is a God that know our hearts. if you and madam norton will come to York, there i shall meet you if God be willing and if you be pleased. so be not angierie till you know the trutes of things.

'I give my to me lady, and to Mr. Aysenby, and to madam norton, March, the 19th; 1706.'
'George Nelson.

'This is for madam mary norton disforth Lady she to York.

'MADAM MARY. Deare loving sweet lady, i hope you are well. Do not go to london for they will put you in the nunnery; and heed not Mrs. Lucy what she saith to you, for she will ly and ceat you. go from to another place, and we will gate wed so with speed. mind what i write to you, for if they gate you to london they will keep you there; and so let us gate wed, and we will both go. so if you go to london, you rueling yourself. so heed not what none of them saith to you. let us gate wed, and we shall lie to gader any time. i will do any thing for you to my poore. i hope the devill will falle them all, for a hellish company there be. from there cursed trick and mischiefs ways good lord bless and deliver both you and me.

'I think to be at york the 24 day.'

'This is for madam mary norton to go to london for a lady that belongs to dlsforth.

'MADAM MARY, i hope you are well. i am soary that you went away from York. deare loving sweet lady, i writt to let you know that i do remain faithfull; and if can let me know where i can meet you, i will wed you, and i will do any thing to my poor; for you are a good woman, and will be a loving Misteris, i am in troubel for you, so if you will come to york i will wed you. so with speed come, and i will have none but you. so, sweet love, heed not what to say to me, and with speed come; heed not what none of them say to you; your Maid makes you believe ought.

* See No 22, where this letter is given imperfectly.

'So deare love think of Mr. george Nilson with speed; i sent 2 or 3 letters before.

'I gave misteris elcock some nots, and thay put me in pruson all the night for me pains, and nou new whear i was, and i did gat cold.

'But it is for mrs. Lucy to go a good way from home, for in york and round about she is known; to writ any more her deeds, the same will tell her soul is black within, her corks stinks of hell.

'March 19th, 1706.'

STEEL.

R.

N° 329. TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1711-12.

Ire tamen restat, Numa quo decessit, et Ancus.
 HOR. Epist. vi. l. l. ver. 57.

With Ancus, and with Numa, kings of Rome,
 We must descend into the silent tomb.

My friend Sir Roger de Coverley told me t'other night, that he had been reading my paper upon Westminster-abbey *, in which, says he, there are a great many ingenious fancies. He told me at the same time, that he observed I had promised another paper upon the tombs, and that he should be glad to go and see them with me, not having visited them since he had read history. I could not at first imagine how this came into the knight's head, till I recollected that he had been very busy all last summer upon Baker's Chronicle, which he has quoted several times in his disputes with Sir Andrew Freeport since his last coming to town. Accordingly I promised to call upon him the next morning, that we might go together to the abbey.

I found the knight under his butler's hands, who always shaves him. He was no sooner dressed, than he called for a glass of the widow Truby's water, which he told me he always drank before he went abroad. He recommended to me a dram of it at the same time, with so much heartiness, that I could not forbear drinking it. As soon as I had got it down, I found it very unsupportable; upon which the knight, observing that I had made several wry faces, told me that he knew I should not like it at first, but that it was the best thing in the world against the stone or gravel.

I could have wished indeed that he had acquainted me with the virtues of it sooner; but it was too late to complain, and I knew what he had done was out of good-will. Sir Roger told me further, that he looked upon it to be very good for a man whilst he staid in town, to keep off infection, and that he got together a quantity of it upon the first news of the sickness being at Dantzick †; when of a sudden turning short to one of his servants, who stood behind him, he bid him call a hackney-coach, and take care it was an elderly man that drove it.

He then resumed his discourse upon Mrs. Truby's water, telling me that the widow Truby was one who did more good than all the doctors and apothecaries in the country; that she distilled every poppy that grew within five miles of her; that she distributed her water gratis among all sorts of people: to which the knight added, that she had a very great jointure, and that the whole country would fain have it a match between him and her; 'and truly,' says Sir Roger, 'if I had not been engaged, perhaps I could not have done better.'

His discourse was broken off by his man's telling

he had called a coach. Upon our going to it, having cast his eye upon the wheels, he asked the coachman if his axletree was good; upon the coachman's telling him he would warrant it, the knight edged to me, told me he looked like an honest fellow, and went in without further ceremony.

He had not gone far when Sir Roger, popping up his head, called the coachman down from his box, and, upon his presenting himself at the window, asked him if he smoked. As I was considering what this would end in, he bid him stop by the way at any good tobacco-shop, and take in a roll of his best Virginia. Nothing material happened to me remaining part of our journey, till we were drawn up at the west end of the abbey.

We went up the body of the church, the knight pointed at the trophies upon one of the new monuments, and cried out, 'A brave man, I warrant him!' Passing afterwards by Sir Cloudesley's tomb, he flung his hand that way, and cried, 'Sir Cloudesley Shovel! a very gallant man.' As we went before Busby's tomb, the knight uttered the same again after the same manner: 'Dr. Busby! a very good man: he whipped my grandfather; a very good man! I should have gone to him myself, if I had not been a blockhead: a very great man!'

We were immediately conducted into the little chapel on the right hand. Sir Roger, planting himself at our historian's elbow, was very attentive to everything he said, particularly to the account he gave us of the lord who had cut off the king of France's head. Among several other figures, he was very well pleased to see the statesman Cecil at his knees; and, concluding them all to be great men, was conducted to the figure which represents that martyr to good housewifery who died he pricked of a needle. Upon our interpreter's telling us that she was a maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth, the knight was very inquisitive into her life and family; and, after having regarded her for some time, 'I wonder,' says he, 'that Richard Baker has said nothing of her in his history.'

We were then conveyed to the two coronation chairs, where my old friend, after having heard that stone underneath the most ancient of them, which was brought from Scotland, was called Jacob's pillar, sat himself down in the chair; and, looking like the figure of an old Gothic king, asked our interpreter, what authority they had to say that Jacob had ever been in Scotland? The fellow, instead of returning him an answer, told him, that Jacob's honour would pay his forfeit. I could give Sir Roger a little ruffled upon being thus answered; but our guide not insisting upon his point, the knight soon recovered his good humour, and whispered in my ear, that if Will Wimple were with us, and saw those two chairs, it would go hard but he would get a tobacco-stopper of one or t'other of them.

Sir Roger, in the next place, laid his hand upon the Third's sword, and leaning upon the scabbard of it, gave us the whole history of the Black Prince; concluding, that, in Sir Richard Baker's opinion, Edward the Third was one of the best princes that ever sat upon the English throne.

We were then shown Edward the Confessor's tomb; upon which Sir Roger acquainted us, that it was the first who touched for the evil; and afterwards Henry the Fourth's; upon which he shook his head, and told us there was fine reading in the annals of that reign.

Our conductor then pointed to that monument

where there is the figure of one of our English kings without a head; and upon giving us to know, that the head, which was of beaten silver, had been stolen away several years since; 'Some whig, I'll warrant you,' says Sir Roger; 'you ought to lock up your kings better; they will carry off the body too, if you don't take care.'

The glorious names of Henry the Fifth and Queen Elizabeth gave the knight great opportunities of shining, and of doing justice to Sir Richard Baker, who, as our knight observed with some surprise, had a great many kings in him, whose monuments he had not seen in the abbey.

For my own part, I could not but be pleased to see the knight show such an honest passion for the glory of his country, and such a respectful gratitude to the memory of its princes.

I must not omit, that the benevolence of my good old friend, which flows out towards every one he converses with, made him very kind to our interpreter, whom he looked upon as an extraordinary man; for which reason he shook him by the hand at parting, telling him, that he should be very glad to see him at his lodgings in Norfolk-buildings, and talk over these matters with him more at leisure.

ADDITION.

L.

Nº 330. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1711-12.

Marina debetur pueris reverentia

JUV. Sat. xiv. ver. 47.

To youth the tenderest regard is due.

THE following letters, written by two very considerable correspondents, both under twenty years of age, are very good arguments of the necessity of taking into consideration the many incidents which affect the education of youth.

'SIR,

'I HAVE long expected that, in the course of your observations upon the several parts of human life, you would one time or other fall upon a subject, which, since you have not, I take the liberty to recommend to you. What I mean is, the patronage of young modest men to such as are able to countenance and introduce them into the world. For want of such assistances, a youth of merit languishes in obscurity or poverty when his circumstances are low, and runs into riot and excess when his fortunes are plentiful. I cannot make myself better understood, than by sending you an history of myself, which I shall desire you to insert in your paper, it being the only way I have of expressing my gratitude for the highest obligations imaginable.

'I am the son of a merchant of the city of London, who, by many losses, was reduced from a very luxuriant trade and credit to very narrow circumstances, in comparison to that of his former abundance. This took away the vigour of his mind, and all manner of attention to a fortune which he now thought desperate; insomuch that he died without a will, having before buried my mother in the midst of his other misfortunes. I was sixteen years of age when I lost my father; and an estate of 200*l.* a year came into my possession, without friend or guardian to instruct me in the management or enjoyment of it. The natural consequence of this was (though I wanted no director, and soon had fellows who found me out for

a smart young gentleman, and led me into all the debaucheries of which I was capable, that my companions and I could not well be supplied without running in debt, which I did very frankly, till I was arrested, and conveyed, with a guard strong enough for the most desperate assassin, to a bailiff's house, where I lay four days, surrounded with very merry, but not very agreeable company. As soon as I had extricated myself from that shameful confinement, I reflected upon it with so much horror, that I deserted all my old acquaintance, and took chambers in an inn of court, with a resolution to study the law with all possible application. I trifled away a whole year in looking over a thousand intricacies, without a friend to apply to in any case of doubt; so that I only lived there among men, as little children are sent to school before they are capable of improvement, only to be out of harm's way. In the midst of this state of suspense, not knowing how to dispose of myself, I was sought for by a relation of mine; who, upon observing a good inclination in me, used me with great familiarity, and carried me to his seat in the country. When I came there, he introduced me to all the good company in the county; and the great obligation I have to him for this kind notice, and residence with him ever since, has made so strong an impression upon me, that he has an authority of a father over me, founded upon the love of a brother. I have a good study of books, a good stable of horses always at my command; and, though I am not now quite eighteen years of age, familiar converse on his part, and a strong inclination to exert myself on mine, have had an effect upon me that makes me acceptable wherever I go. Thus, Mr. Spectator, by this gentleman's favour and patronage, it is my own fault if I am not wiser and richer every day I live. I speak this as well by subscribing the initial letters of my name to thank him, as to incite others to an imitation of his virtue. It would be a worthy work to show what great charities are to be done without expense, and how many noble actions are lost, out of inadvertency, in persons capable of performing them, if they were put in mind of it. If a gentleman of figure in a county would make his family a pattern of sobriety, good sense, and breeding, and would kindly endeavour to influence the education and growing prospects of the younger gentry about him, I am apt to believe it would save him a great deal of stale beer on a public occasion, and render him the leader of his country from their gratitude to him, instead of being a slave to their riots and tumults in order to be made their representative. The same thing might be recommended to all who have made any progress in any parts of knowledge, or arrived at any degree in a profession; others may gain preferments and fortunes from their patrons; but I have, I hope, received from mine good habits and virtues. I repeat to you, sir, my request to print this, in return for all the evil an helpless orphan shall ever escape, and all the good he shall receive in this life; both which are wholly owing to this gentleman's favour to,

SIR,

'Your most obedient humble servant,

'A. P.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I am a lad of about fourteen. I find a mighty pleasure in learning. I have been at the Latin school four years. I don't know I ever played truant, or neglected any task my master set me

in my life. I think on what I read in school, as I go home at noon and night, and so intently, that I have often gone half a mile out of my way, not minding whither I went. Our maid tells me, she often hears me talk Latin in my sleep, and I dream two or three nights in a week I am reading Juvenal and Homer. My master seems as well pleased with my performances as any boy's in the same class. I think, if I know my own mind, I would choose rather to be a scholar than a prince without learning. I have a very good affectionate father; but though very rich, yet so mighty near, that he thinks much of the charges of my education. He often tells me he believes my schooling will ruin him; that I cost him God knows what, in books. I tremble to tell him I want one. I am forced to keep my pocket-money, and lay it out for a book now and then, that he don't know of. He has ordered my master to buy no more books for me, but says he will buy them himself. I asked him for Horace t'other day, and he told me in a passion he did not believe I was fit for it, but only my master had a mind to make him think I had got a great way in my learning. I am sometimes a month behind other boys in getting the books my master gives orders for. All the boys in the school, but I, have the classic authors in *usum delphini*, gilt and lettered on the back. My father is often reckoning up how long I have been at school, and tells me he fears I do little good. My father's carriage so discourages me, that he makes me grow dull and melancholy. My master wonders what is the matter with me; I am afraid to tell him; for he is a man that loves to encourage learning, and would be apt to chide my father, and not knowing my father's temper, may make him worse. Sir, if you have any love for learning, I beg you would give me some instructions in this case, and persuade parents to encourage their children when they find them diligent and desirous of learning. I have heard some parents say, they would do anything for their children, if they would but moid their learning: I would be glad to be in their place. Dear sir, pardon my boldness. If you will but consider and pity my case, I will pray for your prosperity as long as I live.

London,
March 4, 1711.
STEELE.

'Your humble servant,
'JAMES DISCIPULUS'
T.

Nº 331. THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1711-12.

—— *Stolidum praebeat tibi vultus barbam.*
PERS. Sat. ii. 22.

Holds out his foolish beard for thee to pluck.

WHEN I was last with my friend Sir Roger in Westminster-abbey, I observed that he stood longer than ordinary before the bust of a venerable old man. I was at a loss to guess the reason of it; when after some time, he pointed to the figure, and asked me if I did not think that our forefathers looked much wiser in their beards than we do without them? 'For my part,' says he, 'when I am walking in my gallery in the country, and we my ancestors, who many of them died before they were of my age, I cannot forbear regarding them as so many old patriarchs, and, at the same time, looking upon myself as an idle smock-faced young fellow. I love to see your Abrahams, your Isaacs, and your Jacobs, as we have them in old pieces of tapestry, with beards below their girdles, that cover

the hangings.' The knight added, if I would commend beards in one of my papers, and endeavour to restore human faces to their ancient glory, that, upon a month's warning, he would take to lead up the fashion himself in a pair of tiskers.

Smiled at my friend's fancy; but, after we had, could not forbear reflecting on the metamorphosis our faces have undergone in this parti-

cular beard, conformable to the notion of my friend Sir Roger, was for many ages looked upon as a type of wisdom. Lucian more than once speaks of the philosophers of his time, who endeavoured to rival one another in beards; and represented a learned man who stood for a professorship of philosophy, as unqualified for it by the shortness of his beard.

And, in his account of Zoilus, the pretended philosopher who wrote against Homer and Plato, and of himself wiser than all who had gone before him, tells us, that this Zoilus had a very long beard that hung down upon his breast, but no hair on his head, which he always kept close shaved. And, in fact, it seems, the hairs of his head as so suckers, which, if they had been suffered to grow, might have drawn away the nourishment from his chin, and by that means have starved his beard.

I have read somewhere that one of the popes had ordered to accept an edition of a saint's works, which were presented to him, because the saint, in his pictures before the book, was drawn without a beard.

And, to see by these instances what homage the world has formerly paid to beards; and that a man was not then allowed to make those deductions on the faces of the learned, which have been permitted him of late years.

Accordingly several wise nations have been so nearly jealous of the least ruffle offered to their beards, that they seem to have fixed the value of honour principally in that part. The Romans were wonderfully tender in this particular.

Don Quevedo, in his third vision on the last day of his life, has carried the humour very far, when he tells us, that one of his vainglorious countrymen, after having received sentence, was taken into custody by a couple of evil spirits; but that his misfortune happening to disorder his mustachoes, they were forced to recompose them with a pair of iron girders before they could get him to file off. And, when we look into the history of our own nation, we find that the beard flourished in the Saxon monarchy, but was very much discouraged under the Norman line. It shot out, however, from time to time, in several reigns under different shapes. The last effort it made seems to have been in the days of Mary's days, as the curious reader may find, who pleases to peruse the figures of Cardinal Pole and Bishop Gardiner; though, at the same time, it may be questioned, if zeal against popery did not induce our protestant painters to add the beards of these two persecutors beyond natural dimensions, in order to make them appear the more terrible.

And but few beards worth taking notice of in the reign of King James the First.

During the civil wars there appeared one, which was too great a figure in story to be passed over in silence; I mean that of the redoubted Hudibras, the count of which Butler has transmitted to posterity in the following lines:

'His tawny beard was th' equal grace
Both of his wisdom and his face;
In cut and dye so like a tile,
A sudden view it would beguile:
The upper part thereof was whey,
The nether orange mix'd with grey.'

The whisker continued for some time among us after the expiration of beards; but this is a subject which I shall not here enter upon, having discussed it at large in a distinct treatise, which I keep by me in manuscript, upon the mustachoe.

If my friend Sir Roger's project of introducing beards should take effect, I fear the luxury of the present age would make it a very expensive fashion. There is no question but the beaux would soon provide themselves with false ones of the lightest colours, and the most immoderate lengths. A fair beard of the tapestry size, which Sir Roger seems to approve, could not come under twenty guineas. The famous golden beard of Æsculapius would hardly be more valuable than one made in the extravagance of the fashion.

Besides, we are not certain that the ladies would not come into the mode, when they take the air on horseback. They already appear in hats and feathers, coats and periwigs; and I see no reason why we may not suppose that they would have their riding-beards on the same occasion.

N. B. I may give the moral of this discourse in another paper.

BUDGE.

X.

Nº 332. FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1711-12.

— Minus aptus acutis

Naribus horum hominum —

HOR. Sat. iii. l. i. ver. 29.

He cannot bear the raillery of the age.

CREECH.

'DEAR SHORT FACE,

'IN your speculation of Wednesday last*, you have given us some account of that worthy society of brutes the Mobocks†; wherein you have particularly specified the ingenious performances of the lion-tippers, the dancing-masters, and the tumblers; but as you acknowledge you had not then a perfect history of the whole club, you might very easily omit one of the most notable species of it, the sweaters, which may be reckoned a sort of dancing-masters too. It is, it seems, the custom for half a dozen, or more, of these well-disposed savages, as soon as they have inclosed the person upon whom they design the favour of a sweat, to whip out their swords, and holding them parallel to the horizon, they describe a sort of magic circle round about him with the points. As soon as this piece of conjuration is performed, and the patient without doubt already beginning to wax warm, to forward the operation, that member of the circle towards whom he is so rude as to turn his back first, runs his sword directly into that part of the patient whereon school-boys are punished; and as it is very natural to imagine this will soon make him tack about to some other point, every gentleman does himself the same justice as often as he

* Nº 324. We must suppose this letter to have been written two or three days before its insertion; otherwise it should be Wednesday *sc'nnight*.

† See more in Nº 347. See also Swift's works, 8vo. edit. 1801, vol. iv. 55. xl. 214. xv. 281. 283. 286. 287. 295. xvii. 350.

receives the affront. After this jig has gone two or three times round, and the patient is thought to have sweat sufficiently, he is very handsomely rubbed down by some attendants who carry with them instruments for that purpose, and so discharged. This relation I had from a friend of mine, who has lately been under this discipline. He tells me he had the honour to dance before the emperor himself, not without the applause and acclamations both of his imperial majesty and the whole ring; though I dare say neither I, nor any of his acquaintance, ever dreamt he would have merited any reputation by his activity.

'I can assure you, Mr. Spectator, I was very near being qualified to have given you a faithful and painful account of this walking bagnio, if I may so call it, myself. Going the other night along Fleet-street, and having, out of curiosity, just entered into discourse with a wandering female who was travelling the same way, a couple of fellows advanced towards us, drew their swords, and cried out to each other, "A sweat! a sweat!" Whereupon, suspecting they were some of the ringleaders of the bagnio, I also drew my sword, and demanded a parley: but finding none would be granted me, and perceiving others behind them filing off with great diligence to take me in flank, I began to sweat for fear of being forced to it: but very luckily betaking myself to a pair of heels, which I had good reason to believe would do me justice, I instantly got possession of a very snug corner in a neighbouring alley that lay in my rear; which post I maintained for above half an hour with great firmness and resolution, though not letting this success so far overcome me as to make me unmindful of the circumspection that was necessary to be observed upon my advancing again towards the street; by which prudence and good management I made a handsome and orderly retreat, having suffered no other damage in this action than the loss of my baggage, and the dislocation of one of my shoe-heels, which last I am just now informed is in a fair way of recovery. These sweaters, by what I can learn from my friend, and by as near a view as I was able to take of them myself, seem to me to have at present but a rude kind of discipline amongst them. It is probable, if you would take a little pains with them, they might be brought into better order. But I'll leave this to your own discretion; and will only add, that if you think it worth while to insert this by way of caution to those who have a mind to preserve their skins whole from this sort of cupping, and tell them at the same time the hazard of treating with night-walkers, you will perhaps oblige others, as well as

'Your very humble servant,
'JACK LIGHTFOOT.'

'P. S. My friend will have me acquaint you, that though he would not willingly detract from the merit of that extraordinary strokesman, Mr. Sprightly*, yet it is his real opinion, that some of those fellows who are employed as rubbers to this new-fashioned bagnio, have struck as bold strokes as ever he did in his life.

'I had sent this four-and-twenty hours sooner, if I had not had the misfortune of being in a great doubt about the orthography of the word bagnio. I consulted several dictionaries, but found no relief: at last, having recourse both to the bagnio in Newgate-street, and to that in Chancery-lane, and

* No 319.

finding the original manuscripts upon the sign-post of each to agree literally with my own spelling, I returned home, full of satisfaction, in order to dispatch this epistle.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'As you have taken most of the circumstances of human life into your consideration, we the undersigned thought it not improper for us also to be present to you our condition. We are three ladies who live in the country, and the greatest improvement we make is by reading. We have taken a small journal of our lives, and find it extremely opposite to your last Tuesday's speculation. We rise by seven, and pass the beginning of each day in devotion, and looking into those affairs that fall within the occurrences of a retired life; in the afternoon we sometimes enjoy the company of some friend or neighbour, or else work or read: at night we retire to our chambers, and take leave of each other for the whole night at ten o'clock. We take particular care never to be sick of a Sunday. Mr. Spectator, we are all very good maids, but are ambitious of characters which we think most laudable, that of being very good wives. If any of your correspondents inquire for a spouse for a honest country gentleman, whose estate is not dipped, and wants a wife that can save half his revenue, and yet make a better figure than any of his neighbours of the same estate with finer bred women, you shall have further notice from,

'SIR,

'Your courteous reader,

'MARTHA BLAY,

'DEBORAH TRIFFIT,

'ALICE EARLY.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 333. SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1711-12

——— *voces in certamina dicos.*

VIRG. Æn. vi. ver. 172

He calls embattled deities to arms.

WE are now entering upon the sixth book of Paradise Lost, in which the poet describes the battle of angels; having raised his reader's expectation, and prepared him for it by several passages in the preceding books. I omitted quoting these passages in my observations on the former books, having purposely reserved them for the opening of this, the subject of which gave occasion to them. The author's imagination was so inflamed with the great scene of action, that wherever he speaks of it, he rises, if possible, above himself. Thus, when he mentions Satan in the beginning of his poem.

'——— Him the almighty power
Hurld headlong flaming from th' ethereal sky,
With hideous ruin and combustion down
To bottomless perdition, there to dwell
In adamant chains and penal fire,
Who durst defy th' Omnipotent to arms.'

We have likewise several noble hints of the infernal conference:

'O prince! O chief of many-throned powers,
That led th' embattled seraphim to war,
Too well I see and rue the dire event,
That with sad overthrow and foul defeat
Hath lost us heaven; and all this nighty host
In horrible destruction laid thus low.
But see! the angry victor has recall'd

Ministers of vengeance and pursuit
 Led to the gates of heav'n. The sulphurous hail
 Shot after us in storm, o'erblown, hath laid
 The deep surge, that from the precipice
 Of heav'n receiv'd us falling: and the thunder,
 Wield'd with red lightning and impetuous rage,
 Perhaps has spent his shafts, and ceases now
 To bow through the vast and boundless deep.*

There are several other very sublime images on
 the same subject in the first book, as also in the
 end :

'What when we fled again, pursued and struck
 With heav'n's afflicting thunder, and besought
 The deep to shelter us; this hell then seem'd
 A refuge from those wounds ———'

In short, the poet never mentions any thing of
 battle, but in such images of greatness and
 or as are suitable to the subject. Among sev-
 erals I cannot forbear quoting that passage
 re the Power, who is described as presiding
 over the chaos, speaks in the second book :

'Thus Satan; and him thus the Anarch old,
 With faltering speech and visage incompo'd,
 Answer'd: "I know thee, stranger, who thou art,
 That mighty leading angel, who of late
 Made head against heav'n's King, tho' overthrown
 I saw and heard; for such a num'rous host
 Fled not in silence through the frighted deep
 With ruin upon ruin, rout on rout,
 Confusion worse confounded; and heav'n's gates
 Port'd out by millions her victorious bands
 Pursuing ———"

It required great pregnancy of invention, and
 length of imagination, to fill this battle with such
 circumstances as should raise and astonish the mind
 the reader; and at the same time an exactness
 judgment, to avoid every thing that might ap-
 pear light or trivial. Those who look into Homer
 surprised to find his battles still rising one above
 other, and improving in horror to the conclusion
 the Iliad. Milton's fight of angels is wrought
 with the same beauty. It is ushered in with
 signs of wrath as are suitable to Omnipot-
 ence incensed. The first engagement is carried
 under a cope of fire, occasioned by the flights
 innumerable burning darts and arrows which
 discharged from either host. The second on-
 is still more terrible, as it is filled with
 artificial thunders, which seem to make the
 story doubtful, and produce a kind of consterna-
 tion even in the good angels. This is followed by
 tearing up of mountains and promontories; till
 the last place the Messiah comes forth in the
 robes of majesty and terror. The pomp of his
 appearance amidst the roarings of his thunders,
 flashes of his lightnings, and the noise of his
 chariot-wheels, is described with the utmost flights
 of human imagination.

There is nothing in the first and last day's en-
 gagement which does not appear natural, and
 credible enough to the ideas most readers would
 receive of a fight between two armies of angels.
 The second day's engagement is apt to startle an
 imagination which has not been raised and qualified
 by such a description, by the reading of the an-
 cient poets, and of Homer in particular. It was
 certainly a very bold thought in our author, to
 ascribe the first use of artillery to the rebel angels.
 It as such a pernicious invention may be well
 supposed to have proceeded from such authors, so
 enters very properly into the thoughts of that
 being, who is all along described as aspiring to the
 equality of his Maker. Such engines were the only
 instruments he could have made use of to imitate
 God's thunders, that in all poetry, both sacred and

profane, are represented as the arms of the Al-
 mighty. The tearing up the hills was not alto-
 gether so daring a thought as the former. We are,
 in some measure, prepared for such an incident by
 the description of the giants' war, which we meet
 with among the ancient poets. What still made this
 circumstance the more proper for the poet's use, is
 the opinion of many learned men, that the fable
 of the giants' war, which makes so great a noise
 in antiquity, and gave birth to the sublimest de-
 scription in Hesiod's works, was an allegory founded
 upon this very tradition of a fight between the
 good and bad angels.

It may, perhaps, be worth while to consider with
 what judgment Milton, in this narration, has avoided
 every thing that is mean and trivial in the descrip-
 tions of the Latin and Greek poets; and at the
 same time improved every great hint which he met
 with in their works upon this subject. Homer, in
 that passage which Longinus has celebrated for its
 sublimeness, and which Virgil and Ovid have co-
 pied after him, tells us that the giants threw Ossa
 upon Olympus, and Pelion upon Ossa. He adds an
 epithet to Pelion (*υνοειφύλλον*), which very much
 swells the idea, by bringing up to the reader's
 imagination all the woods that grew upon it.
 There is further a great beauty in his singling out
 by names these three remarkable mountains so
 well known to the Greeks. This last is such a
 beauty, as the scene of Milton's war could not pos-
 sibly furnish him with. Claudian, in his fragment
 upon the giants' war, has given full scope to that
 wildness of imagination which was natural to him.
 He tells us, that the giants tore up whole islands
 by the roots, and threw them at the gods. He de-
 scribes one of them in particular taking up Lem-
 nos in his arms, and whirling it to the skies, with
 all Vulcan's shop in the midst of it. Another
 tears up mount Ida, with the river Enipeus, which
 ran down the sides of it; but the poet, not con-
 tent to describe him with this mountain upon his
 shoulders, tells us, that the river flowed down his
 back as he held it up in that posture. It is visible
 to every judicious reader, that such ideas savour
 more of burlesque than of the sublime. They pro-
 ceed from a wantonness of imagination, and ra-
 ther divert the mind than astonish it. Milton has
 taken every thing that is sublime in these several
 passages, and composes out of them the following
 great image:

* From their foundations loos'ning to and fro,
 They pluck'd the seated hills, with all their load,
 Rocks, waters, woods, and by the shaggy tops
 Uplifting bore them in their hands ———

We have the full majesty of Homer in this short
 description, improved by the imagination of Clau-
 dian, without its puerilities.

I need not point out the description of the fallen
 angels seeing the promontories hanging over their
 heads in such a dreadful manner, with the other
 numberless beauties in this book, which are so
 conspicuous, that they cannot escape the notice of
 the most ordinary reader.

There are indeed so many wonderful strokes of
 poetry in this book, and such a variety of sublime
 ideas, that it would have been impossible to have
 given them a place within the bounds of this pa-
 per. Besides that, I find it in a great measure
 done to my hand at the end of my Lord Roscom-
 mon's Essay on Translated Poetry. I shall refer
 my reader thither for some of the master-strokes of
 the sixth book of *Paradise Lost*, though at the
 same time there are many others which that noble
 author has not taken notice of.

Milton, notwithstanding the sublime genius he was master of, has in this book drawn to his assistance all the helps he could meet with among the ancient poets. The sword of Michael, which makes so great a havoc among the bad angels, was given him, we are told, out of the armoury of God:

‘——— But the sword
Of Michael from the armoury of God
Was giv’n him temper’d so, that neither keen
Nor solid might resist that edge: it met
The sword of Satan, with steep force to smite
Descending, and in half cut sheer———’

This passage is a copy of that in Virgil, wherein the poet tells us, that the sword of Æneas, which was given him by a deity, broke into pieces the sword of Turnus, which came from a mortal forge. As the moral in this place is divine, so by the way we may observe, that the bestowing on a man who is favoured by heaven such an allegorical weapon, is very conformable to the old eastern way of thinking. Not only Homer has made use of it, but we find the Jewish hero in the book of Maccabees, who had fought the battles of the chosen people with so much glory and success, receiving in his dream a sword from the hand of the prophet Jeremiah. The following passage, wherein Satan is described as wounded by the sword of Michael, is in imitation of Homer:

‘The griding sword with discontinuous wound
Pass’d through him; but th’ ethereal substance clos’d,
Not long divisible; and from the gash
A stream of nectarous humour issuing flow’d
Sanguine, (such as celestial spirits may bleed)
And all his armour stain’d———’

Homer tells us in the same manner, that upon Diomedes wounding the gods, there flowed from the wound an ichor, or pure kind of blood, which was not bred from mortal viands; and that though the pain was exquisitely great, the wound soon closed up and healed in those beings who are vested with immortality.

I question not but Milton, in his description of his furious Moloch flying from the battle, and bellowing with the wound he had received, had his eye on Mars in the *Iliad*; who, upon his being wounded, is represented as retiring out of the fight, and making an outcry louder than that of a whole army when it begins the charge. Homer adds, that the Greeks and Trojans, who were engaged in a general battle, were terrified on each side with the bellowing of this wounded deity. The reader will easily observe how Milton has kept all the horror of this image, without running into the ridicule of it:

‘——— Where the might of Gabriel fought,
And with fierce ensigns pierc’d the deep array
Of Moloch, furious king! who him defy’d,
And at his chariot-wheels to drag him bound
Threaten’d, nor from the Holy One of heav’n
Refrain’d his tongue blasphemous: but anon
Down cloven to the waist, with shatter’d arms
And uncouth pain, sed bellowing———’

Milton has likewise raised his description in this book with many images taken out of the poetical parts of scripture. The Messiah’s chariot, as I have before taken notice, is formed upon a vision of Ezekiel, who, as Grotius observes, has very much in him of Homer’s spirit in the poetical parts of his prophecy.

The following lines, in that glorious commission which is given the Messiah to extirpate the host of rebel angels, is drawn from a sublime passage in the *Psalms*:

‘Go then, thou mightiest in thy father’s might!
Ascend my chariot, guide the rapid wheels
That shake heaven’s basis; bring forth all my war,
My bow and thunder, my almighty arms.
Gird on, and sword upon thy puissant thigh:’

The reader will easily discover many other strokes of the same nature.

There is no question but Milton had heated his imagination with the fight of the gods in Homer, before he entered upon this engagement of the angels. Homer there gives us a scene of men, heroes, and gods, mixed together in battle. Mars animates the contending armies, and lifts up his voice in such a manner, that it is heard distinctly amidst all the shouts and confusion of the fight. Jupiter at the same time thunders over their heads; while Neptune raises such a tempest, that the whole field of battle, and all the tops of the mountains, shake about them. The poet tells us, that Pluto himself, whose habitation was in the very centre of the earth, was so affrighted at the shock, that he leapt from his throne. Homer afterwards describes Vulcan as pouring down a storm of fire upon the river Xanthus, and Minerva as throwing a rock at Mars; who, he tells us, covered seven acres in his fall.

As Homer has introduced into his battle of the gods every thing that is great and terrible in nature, Milton has filled his fight of good and bad angels with all the like circumstances of horror. The shout of armies, the rattling of brazen chariots, the hurling of rocks and mountains, the earthquake, the fire, the thunder, are all of them employed to lift up the reader’s imagination, and give him a suitable idea of so great an action. With what art has the poet represented the whole body of the earth trembling, even before it was created!

‘All heav’n resounded; and had earth been then,
All earth had to its centre shook———’

In how sublime and just a manner does he afterwards describe the whole heaven shaking under the wheels of the Messiah’s chariot, with that exultation to the throne of God!

‘——— Under his burning wheels
The steadfast empyrean shook throughout;
All but the throne itself of God———’

Notwithstanding the Messiah appears clothed with so much terror and majesty, the poet has still found means to make his readers conceive an idea of him, beyond what he himself is able to describe:

‘Yet half his strength he put not forth, but check’d
His thunder in mid volley; for he meant
Not to destroy, but root them out of heaven.’

In a word, Milton’s genius, which was so great in itself, and so strengthened by all the helps of learning, appears in this book every way equal to his subject, which was the most sublime that could enter into the thought of a poet. As he knew all the arts of affecting the mind, he knew it was necessary to give it certain resting-places, and opportunities of recovering itself from time to time; he has therefore with great address interspersed several speeches, reflections, similitudes, and the like reliefs, to diversify his narration, and ease the attention of the reader, that he might come fresh to his great action, and by such a contrast of ideas have a more lively taste of the nobler part of his description.

ADDISON.

L

334. MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1711-12.

— *Voluisti, in suo genere, unumquemque nostrum uti quendam esse Roscium, disiditque non tam ea ve recta essent proburi, quam quæ prava sunt fas-
cui adherescere.*

CICERO de Gestu.

I would have each of us be a kind of Roscius in his way; and you have said, that men are not so much pleased with what is right, as disgusted at what is wrong.

very natural to take for our whole lives a impression of a thing, which at first fell into contact with us for want of consideration. The use of a certain qualification (which the wiser of mankind look upon as at best an indistinct thing, and generally a frivolous circumstance) shows the ill consequence of such prepossession. What I mean is, the art, skill, accomplishment, or whatever you will call it, of dancing. Few a gentleman of great abilities, who beyond the want of this part of his education to end of a very honourable life. He observed, there was not occasion for the common use of talents; that they are but seldom in demand; that these very great talents were often rendered useless to a man for want of small attainments. A good mien (a becoming motion, gesture, aspect) is natural to some men; but even those who are highly more graceful in their carriage, if they do from the force of nature were condescended and heightened from the force of reason. One who has not at all considered it, to mention the force of reason on such a subject will appear fantastical; but when you have a little attended to it, an assembly of men will have quite another view; and they will tell you, it is evident from plain and infallible rules, why this with those beautiful features, and well-facèd person, is not so agreeable as he who sits idle without any of those advantages. When we do it without any exerted act of method that presents the shape of the letters; but makes us do it mechanically, without stay-like children, to recollect and join those letters. A man who has not had the regard of his mien in any part of his education, will find him unable to act with freedom before new company, as a child that is but now learning would proceed without hesitation. It is for the attainment of the pleasure we receive in being agreeable to each other in ordinary life, that one would wish dancing were generally understood as agreeable, as it really is, to a proper deportment, and that appears the most remote from it. A want of learning and sense is distinguished from what is such, though he never runs upon so too difficult for the rest of the world; in manner the reaching out of the arm, and the ordinary motion, discovers whether a man has learnt to know what is the true harmony and posture of his limbs and countenance. Whoever in Booth, in the character of Pyrrhus, march to throne to receive Orestes, is convinced that great and great conceptions are expressed in the step; but, perhaps though no other man could perform that incident as well as he does, he himself would do it with a yet greater elevation were he a dancer. This is so dangerous a subject to treat lightly, that I shall not at present enter into it further; but the author of the following letter created it in the essay he speaks of in such a

manner, that I am beholden to him for a resolution, that I will never hereafter think meanly of any thing, till I have heard what they who have another opinion of it have to say in its defence.

MR. SPECTATOR,

SINCE there are scarce any of the arts or sciences that have not been recommended to the world by the pens of some of the professors, masters, or lovers of them, whereby the usefulness, excellence, and benefit arising from them, both as to the speculative and practical part, have been made public, to the great advantage and improvement of such arts and sciences; why should dancing, an art celebrated by the ancients in so extraordinary a manner, be totally neglected by the moderns, and left destitute of any pen to recommend its various excellencies and substantial merit to mankind?

The low ebb to which dancing is now fallen, is altogether owing to this silence. The art is esteemed only as an amusing trifle; it lies altogether uncultivated, and is unhappily fallen under the imputation of illiterate and mechanic. And as Terence, in one of his prologues, complains of the rope-dancers drawing all the spectators from his play; so may we well say, that capering and tumbling is now preferred to, and supplies the place of, just and regular dancing on our theatres. It is therefore, in my opinion, high time that some one should come to its assistance, and relieve it from the many gross and growing errors that have crept into it, and overcast its real beauties; and to set dancing in its true light, would show the usefulness and elegance of it, with the pleasure and instruction produced from it; and also lay down some fundamental rules, that might so tend to the improvement of its professors, and information of the spectators, that the first might be the better enabled to perform, and the latter rendered more capable of judging what is (if there be any thing) valuable in this art.

To encourage therefore some ingenious pen capable of so generous an undertaking, and in some measure to relieve dancing from the disadvantages it at present lies under, I, who teach to dance, have attempted a small treatise as an Essay towards an History of Dancing*; in which I have inquired into its antiquity, origin, and use, and shown what esteem the ancients had for it. I have likewise considered the nature and perfection of all its several parts, and how beneficial and delightful it is, both as a qualification and an exercise; and endeavoured to answer all objections that have been maliciously raised against it. I have proceeded to give an account of the particular dances of the Greeks and Romans, whether religious, warlike, or civil; and taken particular notice of that part of dancing relating to the ancient stage, in which the pantomimes had so great a share. Nor have I been wanting in giving an historical account of some particular masters excellent in that surprising art; after which I have advanced some observations on the modern dancing, both as to the stage, and that part of it so absolutely necessary for the qualification of gentlemen and ladies; and have concluded with some short remarks on the origin and progress of the character by which dances are writ down, and communicated to one master from another. If some great genius after this would arise, and advance this art to that perfection it seems capable of receiving, what might not be expected from it?

* An Essay towards an History of Dancing, &c. By John Weaver, 12mo. 1714. See N^o 446.

For, if we consider the origin of arts and sciences, we shall find that some of them took rise from beginnings so mean and unpromising, that it is very wonderful to think that ever such surprising structures should have been raised upon such ordinary foundations. But what cannot a great genius effect? Who would have thought that the clangorous noise of a smith's hammers should have given the first rise to music? Yet Macrobius in his second book relates, that Pythagoras, in passing by a smith's shop, found that the sounds proceeding from the hammers were either more grave or acute, according to the different weights of the hammers. The philosopher, to improve this hint, suspends different weights by strings of the same bigness, and found in like manner that the sounds answered to the weights. This being discovered, he finds out those numbers which produced sounds that were consonant: as, that two strings of the same substance and tension, the one being double the length of the other, gave that interval which is called diapason, or an eighth: the same was also effected from two strings of the same length and size, the one having four times the tension of the other. By these steps, from so mean a beginning, did this great man reduce, what was only before noise, to one of the most delightful sciences, by marrying it to the mathematics; and by that means caused it to be one of the most abstract and demonstrative of sciences. Who knows therefore but motion, whether decorous or representative, may not (as it seems highly probable it may) be taken into consideration by some persons capable of reducing it into a regular science, though not so demonstrative as that proceeding from sounds, yet sufficient to entitle it to a place among the magnified arts?

'Now, Mr. Spectator, as you have declared yourself visitor of dancing-schools, and this being an undertaking which more immediately respects them, I think myself indispensably obliged, before I proceed to the publication of this my essay, to ask your advice; and hold it absolutely necessary to have your approbation, in order to recommend my treatise to the perusal of the parents of such as learn to dance, as well as to the young ladies, to whom, as visitor, you ought to be guardian *.

'Salop, March 19,
1711-12.

I am, Sir,
'Your most humble servant.'

STEEL. [The letter, probably, by Mr. Weaver.] T.

Nº 335. TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1711-12.

*Respicere exemplar vite morumque jubebo
Doctum imitatore, et verus hinc ducere voces.*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 317.

Those are the likeliest copies, which are drawn
From the original of human life.
ROSCOMMON.

My friend Sir Roger de Coverley, when we last met together at the club, told me that he had a great mind to see the new tragedy * with me, assuring me at the same time, that he had not been at a play these twenty years. 'The last I saw,' said Sir Roger, 'was The Committee †, which I should not have gone to neither, had not I been told beforehand that it was a good church-of-England comedy.' He then proceeded to inquire of

me who this distrest mother ‡ was; and, upon hearing that she was Hector's widow, he told me that her husband was a brave man, and that when he was a school-boy he had read his life at the end of the dictionary. My friend asked me, in the next place, if there would not be some danger in coming home late, in case the Mohocks should be abroad §. 'I assure you,' says he, 'I thought I had fallen into their hands last night; for I observed two or three lusty black men that followed me half way up Fleet-street, and mended their pace behind me, in proportion as I put on to get away from them. You must know,' continued the knight with a smile, 'I fancied they had a mind to hunt me; for I remember an honest gentleman in my neighbourhood, who was served such a trick by King Charles the Second's time, for which reason he has not ventured himself in town ever since. I might have shown them very good sport, had this been their design; for as I am an old fox-hunter, I should have turned and dodged, and have played them a thousand tricks they had never seen in ten lives before.' Sir Roger added, that 'if these gentlemen had any such intention, they did not succeed very well in it; for I threw them out,' says he, 'at the end of Norfolk-street, where I doubled the corner and got shelter in my lodgings before they could imagine what was become of me. However,' says the knight, 'if Captain Sentry will make one with us to-morrow night, and if you will both of you call upon me about four o'clock, that we may be at the house before it is full, I will have my own coach in readiness to attend you; for Joe tells me he has got the fore-wheels mended.

The Captain, who did not fail to meet me there at the appointed hour, bid Sir Roger swear nothing for that he had put on the same sword which he made use of at the battle of Steenkirk. Sir Roger's servants, and among the rest my old friend the butler, had, I found, provided themselves with good oaken plants, to attend their master upon this occasion. When we had placed him in his coach, with myself at his left-hand, the captain behind him, and his butler at the head of his footmen at the rear, we conveyed him in safety to the play-house, where, after having marched up the entry in good order, the Captain and I went in with him, and seated him betwixt us in the pit. As soon as the house was full, and the candles lighted, my old friend stood up, and looked about him with that pleasure which a mind seasoned with humanity naturally feels in itself, at the sight of a multitude of people who seem pleased with one another, and partake of the same common entertainment. I could not but fancy to myself, as the old man moved up in the middle of the pit, that he made a very proper centre to a tragic audience. Upon the entering of Pyrrhus, the knight told me, that he did not believe the King of France himself had a better strut. I was indeed very attentive to my old friend's remarks, because I looked upon this as a piece of natural criticism, and was well pleased to hear him, at the conclusion of almost every scene, telling me that he could not imagine how the play would end. One while he appeared much concerned for Andromache; and a little while after as much for Hermione; and was extremely puzzled to think what would become of Pyrrhus.

When Sir Roger saw Andromache's obstinate refusal to her lover's importunities, he whispered me in the ear, that he was sure she would have him; to which he added, with a more lively

* See No 370.

† The Distrest Mother, by Ambrose Phillips, Ato. 1712.

‡ A comedy by Sir Robert Howard, fol. 1665; intended to throw the utmost odium on the Roundhead party and their proceedings.

• See No 338.

† See Nos. 370, 372, and 373.

ary vehemence, 'You can't imagine, sir, what I have to do with a widow.' Upon Pyrrhus's teining afterwards to leave her, the knight raised his head and muttered to himself, 'Ay, do you can.' This part dwelt so much upon my dear imagination, that at the close of the third as I was thinking of something else, he whispered in my ear, 'These widows, sir, are the perverse creatures in the world. But pray, sir, be, you that are a critic, is the play according to your dramatic rules, as you call them? Should people in tragedy always talk to be understood? Why, there is not a single sentence in this that I do not know the meaning of.' The fourth act very luckily began before I had time to give the old gentleman an answer. 'Well,' the knight, sitting down with great satisfaction, suppose we are now to see Hector's ghost.' He renewed his attention, and, from time to time, a praising the widow. He made, indeed, a mistake as to one of her pages, whom at his entering he took for Astyanax; but quickly himself right in that particular, though, at the time, he owned he should have been very sorry to have seen the little boy, who, says he, must be a very fine child by the account that is made of him. Upon Hermione's going off with a grace to Pyrrhus, the audience gave a loud clap, which Sir Roger added, 'On my word, a notable baggage!' There was a very remarkable silence and stillness in the audience during the whole action, it is natural for them to take the opportunity of the intervals between the acts, to express their opinion of the players, and of their respective parts. Sir Roger, hearing a cluster of them praise Orestes, he came in with them, and told them, that he thought his friend Pylades was a very sensible man. As they were afterwards applauding Pyrrhus, Sir Roger put in a second time. 'And let me tell you, sir, though he speaks but little, I like the old man in whiskers as well as any of them.' Captain Roger, seeing two or three wags who sat near us with an attentive ear towards Sir Roger, and being lest they should smoke the knight, plucked by the elbow, and whispered something in his ear that lasted till the opening of the fifth act. The knight was wonderfully attentive to the act, which Orestes gives of Pyrrhus's death, and, at the conclusion of it, told me it was such a bloody piece of work, that he was glad it was not done on the stage. Seeing afterwards Orestes in his proper fit, he grew more than ordinarily serious, took occasion to moralize (in his way) upon an occasion, adding, that Orestes, in his mad-looking as if he saw something. We were the first that came into the house, and were the last that went out of it; being glad to have a clear passage for our old friend, and as we did not care to venture among the justifications of the crowd. Sir Roger went out fully satisfied with his entertainment, and we guarded him in the same manner that we brought to the playhouse; being highly pleased for my part, not only with the performance of the present piece which had been presented, but with the satisfaction which it had given to the old

Nº 336. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1712.

*Clament perire pudorem
Cuncti pene patres: ea cum reprehendere comor,
Quæ gravis Æopos, quæ doctus Rœcius egit:
Vel quia nil rectum, nisi quod placuit sibi, ducunt:
Vel quia turpe putant parere minoribus, et quæ
Imberbes didicere, senes perdenda futuri.*

HOR. Ep. 1. l. II. ver. 80.

IMITATED.

One tragic sentence if I dare deride,
Which Betterton's grave action dignify'd,
Or well-mouth'd Booth with emphasis proclaims
(Tho' but, perhaps, a muster-roll of names),
How will our fathers rise up in a rage,
And swear, all shame is lost in George's age!
You'd think no fools disgrac'd the former reign,
Did not some grave examples yet remain,
Who scorn a lad should teach his father skill,
And, having once been wrong, will be so still.
POPE.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'As you are the daily endeavourer to promote learning and good sense, I think myself obliged to suggest to your consideration whatever may promote or prejudice them. There is an evil which has prevailed from generation to generation, which grey hairs and tyrannical custom continue to support; I hope your spectatorial authority will give a seasonable check to the spread of the infection; I mean old men's overbearing the strongest sense of their juniors by the mere force of seniority; so that for a young man in the bloom of life, and vigour of age, to give a reasonable contradiction to his elders, is esteemed an unpardonable insolence, and regarded as reversing the decrees of nature. I am a young man, I confess; yet I honour the grey head as much as any one: however, when in company with old men, I hear them speak obscurely, or reason preposterously (into which absurdities, prejudice, pride, or interest, will sometimes throw the wisest), I count it no crime to rectify their reasonings, unless conscience must truckle to ceremony, and truth fall a sacrifice to complaisance. The strongest arguments are enervated, and the brightest evidence disappears, before those tremendous reasonings and dazzling discoveries of venerable old age. 'You are young giddy-headed fellows; you have not yet had experience of the world.' Thus we young folks find our ambition cramped, and our laziness indulged, since while young we have little room to display ourselves, and when old, the weakness of nature must pass for strength of sense, and we hope that hoary heads will raise us above the attacks of contradiction. Now, sir, as you would enliven our activity in the pursuit of learning, take our case into consideration; and, with a gloss on brave Elihu's sentiments, assert the rights of youth, and prevent the pernicious encroachments of age. The generous reasonings of that gallant youth would adorn your paper; and I beg you would insert them, not doubting but that they will give good entertainment to the most intelligent of your readers.'

"So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram. Against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God. Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job. Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were



elder than he. When Elihu saw there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled. And Elihu, the son of Barnabai the Buzite, answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not show you mine opinion. I said, Durs should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom. But there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding. Great men are not always wise; neither do the aged understand judgment. Therefore I said, Hearken to me, I also will show mine opinion. Behold, I waited for your words; I gave ear to your reasons, whilst you searched out what to say. Yea, I attended unto you. And behold there was none of you that convinced Job, or that answered his words; lest you should say, We have found wisdom: God thrusteth him down, not man. Now he hath not directed his words against me; neither will I answer him with your speeches. They were amazed: they answered no more; they left off speaking. When I had waited (for they spake not, but stood still and answered no more) I said, I will answer also my part; I also will show mine opinion. For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constraineth me. Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent, it is ready to burst like new bottles. I will speak that I may be refreshed; I will open my lips and answer. Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my Maker would soon take me away."

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE formerly read with great satisfaction your papers about idols*, and the behaviour of gentlemen in those coffee-houses where women officiate; and impatiently waited to see you take India and China shops into consideration: but since you have passed us over in silence, either that you have not as yet thought us worth your notice, or that the grievances we lie under have escaped your discerning eye, I must make my complaints to you, and am encouraged to do it because you seem a little at leisure at this present writing. I am, dear sir, one of the top china-women about town; and though I say it, keep as good things, and receive as fine company, as any o' this end of the town, let the other be who she will. In short, I am in a fair way to be easy, were it not for a club of female rakes, who, under pretence of taking their innocent rambles forsooth, and diverting the spleen, seldom fail to plague me twice or thrice a day, to cheapen tea, or buy a skreen. What else should they mean? as they often repeat it. These rakes are your idle ladies of fashion, who, having nothing to do, employ themselves in tumbling over my ware. One of these no-customers (for by the way they seldom or never buy any thing) calls for a set of tea-dishes, another for a bason, a third for my best green-tea, and even to the punch-bowl, there's scarce a piece in my shop but must be displaced, and the whole agreeable architecture disordered, so that I can compare them to nothing but to the night-goblins, that take a pleasure to overturn the disposition of plates and dishes in the kitchens of your housewifely maids. Well, after all this racket and clutter, this is too dear, that is their aversion; another thing is charming, but not wanted: the ladies are cured of the spleen, but I am not a shilling the better for it. Lord, what

signifies one poor pot of tea, considering the trouble they put me to? Vapours, Mr. Spectator, are terrible things; for, though I am not possessed by them myself, I suffer more from them than if I were. Now I must beg you to admonish all such day-goblins to make fewer visits, or to be less troublesome when they come to one's shop; and to convince them that we honest shopkeepers have something better to do, than to cure folks of the vapours gratis. A young son of mine, a school-boy, is my secretary, so I hope you will make allowances.

'I am, SIR,
'Your constant reader,
'and very humble servant,
'REBECCA the distressed.

* March the 22d.

STEELE.

T.

No 337. THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1712.

*Fingit equum tenera docilem cerolce magister,
Ire clam quam monstrat eques*
HOR. Ep. ii. l. 1. ver. 14.

The jockey trains the young and tender horse
While yet soft-mouth'd, and breeds him to the course.
CREECH.

I HAVE lately received a third letter from the gentleman who has already given the public two essays upon education*. As his thoughts seem to be very just and new upon this subject, I shall communicate them to the reader.

'SIR,

'If I had not been hindered by some extraordinary business, I should have sent you sooner my further thoughts upon education. You may please to remember, that in my last letter I endeavoured to give the best reasons that could be urged in favour of a private or public education. Upon the whole, it may perhaps be thought that I seemed rather inclined to the latter, though at the same time I confessed that virtue, which ought to be our first and principal care, was more usually acquired in the former.

'I intend, therefore, in this letter, to offer at methods, by which I conceive boys might be made to improve in virtue, as they advance in letters.

'I know that in most of our public schools vice is punished and discouraged, whenever it is found out; but this is far from being sufficient, unless our youth are at the same time taught to form a right judgment of things, and to know what is properly virtue.

'To this end, whenever they read the lives and actions of such men as have been famous in our generation, it should not be thought enough to make them barely understand so many Greek or Latin sentences; but they should be asked their opinion of such an action or saying, and obliged to give their reasons why they take it to be good or bad. By this means they would insensibly arrive at proper notions of courage, temperance, honour, and justice.

'There must be great care taken how the example of any particular person is recommended to them in gross; instead of which they ought to be taught wherein such a man, though great in some respects, was weak and faulty in others. For want of this caution, a boy is often so dazzled with the lustre of a great character, that he confounds it

* See Nos. 73, 79, 87, and 155.

* Budget. Nos. 307 and 313.

ties with its blemishes, and looks even upon the very parts of it with an eye of admiration.

I have often wondered how Alexander, who naturally of a generous and merciful disposition, came to be guilty of so barbarous an action as of dragging the governor of a town after his cot. I know this is generally ascribed to him, as on for Homer; but I lately met with a passage in Plutarch, which, if I am not very much mistaken, still gives us a clearer light into the motives of this action. Plutarch tells us, that Alexander in his youth had a master named Lysimachus, though he was a man destitute of all politeness, ingratiated himself both with Philip and his son, and became the second man at court, by flattery to the king Peleus, the prince Achilles, and his brother Phoenix. It is no wonder if Alexander, being thus used not only to admire, but to imitate Achilles, should think it glorious to imitate him in this piece of cruelty and extravagance. To carry this thought yet further, I shall submit to your consideration, whether, instead of a recital or copy of verses, which are the usual exercises they are called in the school phrase, it would not be more proper that a boy should be desired, once or twice a week, to write down his observations on such persons and things as occur to him in reading; that he should descant upon the actions of Turnus, or Æneas; show wherein they were good, or where defective; censure or approve of particular actions; observe how it might have been carried to a greater degree of perfection, and how it exceeded or fell short of another. He might be desired to set some time mark what was moral in any history, and how far it agreed with the character of the person speaking. This exercise would soon sharpen his judgment in what is blameable or worthy, and give him an early seasoning of his mind.

Next to those examples which may be met with in history, I very much approve Horace's way of reasoning before youth the infamous or honourable characters of their contemporaries. That poet says, this was the method his father made use of to incline him to any particular virtue, or give him aversion to any particular vice. "If," says he, "my father advised me to live within my means, and be contented with the fortune he left me; "Do not you see," says he, "the miserable condition of Burrus, and the son of Albius Let the misfortunes of those two wretches teach you to avoid luxury and extravagance." would inspire me with an abhorrence to debauchery; "Do not," says he, "make yourself a voluptuary, when you may be happy in the enjoyment of lawful pleasures. How scandalous," says he, "is the character of Trebonius, who was caught in bed with another man's wife!" illustrate the force of this method, the poet tells that as a headstrong patient, who will not follow his physician's prescriptions, grows obstinate when he hears that his neighbours die all round him: so youth is often frightened from vice, by seeing the ill report it brings upon others. The Sophists' schools of equity, in his life of the great, are sufficiently famous. He tells that the Persian children went to school, and employed their time as diligently in learning the principles of justice and sobriety, as the youth in our countries did to acquire the most difficult sciences: their governors spent most part of their day in hearing their mutual accusations one against the other, whether for violence, cheating, or, or ingratitude; and taught them how to

give judgment against those who were found to be in any ways guilty of these crimes. I omit the story of the long and short coat, for which Cyrus himself was punished, as a case equally known with any in Littleton.

The method which Apuleius tells us the Indian Gymnosophists took to educate their disciples, is still more curious and remarkable. His words are as follow: "When their dinner is ready, before it is served up, the masters inquire of every particular scholar how he has employed his time since sun-rising: some of them answer, that, having been chosen as arbiters between two persons, they have composed their differences, and made them friends; some, that they have been executing the orders of their parents; and others, that they have either found out something new by their own application, or learnt it from the instructions of their fellows. But if there happens to be any one among them who cannot make it appear that he has employed the morning to advantage, he is immediately excluded from the company, and obliged to work while the rest are at dinner."

It is not impossible, that from these several ways of producing virtue in the minds of boys, some general method might be invented. What I would endeavour to inculcate is, that our youth cannot be too soon taught the principles of virtue, seeing the first impressions which are made on the mind are always the strongest.

The Archbishop of Cambray* makes Telemachus say, that, though he was young in years, he was old in the art of knowing how to keep both his own and his friends secrets. "When my father," says the prince, "went to the siege of Troy, he took me on his knees, and, after having embraced and blessed me, as he was surrounded by the nobles of Ithaca, 'O my friends,' says he, 'into your hands I commit the education of my son: if you ever loved his father, show it in your care towards him; but, above all, do not omit to form him just, sincere, and faithful in keeping a secret.' These words of my father," says Telemachus, "were continually repeated to me by his friends in his absence; who made no scruple of communicating to me their uneasiness to see my mother surrounded with lovers, and the measures they designed to take on that occasion." He adds, that he was so ravished at being thus treated like a man, and at the confidence reposed in him, that he never once abused it; nor could all the insinuations of his father's rivals ever get him to betray what was committed to him under the seal of secrecy.

There is hardly any virtue which a lad might not thus learn by practice and example.

I have heard of a good man, who used at certain times to give his scholars sixpence apiece, that they might tell him the next day how they had employed it. The third part was always to be laid out in charity, and every boy was blamed, or commended, as he could make it appear he had chosen a fit object.

In short, nothing is more wanting to our public schools, than that the masters of them should use the same care in fashioning the manners of their scholars, as in forming their tongues to the learned languages. Wherever the former is omitted, I cannot help agreeing with Mr. Locke, that a man must have a very strange value for words, when, preferring the languages of the Greeks and Romans to that which made them such brave men, he

* François de Salignac de la Motte Fénelon, born at Quercy, Aug. 6, 1651; died at Cambray, Jan. 7, 1715.

can think it worth while to hazard the innocence and virtue of his son for a little Greek and Latin.

As the subject of this essay is of the highest importance, and what I do not remember to have yet seen treated by any author, I have sent you what occurred to me on it from my own observation, or reading, and which you may either suppress or publish, as you think fit.

I am, sir,
Yours, &c.

BUDGELL.

X.

N^o 338. FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1712.

— Nil fuit unquam
Tam dispar sibi —

HOR. Sat. iii. l. i. ver. 18.

Made up of nought but inconsistencies.

I FIND the tragedy of The Distressed Mother is published to-day. The author of the prologue *, I suppose, pleads an old excuse I have read somewhere, of 'being dull with design; and the gentleman who writ the epilogue †, has, to my knowledge, so much of greater moment to value himself upon, that he will easily forgive me for publishing the exceptions made against gaiety at the end of serious entertainments in the following letter: I should be more unwilling to pardon him, than any body, a practice which cannot have any ill consequence, but from the abilities of the person who is guilty of it.

MR. SPECTATOR,
'I HAD the happiness the other night of sitting very near you, and your worthy friend Sir Roger, at the acting of the new tragedy, which you have, in a late paper or two, so justly recommended. I was highly pleased with the advantageous situation fortune had given me in placing me so near two gentlemen, from one of which I was sure to hear such reflections on the several incidents of the play as pure nature suggested; and from the other, such as flowed from the exactest art and judgment: though I must confess that my curiosity led me so much to observe the knight's reflections, that I was not so well at leisure to improve myself by yours. Nature, I found, played her part in the knight pretty well, till at the last concluding lines she entirely forsook him. You must know, sir, that it is always my custom, when I have been well entertained at a new tragedy, to make my retreat before the facetious epilogue enters; not but that those pieces are often very well written, but having paid down my half-crown, and made a fair purchase of as much of the pleasing melancholy as the poet's art can afford me, or my own nature admit of, I am willing to carry some of it home with me; and cannot endure to be at once tricked out of all, though by the wittiest dexterity in the world. However, I kept my seat the other night, in hopes of finding my own sentiments of this matter favoured by your friend's; when, to my great surprise, I found the knight entering with equal pleasure into both parts, and as much satisfied with Mrs. Oldfield's gaiety, as he had been before

with Andromache's greatness. Whether this were no more than an effect of the knight's peculiar humanity, pleased to find at last, that, after all the tragical doings, every thing was safe and well, I do not know. But, for my own part, I must confess I was so dissatisfied, that I was sorry the poet had saved Andromache, and could heartily have wished that he had left her stone-dead upon the stage. For you cannot imagine, Mr. Spectator, the mischief she was reserved to do me. I found my soul, during the action, gradually worked up to the highest pitch; and felt the exalted passion which all generous minds conceive at the sight of virtue in distress. The impression, believe me, was so strong upon me, that I am persuaded, if I had been let alone in it, I could at an extremity have ventured to defend yourself and Sir Roger against half a score of the fiercest Mohocks; but the ludicrous epilogue in the close extinguished all my ardour, and made me look upon all such noble achievements as downright silly and romantic. What the rest of the audience felt, I cannot so well tell. For myself I must declare, that at the end of the play I found my soul uniform, and all of a piece; but at the end of the epilogue, it was so jumbled together and divided between jest and earnest, that, if you will forgive me an extravagant fancy, I will here set it down. I could not but fancy, if my soul had at that moment quitted my body, and descended to the poetical shades in the posture it was then in, what a strange figure it would have made among them. They would not have known what to have made of my motley spectre, half comic and half tragic, all over resembling a ridiculous face, that, at the same time, laughs on one side, and cries on the other. The only defence, I think, I have ever heard made for this, as it seems to me the most unnatural tack of the comic tail to the tragic head, is this, that the minds of the audience must be refreshed, and gentlemen and ladies not sent away to their own homes with too dismal and melancholy thoughts about them for who knows the consequence of this? We are much obliged indeed to the poets for the great tenderness they express for the safety of our persons, and heartily thank them for it. But if that be all, pray, good sir, assure them, that we are near of us like to come to any great harm; and that, let them do their best, we shall, in all probability, live out the length of our days, and frequent the theatres more than ever. What makes me more desirous to have some reformation of this matter is, because of an ill consequence or two attended to it: for a great many of our church musicians being related to the theatre, they have, in imitation of these epilogues, introduced in their farwell voluntaries, a sort of music quite foreign to the design of church-services, to the great prejudice of well-disposed people. Those fingering gentlemen should be informed, that they ought to suit their airs to the place and business; and that the musician is obliged to keep to the text as much as the preacher. For want of this, I have found by experience a great deal of mischief. For when the preacher has often with great piety, and art enough, handled his subject, and the judicious clerk has with the utmost diligence culled out two staves proper to the discourse, and I have found in myself, and in the rest of the pew, good thoughts and dispositions, they have been all in a moment dissipated by a merry jig from the organ-loft. One knows not what further ill effects the epilogues I have been speaking of may in time produce: but this I am credibly informed of, that

* Steele. The excuse alludes to a passage in the last paragraph of the Tatler, N^o 39.

† Budgell. This epilogue, which is objected to in the following letter, is defended in N^o 341. See remarks on this tragedy in Nos. 290, and 335.

Lorrain * has resolved upon a very sudden mutation in his tragical dramas; and that, at next monthly performance, he designs, instead of a sentimental psalm, to dismiss his audience with an excellent new ballad of his own composing. 'sir, do what you can to put a stop to these evil ways, and you will very much oblige

Your humble servant,

'PRYMBULUS.'

[The author uncertain.]

339. SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1712.

— *Ut his exordia primis
minia, et ipse tener mundi concreverit orbis.
non durare solum et discludere Nereæ ponto
aperit, et rerum paulatim sumere formas.*
VIRG. Ecl. vi. ver. 33.

As sung the secret seeds of nature's frame:
The seas, and earth, and air, and active flame,
All through the mighty void, and in their fall
Were blindly gather'd in this goodly ball.
The tender soil then stiffning by degrees,
Cut from the bounded earth the bounding seas,
And earth and ocean various forms disclose,
And a new sun to the new world arose.

DRYDEN.

As has been observed, that there may be a lofty sentiment where there is no passion, and instances out of ancient authors to support this opinion. The pathetic, as that great critic says, may animate and inflame the sublime, but is not essential to it. Accordingly, as he further remarks, we very often find that those who are most in stirring up the passions, very often the talent of writing in the great and sublimed manner, and so on the contrary. Milton has in himself a master in both these ways of writing. The seventh book, which we are now entering upon, is an instance of that sublime which is mixed and worked up with passion. The appearance in a kind of composed and sedate way; and though the sentiments do not give so much an emotion as those in the former book, they are mixed with as magnificent ideas. The sixth, like a troubled ocean, represents greatness of confusion; the seventh affects the imagination as the ocean in a calm, and fills the mind of the reader, without producing in it any thing like turbulence or agitation.

The critic above-mentioned, among the rules which he lays down for succeeding in the sublime of writing, proposes to his reader, that he should imitate the most celebrated authors who have gone before him, and have been engaged in the same nature; as in particular that, writes on a poetical subject, he should consider how Homer would have spoken on such an occasion. By this means one great genius often catches the flame from another, and writes in his own way, without copying servilely after him. There are thousand shining passages in Virgil, which have been lighted up by Homer.

Milton, though his own natural strength of genius was capable of furnishing out a perfect work, doubtless very much raised and ennobled his conceptions by such an imitation as that which Virgil has recommended.

That time ordinary of Newgate; and who, in his account of the convicts executed at Tyburn, generally represents them as true penitents, and dying very well, after having lived for the most part very ill. In the Tatler, No 63, are humorously styled Lorrain's saints. See Mr. Budgley's answer to this letter, in No 341. See also Swift's Works, edit. 1801, vol. viii. p. 434.

In this book, which gives us an account of the six days works, the poet received but very few assistances from heathen writers, who are strangers to the wonders of creation. But as there are many glorious strokes of poetry upon this subject in holy writ, the author has numberless allusions to them through the whole course of this book. The great critic I have before mentioned, though an heathen, has taken notice of the sublime manner in which the lawgiver of the Jews has described the creation in the first chapter of Genesis; and there are many other passages in scripture which rise up to the same majesty, where this subject is touched upon. Milton has shown his judgment very remarkably, in making use of such of these as were proper for his poem, and in duly qualifying those high strains of eastern poetry, which were suited to readers whose imaginations were set to an higher pitch than those of colder climates.

Adam's speech to the angel, wherein he desires an account of what had passed within the regions of nature before the creation, is very great and solemn. The following lines, in which he tells him, that the day is not too far spent for him to enter upon such a subject, are exquisite in their kind:

'And the great light of day yet wants to run
Much of his race, though steep; suspense in heav'n
Held by thy voice; thy potent voice he hears,
And longer will delay to hear thee tell
His generation,' &c.

The angel's encouraging our first parents in a modest pursuit after knowledge, with the causes which he assigns for the creation of the world, are very just and beautiful. The Messiah, by whom, as we are told in scripture, the heavens were made, goes forth in the power of his Father, surrounded with an host of angels, and clothed with such a majesty as becomes his entering upon a work which, according to our conceptions, appears the utmost exertion of Omnipotence. What a beautiful description has our author raised upon that hint in one of the prophets! 'And behold there came four chariots out from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of brass.'

'About his chariot numberless were pour'd
Cherub and seraph, potentates and thrones,
And virtues, winged spirits, and chariots wing'd
From th' armoury of God, where stand of old
Myriads between two brazen mountains lodg'd
Against a solemn day, harness'd at hand,
Celestial equipage: and now came forth
Spontaneous, (for within them spirit liv'd)
Attendant on their Lord: Heav'n open'd wide
Her ever-during gates, harmonious sound!
On golden hinges moving—'

I have before taken notice of these chariots of God, and of these gates of heaven; and shall here only add, that Homer gives us the same idea of the latter as opening of themselves; though he afterwards takes off from it, by telling us, that the Hours first of all removed those prodigious heaps of clouds which lay as a barrier before them.

I do not know any thing in the whole poem more sublime than the description which follows, where the Messiah is represented at the head of his angels, as looking down into the chaos, calming its confusion, riding into the midst of it, and drawing in the first outline of the creation:

'On heav'nly ground they stood, and from the shore
They view'd the vast immeasurable abyss
Outrageous as a sea, dark, wasteful, wild,
Up from the bottom turn'd by furious winds
And surging waves, as mountains to assault

Heav'n's height, and with the centre mix the pole.
 " Silence, ye troubled waves; and thou, deep, peace!"
 Said then th' omniscient word, " your discord end:"
 Nor staid, but on the wings of cherubim
 Up-lifted, in paternal glory rode
 Far into Chaos, and the world unborn;
 For Chaos heard his voice. Him all his train
 Follow'd in bright procession, to behold
 Creation, and the wonders of his might.
 Then stay'd the servid wheels; and in his hand
 He took the golden compasses, prepar'd
 In God's eternal store to circumscribe
 This universe, and all created things:
 One foot he center'd, and the other turn'd
 Round through the vast profundity obscure,
 And said, " Thus far extend, thus far thy bounds,
 This be thy just circumference, O world!"

The thought of the golden compasses is conceived altogether in Homer's spirit, and is a very noble incident in this wonderful description. Homer, when he speaks of the gods, ascribes to them several arms and instruments with the same greatness of imagination. Let the reader only peruse the description of Minerva's ægis, or buckler, in the fifth book, with her spear which would overturn whole squadrons, and her helmet that was sufficient to cover an army drawn out of an hundred cities. The golden compasses in the above-mentioned passage, appear a very natural instrument in the hand of him whom Plato somewhere calls the Divine Geometrician. As poetry delights in clothing abstracted ideas in allegories and sensible images, we find a magnificent description of the creation, formed after the same manner, in one of the prophets, wherein he describes the Almighty Architect as measuring the waters in the bellow of his hand, meting out the heavens with his span, comprehending the dust of the earth in a measure, weighing the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance. Another of them, describing the Supreme Being in this great work of creation, represents him as laying the foundations of the earth, and stretching a line upon it; and, in another place, as garnishing the heavens, stretching out the north over the empty place, and hanging the earth upon nothing. This last noble thought Milton has expressed in the following verse:

'And earth self-balance'd on her centre hung.'

The beauties of description in this book lie so very thick, that it is impossible to enumerate them in this paper. The poet has employed on them the whole energy of our tongue. The several great scenes of the creation rise up to view one after another, in such a manner, that the reader seems present at this wonderful work, and to assist among the choirs of angels who are the spectators of it. How glorious is the conclusion of the first day!

'—— Thus was the first day ev'n and morn:
 Nor past uncelebrated, nor unsung
 By the celestial choirs, when orient light
 Exhaling first from darkness they beheld;
 Birth-day of heav'n and earth! with joy and shout
 The hollow universal orb they fill'd.'

We have the same elevation of thought in the third day, when the mountains were brought forth, and the deep was made:

'Immediately the mountains huge appear
 Emergent, and their broad bare backs up-heave
 Into the clouds, their tops ascend the sky:
 So high as heav'd the tumid hills, so low
 Down sunk a hollow bottom broad and deep,
 Capacious bed of waters——'

We have also the rising of the whole vegetable world described in this day's work, which is filled with all the graces that other poet's have lavished

on their description of the spring, and leads the reader's imagination into a theatre equally surprising and beautiful.

The several glories of the heavens make their appearance on the fourth day:

'First in his east the glorious lamp was seen
 Regent of day, and all the horizon round
 Invested with bright rays, jocund to run
 His longitude through heav'n's high road; the grey
 Dawn, and the Pleiades before him danc'd,
 Shedding sweet influence. Less bright the Moon,
 But opposite in level'd west was set
 His mirror, with full face horrowing her light
 From him, for other lights she needed none
 In that aspect, and still that distance keeps
 Till night; then in the east her turn she shines,
 Revolv'd on heav'n's great axle, and her reign
 With thousand lesser lights dividual holds,
 With thousand thousand stars, that then appear'd
 Spangling the hemisphere——'

One would wonder how the poet could be so concise in his description of the six days work, as to comprehend them within the bounds of an episode, and at the same time so particular, as to give us a lively idea of them. This is still more remarkable in his account of the fifth and sixth days, in which he has drawn out to our view the whole animal creation, from the reptile to the behest. As the lion and the leviathan are two of the noblest productions in the world of living creatures, the reader will find a most exquisite spirit of poetry in the account which our author gives us of them. The sixth day concludes with the formation of man; upon which the angel takes occasion, as he did after the battle in heaven, to remind Adam of his obedience, which was the principal design of this his visit.

The poet afterwards represents the Messiah returning into heaven, and taking a survey of his great work. There is something inexpressibly sublime in this part of the poem, where the author describes that great period of time, filled with so many glorious circumstances; when the heavens and earth were finished; when the Messiah ascended up in triumph through the everlasting gate; when he looked down with pleasure upon his new creation; when every part of nature seemed to rejoice in its existence; when the morning-star sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

'So ev'n and morn accomplish'd the sixth day:
 Yet not till the Creator from his work
 Desisting, though unwearied, up return'd,
 Up to the heav'n of heav'n's, his high abode;
 Thence to behold this new-created world
 Th' addition of his empire, how it shew'd
 In prospect from his throne, how good, how fair,
 Answering His great idea. Up he rode,
 Follow'd with acclamation and the sound
 Symphonious of ten thousand harps, that tuned
 Angelic harmonies; the earth, the air
 Resounded, (thou remember'st, for thou heard'st)
 The heavens and all the constellation rung.
 The planets in their station list'ning stood,
 While the bright pomp ascended jubilant.
 " Open, ye everlasting gates," they sung,
 " Open, ye heavens, your living doors; let in
 The great Creator from his work return'd
 Magnificent, his six days work, a world!"

I cannot conclude this book upon the creation without mentioning a poem which has lately appeared under that title*. The work was undertaken with so good an intention, and is executed with so great a mastery, that it deserves to be looked upon as one of the most useful and noble

* "Creation; a philosophical poem; demonstrating the existence and providence of God. In seven books. By Richard Blackmore, Kant. M. D. and fellow of the college of physicians in London."

roductions in our English verse. The reader cannot but be pleased to find the depths of philosophy lived with all the charms of poetry, and to see so great a strength of reason, amidst so beautiful a redundancy of the imagination. The author shows us that design in all the works of nature, which necessarily leads us to the knowledge of its first cause. In short, he has illustrated, by numberless and incontestable instances, that wisdom which the son of Sirach has so nobly ascribed to the Supreme Being in his formation of the world, when he tells us, that 'He created her, and saw her, and numbered her, and poured her upon all his works.'

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 340. MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1712.

*Viris novus hic nostris successit sedibus hospes?
Iucum sec ore ferens! quam fortis pectore et armis!*
VIRG. Æn. iv. vers. 10.

That chief is this that visits us from far,
Whose gallant mien bespeaks him train'd to war.

TAKE it to be the highest instance of a noble id, to bear great qualities without discovering a man's behaviour any consciousness that he is superior to the rest of the world. Or, to say it otherwise, it is the duty of a great person so to mean himself, as that whatever endowments he may have, he may appear to value himself upon qualities but such as any man may arrive at. ought to think no man valuable but for his public spirit, justice, and integrity; and all other endowments to be esteemed only as they contribute to the exerting those virtues. Such a man, if he is brave or valiant, knows it is of no consideration to other men that he is so, but as he employs those talents for their use and service. He who affects the applauses and addresses of a multitude, assumes to himself a pre-eminence upon any other consideration, must soon turn admiration into contempt. It is certain, that there can be no mean in any man who is not conscious of it; but the secret that it is valuable only according to the estimation of it, makes that superiority amiable, which would otherwise be invidious. In this light it is considered as a thing in which every man has a share. It annexes the ideas of dignity, power, and fame, in an agreeable and familiar manner, to him who is possessor of it; and all men who are strangers to him are naturally incited to indulge a curiosity in beholding the person, behaviour, feature, and shape, of him in whose character, perhaps, each man had formed something in common with himself.

Whether such, or any other, are the causes, all men have a yearning curiosity to behold a man of public worth. And I have had many letters from parts of this kingdom, that request I would give them an exact account of the stature, the mien, the aspect of the prince who lately visited England, and has done such wonders for the liberty of Europe*. It would puzzle the most curious to inform himself the sort of man my several correspondents expect to hear of, by the action mentioned, when they desire a description of him: there is always something that concerns themselves, and growing out of their own circumstances, in all their inquiries. A friend of mine

in Wales beseeches me to be very exact in my account of that wonderful man, who had marched an army and all its baggage over the Alps; and, if possible, to learn whether the peasant who showed him the way, and is drawn in the map, be yet living. A gentleman from the university, who is deeply intent on the study of humanity, desires me to be as particular, if I had opportunity, in observing the whole interview between his highness and our late general. Thus do men's fancies work according to their several educations and circumstances; but all pay a respect, mixed with admiration, to this illustrious character. I have waited for his arrival in Holland, before I would let my correspondents know that I have not been so uncurious a Spectator, as not to have seen Prince Eugene*. It would be very difficult, as I said just now, to answer every expectation of those who have written to me on that head; nor is it possible for me to find words to let one know what an artful glance there is in his countenance who surprised Cremona; how daring he appears who forced the trenches at Turin: but in general I can say, that he who beholds him will easily expect from him any thing that is to be imagined, or executed, by the wit or force of man. The prince is of that stature which makes a man most easily become all parts of exercise; has height to be graceful on occasions of state and ceremony, and no less adapted for agility and dispatch: his aspect is erect and composed; his eye lively and thoughtful, yet rather vigilant than sparkling; his action and address the most easy imaginable, and his behaviour in an assembly peculiarly graceful in a certain art of mixing insensibly with the rest, and becoming one of the company, instead of receiving the courtship of it. The shape of his person, and composure of his limbs, are remarkably exact and beautiful. There is in his looks something sublime, which does not seem to arise from his quality or character, but the innate disposition of his mind. It is apparent that he suffers the presence of much company, instead of taking delight in it; and he appeared in public, while with us, rather to return good-will, or satisfy curiosity, than to gratify any taste he himself had of being popular. As his thoughts are never tumultuous in danger, they are as little discomposed on occasions of pomp and magnificence. A great soul is affected, in either case, no further than in considering the properest methods to extricate itself from them. If this hero has the strong incentives to uncommon enterprises that were remarkable in Alexander, he prosecutes and enjoys the fame of them with the justness, propriety, and good sense of Cæsar. It is easy to observe in him a mind as capable of being entertained with contemplation as enterprise; a mind ready for great exploits, but not impatient for occasions to exert itself. The prince has wisdom, and valour in as high perfection as man can enjoy it; which noble faculties, in conjunction, banish all vain glory, ostentation, ambition, and all other vices which might intrude upon his mind, to make it unequal. These habits and qualities of soul and body, render this personage so extraordinary, that he appears to have nothing in him but what every man should have in him, the exertion of his very self, abstracted from the circumstances in which fortune has placed him. Thus, were you to see Prince Eugene, and were told he was a private gentleman, you would say he is a man of

* See Nº 269.

* His Highness stood godfather to Steele's second son, who was named Eugene.

modesty and merit. Should you be told that was Prince Eugene, he would be diminished no otherwise, than that part of your distant admiration would turn into familiar good-will.

This I thought fit to entertain my reader with, concerning an hero who never was equalled but by one man *; over whom also he has this advantage, that he has had an opportunity to manifest an esteem for him in his adversity.

STEELE.

T.

N° 341. TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1712.

— *Revocate animos, mæstumque timorem*
Mittite—

VIRG. Æn. l. ver. 206.

Resume your courage, and dismiss your care.
DRYDEN.

HAVING, to oblige my correspondent Physibulus, printed his letter last Friday †, in relation to the new epilogue, he cannot take it amiss, if I now publish another, which I have just received from a gentleman who does not agree with him in his sentiments upon that matter.

SIR,

I AM amazed to find an epilogue attacked in your last Friday's paper, which has been so generally applauded by the town, and received such honour as were never before given to any in an English theatre.

The audience would not permit Mrs. Oldfield to go off the stage the first night till she had repeated it twice; the second night the noise of *ancora* was as loud as before, and she was again obliged to speak it twice: the third night it was called for a second time; and, in short, contrary to all other epilogues, which are dropped after the third representation of the play, this has already been repeated nine times.

I must own I am the more surprised to find this censure, in opposition to the whole town, in a paper which has hitherto been famous for the candour of its criticisms.

I can by no means allow your melancholy correspondent, that the new epilogue is unnatural, because it is gay. If I had a mind to be learned, I could tell him that the prologue and epilogue were real parts of the ancient tragedy; but every one knows, that, on the British stage, they are distinct performances by themselves, pieces entirely detached from the play, and no way essential to it.

The moment the play ends, Mrs. Oldfield is no more Andromache, but Mrs. Oldfield; and though the poet had left Andromache stone-dead upon the stage, as your ingenious correspondent phrases it, Mrs. Oldfield might still have spoke a merry epilogue. We have an instance of this in a tragedy where there is not only a death, but a martyrdom ‡. St. Catherine was there personated by Nell Gwin; she lies stone-dead upon the stage, but, upon those gentlemen's offering to remove her body, whose business it is to carry off the slain in our English tragedies, she breaks out into that abrupt beginning of what was a very ludicrous, but at the same time thought a very good epilogue:

* The Duke of Marlborough. See the note on the Dedication of the Fourth Volume of the Spectator.

† N° 338.

‡ *Tyrannic Love*; or, the Royal Martyr; by Dryden.

'Hold! are you mad? you damn'd confounded dog,
I am to rise and speak the epilogue.'

This diverting manner was always practised by Mr. Dryden, who, if he was not the best writer of tragedies in his time, was allowed by every one to have the happiest turn for a prologue or an epilogue. The epilogues to Cleomenes, Don Sebastian, The Duke of Guise, Aurengzebe, and Love Triumphant, are all precedents of this nature.

I might further justify this practice by that excellent epilogue which was spoken, a few years since, after the tragedy of Phædra and Hippolytus *; with a great many others, in which the authors have endeavoured to make the audience merry. If they have not all succeeded so well as the writer of this, they have however shown, that it was not for want of good-will.

I must further observe, that the gaiety of it may be still the more proper, as it is at the end of a French play; since every one knows that nation, who are generally esteemed to have as polite a taste as any in Europe, always close their theatrical entertainments with what they call a *petite puce*, which is purposely designed to raise mirth, and send away the audience well pleased. The same person who has supported the chief character in the tragedy, very often plays the principal part in the *petite pièce*; so that I have myself seen, at Paris, Orestes and Lubin acted the same night, by the same man.

Tragi-comedy, indeed, you have yourself, in a former speculation, found fault with very justly, because it breaks the tide of the passions while they are yet flowing; but this is nothing at all to the present case, where they have already had their full course.

As the new epilogue is written conformably to the practice of our best poets, so it is not such an one, which, as the Duke of Buckingham says in his Rehearsal, might serve for any other play; but wholly rises out of the occurrences of the piece it was composed for.

The only reason your mournful correspondent gives against this facetious epilogue, as he calls it, is, that he has a mind to go home melancholy. I wish the gentleman may not be more grave than wise. For my own part, I must confess, I think it very sufficient to have the anguish of a fictitious piece remain upon me while it is representing; but I love to be sent home to bed in a good humour. If Physibulus is however resolved to be inconsolable, and not to have his tears dried up, he need only continue his old custom, and when he has had his half-crown's worth of sorrow, slink out before the epilogue begins.

It is pleasant enough to hear this tragical genius complaining of the great mischief Andromache had done him. What was that? Why, she made him laugh. The poor gentleman's sufferings put me in mind of Harlequin's case, who was tickled to death. He tells us soon after, through a small mistake of sorrow for rage, that during the whole action he was so very sorry, that he thinks he could have attacked half a score of the fiercest Mohocks † in the excess of his grief. I cannot but look upon it as an happy accident, that a man who is so bloody-minded in his affliction, was converted from this fit of outrageous melancholy. The valour of this gentleman in his distress brings us one's memory the Knight of the Sorrowful Count-

* By Edmund Neale, commonly known by the name of Smith, 4to. 1707.

† See Nos. 324, 332, and 347.

nance, who lays about him at such an unmerciful rate in an old romance. I shall readily grant him that his soul, as he himself says, would have made very ridiculous figure, had it quitted the body, and descended to the poetical shades, in such an encounter.

'As to his conceit of tacking a tragic head with comic tail, in order to refresh the audience, it is but a piece of jargon, that I don't know what to make of it.

'The elegant writer makes a very sudden transition from the playhouse to the church, and from hence to the gallows.

'As for what relates to the church, he is of opinion that these epilogues have given occasion to some merry jigs from the organ-loft, which have spoiled those good thoughts and dispositions he has found in himself, and the rest of the pew, upon the singing of two staves called out by the judicious and diligent clerk.

'He fetches his next thought from Tyburn; and seems very apprehensive lest there should happen any innovations in the tragedies of his friend Paul Drayn *.

'In the mean time, sir, this gloomy writer, who so mightily scandalized at a gay epilogue after serious play, speaking of the fate of those unhappy wretches who are condemned to suffer an ominous death by the justice of our laws, endeavours to make the reader merry on so improper an occasion, by those poor burlesque expressions of tragical dramas, and monthly performances.

'I am, sir, with great respect,

'Your most obedient,
'most humble servant,

'PHILOMEDES.'

BUDGELL.

X.

No 342. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1712.

Justitie partes sunt non violare homines; nec recundie, non offendere.

TULL.

Justice consists in doing no injury to men; decency, in giving them no offence.

regard to decency is a great rule of life in general, but more especially to be consulted by the polite world, I cannot overlook the following letter, which describes an egregious offender.

MR. SPECTATOR,

was this day looking over your papers; and finding, in that of December the 6th †, with great delight, the amiable grief of Asteria for the absence of her husband, it threw me into a great deal of reflection. I cannot say but this arose very much from the circumstances of my own life, who am a soldier, and expect every day to receive orders which will oblige me to leave behind me a wife that is very dear to me, and that I deserve. She is at present, I am sure, no way below your Asteria for conjugal affection: I see the behaviour of some women so little suited to the circumstances wherein my wife and I shall soon be, that it is with a reluctance, I never knew before, I am going to my duty. What puts me to present pain is, the example of a young lady, whose story you shall have as well as I can

give it you. "Hortensius, an officer of good rank in her majesty's service, happened, in a certain part of England, to be brought to a country gentleman's house, where he was received with that more than ordinary welcome, with which men of domestic lives entertain such few soldiers whom a military life, from the variety of adventures, has not rendered overbearing, but humane, easy, and agreeable. Hortensius staid here some time, and had easy access at all hours, as well as unavoidable conversation at some parts of the day, with the beautiful Sylvana, the gentleman's daughter. People who live in cities are wonderfully struck with every little country abode they see when they take the air; and it is natural to fancy they could live in every neat cottage (by which they pass) much happier than in their present circumstances. The turbulent way of life which Hortensius was used to, made him reflect with much satisfaction on all the advantages of a sweet retreat one day; and, among the rest, you will think it not improbable it might enter into his thought, that such a woman as Sylvana would consummate the happiness. The world is so debauched with mean considerations, that Hortensius knew it would be received as an act of generosity, if he asked for a woman of the highest merit, without further questions, of a parent who had nothing to add to her personal qualifications. The wedding was celebrated at her father's house. When that was over, the generous husband did not proportion his provision for her to the circumstances of her fortune, but considered his wife as his darling, his pride, and his vanity, or rather that it was in the woman he had chosen that a man of sense could show pride or vanity with an excuse, and therefore adorned her with rich habits and valuable jewels. He did not however omit to admonish her, that he did his very utmost in this; that it was an ostentation he could not be guilty of but to a woman he had so much pleasure in, desiring her to consider it as such; and begged of her also to take these matters rightly, and believe the gems, the gowns, the laces, would still become her better, if her air and behaviour was such, that it might appear she dressed thus rather in compliance to his humour than way, than out of any value she herself had for the trifles. To this lesson, too hard for a woman, Hortensius added, that she must be sure to stay with her friends in the country till his return. As soon as Hortensius departed, Sylvana saw in her looking-glass, that the love he conceived for her was wholly owing to the accident of seeing her; and she was convinced it was only her misfortune the rest of mankind had not beheld her, or men of much greater quality and merit had contended for one so genteel, though bred in obscurity; so very witty, though never acquainted with court, or town. She therefore resolved not to hide so much excellence from the world; but without any regard to the absence of the most generous man alive, she is now the gayest lady about this town, and has shut out the thoughts of her husband, by a constant retinue of the vainest young fellows this age has produced; to entertain whom, she squanders away all Hortensius is able to supply her with, though that supply is purchased with no less difficulty than the hazard of his life."

'Now, Mr. Spectator, would it not be a work becoming your office, to treat this criminal as she deserves? You should give it the severest reflections you can. You should tell women, that they are more accountable for behaviour in absence, than after death. The dead are not dishonoured

* See No 338.

† No 241.

by their levities; the living may return, and be laughed at by empty fops, who will not fail to turn into ridicule the good man, who is so unseasonable as to be still alive, and come and spoil good company.

'I am, sir,
'Your most obedient humble servant.'

All strictness of behaviour is so numerically laughed at in our age, that the other much worse extreme is the more common folly. But let any woman consider, which of the two offences an husband would the more easily forgive, that of being less entertaining than she could to please company, or raising the desires of the whole room to his disadvantage; and she will easily be able to form her conduct. We have indeed carried women's characters too much into public life, and you shall see them now-a-days affect a sort of fame; but I cannot help venturing to disoblige them for their service, by telling them, that the utmost of a woman's character is contained in domestic life; she is blameable or praiseworthy according as her carriage affects the house of her father, or her husband. All she has to do in this world, is contained within the duties of a daughter, a sister, a wife, and a mother. All these may be well performed, though a lady should not be the very finest woman at an opera or an assembly. They are likewise consistent with a moderate share of wit, a plain dress, and a modest air. But when the very brains of the sex are turned, and they place their ambition on circumstances, wherein to excel is no addition to what is truly commendable, where can this end, but, as it frequently does, in their placing all their industry, pleasure, and ambition, on things which will naturally make the gratifications of life last, at best, no longer than youth and good fortune? And when we consider the least ill consequence, it can be no less than looking on their own condition, as years advance, with a disrelish of life, and falling into contempt of their own persons, or being the derision of others. But when they consider themselves as they ought, no other than an additional part of the species (for their own happiness and comfort, as well as that of those for whom they were born), their ambition to excel will be directed accordingly: and they will in no part of their lives want opportunities of being shining ornaments to their fathers, husbands, brothers, or children.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 343. THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1712.

————— Errat, et illinc
*Huc venit, hinc illuc, et quotlibet occupat artus
Spiritus; eque feris humana in corpora transit,
Inque feras nolet*

PYTHAG. ap. OVID. Metam. l. xv. ver. 165.

————— All things are but alter'd, nothing dies;
And here and there th' unbody'd spirit flies,
By time, or force, or sickness, disposess'd,
And lodges where it lights, in man or beast.

DRYDEN.

WILL HONEYCOMB, who loves to show upon occasion all the little learning he has picked up, told us yesterday at the club, that he thought there might be a great deal said for the transmigration of souls, and that the eastern parts of the world believed in that doctrine to this day. 'Sir Paul Rycout,' says he, 'gives us an account of several well-disposed Mahometans that purchase the free-

dom of any little bird they see confined to a cage, and think they merit as much by it, as we should do here, by ransoming any of our countrymen from their captivity at Algiers. You must know,' says Will, 'the reason is, because they consider every animal as a brother or sister in disguise, and therefore think themselves obliged to extend their charity to them, though under such mean circumstances. They'll tell you,' says Will, 'that the soul of a man, when he dies, immediately passes into the body of another man, or of some brute, which he resembled in his humour, or his fortune, when he was one of us.'

As I was wondering what this profusion of learning would end in, Will told us, that 'Jack Frelove, who was a fellow of whim, made love to one of those ladies who throw away all their fondness on parrots, monkeys, and lapdogs. Upon going to pay her a visit one morning, he writ a very pretty epistle upon this hint. Jack,' says he, 'was conducted into the parlour, where he diverted himself for some time with her favourite monkey, which was chained in one of the windows; till at length observing a pen and ink lie by him, he writ the following letter to his mistress in the person of the monkey; and, upon her not coming down so soon as he expected, left it in the window, and went about his business.'

'The lady soon after coming into the parlour, and seeing her monkey look upon a paper with great earnestness, took it up, and to this day it is some doubt,' says Will, 'whether it was written by Jack, or the monkey.'

'MADAM,
'Not having the gift of speech, I have a long time waited in vain for an opportunity of making myself known to you; and having at present the conveniences of pen, ink, and paper, by me, I gladly take the occasion of giving you my history in writing, which I could not do by word of mouth. You must know, madam, that about a thousand years ago I was an Indian brachman, and versed in all those mysterious secrets which your European philosopher, called Pythagoras, is said to have learned from our fraternity. I had so ingratiated myself, by my great skill in the occult sciences with a demon whom I used to converse with, that he promised to grant me whatever I should ask of him. I desired that my soul might never pass into the body of a brute creature; but this, he told me, was not in his power to grant me. I then begged, that into whatever creature I should chance to transmigrate, I might still retain my memory, and be conscious that I was the same person who lived in different animals. This, he told me, was within his power, and accordingly promised, on the word of a demon, that he would grant me what I desired. From that time forth I lived so very unblameably, that I was made president of a college of brachmans, an office which I discharged with great integrity, till the day of my death.

'I was then shuffled into another human body, and acted my part so very well in it, that I became first minister to a prince who reigned upon the banks of the Ganges. I here lived in great honour for several years, but by degrees lost all the innocence of the brachman, being obliged to rifle and oppress the people to enrich my sovereign; till at length I became so odious, that my master, to recover his credit with his subjects, shot me through the heart, with an arrow, as I was one day addressing myself to him at the head of his army.

'Upon my next remove, I found myself in the

under the shape of a jackal, and soon listed
 in the service of a lion. I used to yelp near
 about midnight, which was his time of round
 seeking after his prey. He always follow-
 me in the rear, and when I had run down
 buck, a wild goat, or an hare, after he had
 d very plentifully upon it himself, would
 and then throw me a bone that was but half
 d, for my encouragement; but upon my being
 cessful in two or three chases, he gave me
 a confounded gripe in his anger that I died

my next transmigration, I was again set
 two legs, and became an Indian tax-gatherer;
 aving been guilty of great extravagancies,
 eing married to an expensive jade of a wife,
 so cursedly in debt, that I durst not show my
 I could no sooner step out of my house but
 arrested by somebody or other that lay in
 for me. As I ventured abroad one night in
 sk of the evening, I was taken up and hurst
 into a dungeon, where I died a few months

y soul then entered into a flying-fish, and in
 ate led a most melancholy life for the space
 years. Several fishes of prey pursued me
 I was in the water; and if I betook myself
 wings, it was ten to one but I had a flock
 ds aiming at me. As I was one day flying
 a fleet of English ships, I observed a huge
 ll whetting his bill, and hovering just over
 id: upon my dipping into the water to avoid
 fell into the mouth of a monstrous shark,
 rallowed me down in an instant.

was some years afterwards, to my great sur-
 an eminent banker in Lombard-street; and,
 bering how I had formerly suffered for want
 icy, became so very sordid and avaricious,
 e whole town cried shame of me. I was a
 ble little old fellow to look upon; for I had
 inner starved myself, and was nothing but
 id bone when I died.

was afterwards very much troubled and
 d to find myself dwindled into an emmet. I
 artily concerned to make so insignificant a
 and did not know but some time or other I
 be reduced to a mite, if I did not mend my
 re. I therefore applied myself with great
 ce to the offices that were allotted me, and
 nerally looked upon as the noblest ant in
 ole mole-hill. I was at last picked up, as I
 aning under a burthen, by an unlucky cock
 w that lived in the neighbourhood, and had
 made great depredations upon our common-

en bettered my condition a little, and lived
 e summer in the shape of a bee; but being
 with the painful and penurious life I had
 one in my two last transmigrations, I fell
 e other extreme, and turned drone. As I
 y headed a party to plunder an hive, we
 received so warmly by the swarm which de-
 it, that we were most of us left dead upon
 t.

ight tell you of many other transmigrations
 I went through: how I was a town-rake,
 afterwards did penance in a bay gelding for
 ars; as also how I was a tailor, a shrimp,
 tom-tit. In the last of these my shapes, I
 ot in the Christmas holidays by a young
 apes, who would needs try his new gun
 re.

t I shall pass over these and several other
 of life, to remind you of the young beau who

made love to you about six years since. You may
 remember, madam, how he masked, and danced,
 and sung, and played a thousand tricks to gain
 you; and how he was at last carried off by a cold
 that he got under your window one night in a
 serenade. I was that unfortunate young fellow
 whom you were then so cruel to. Not long after
 my shifting that unlucky body, I found myself
 upon a hill in Ethiopia, where I lived in my pre-
 sent grotesque shape, till I was caught by a servant
 of the English factory, and sent over into Great
 Britain. I need not inform you how I came into
 your hands. You see, madam, this is not the first
 time that you have had me in a chain: I am, how-
 ever, very happy in this my captivity, as you often
 bestow on me those kisses and caresses which I
 would have given the world for when I was a
 man. I hope this discovery of my person will not
 tend to my disadvantage, but that you will still
 continue your accustomed favours to

Your most devoted humble servant,

FUGG.

'P. S. I would advise your little shock-dog to
 keep out of my way; for as I look upon him to
 be the most formidable of my rivals, I may chance
 one time or other to give him such a snap as he
 won't like.'

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 344. FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1712.

In solo vivendi causa palato est.

JUV. Sat. xi. ver. 11.

Such, whose sole bliss is eating; who can give
 But that one brutal reason why they live.

CONGREVE.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I THINK it has not yet fallen into your way to
 discourse on little ambition, or the many whimsical
 ways men fall into, to distinguish themselves among
 their acquaintance. Such observations, well pur-
 sued, would make a pretty history of low life. I
 myself am got into a great reputation, which arose
 (as most extraordinary occurrences in a man's life
 seem to do) from a mere accident. I was some
 days ago unfortunately engaged among a set of
 gentlemen who esteem a man according to the
 quantity of food he throws down at a meal. Now
 I, who am ever for distinguishing myself according
 to the notions of superiority which the rest of the
 company entertain, ate so immoderately for their
 applause, as had like to have cost me my life.
 What added to my misfortune was, that having
 naturally a good stomach, and having lived soberly
 for some time, my body was as well prepared for
 this contention as if it had been by appointment.
 I had quickly vanquished every glutton in com-
 pany but one, who was such a prodigy in his way,
 and withal so very merry during the whole enter-
 tainment, that he insensibly betrayed me to con-
 tinue his competitor, which in a little time con-
 cluded in a complete victory over my rival; after
 which, by way of insult, I ate a considerable pro-
 portion beyond what the spectators thought me
 obliged in honour to do. The effect however of
 this engagement, has made me resolve never to eat
 more for renown; and I have, pursuant to this re-
 solution, compounded three wagers I had depend-
 ing on the strength of my stomach; which hap-
 pened very luckily, because it was stipulated in
 our articles either to play or pay. How a man of

common sense could be thus engaged, is hard to determine; but the occasion of this is, to desire you to inform several gluttons of my acquaintance, who look on me with envy, that they had best moderate their ambition in time, lest infamy or death attend their success. I forgot to tell you, sir, with what unspeakable pleasure I received the acclamations and applause of the whole board, when I had almost eat my antagonist into convulsions. It was then that I returned his nirth upon him with such success, as he was hardly able to swallow, though prompted by a desire of fame, and a passionate fondness for distinction. I had not endeavoured to excel so far, had not the company been so loud in their approbation of my victory. I do not question but the same thirst after glory has often caused a man to drink quarts without taking breath, and prompted men to many other difficult enterprises; which, if otherwise pursued, might turn very much to a man's advantage. This ambition of mine was indeed extravagantly pursued; however I cannot help observing, that you hardly ever see a man commended for a good stomach, but he immediately falls to eating more (though he had before dined), as well to confirm the person that commended him in his good opinion of him, as to convince any other at the table, who may have been unattentive enough not to have done justice to his character.

'I am, SIR,
'Your most humble servant,
EPICURE MAMMON.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE wrote to you three or four times, to desire you would take notice of an impertinent custom the women, the fine women, have lately fallen into, of taking snuff. This silly trick is attended with such a coquette air in some ladies, and such a sedate masculine one in others, that I cannot tell which most to complain of; but they are to me equally disagreeable. Mrs. Santer is so impatient of being without it, that she takes it as often as she does salt at meals; and as she affects a wonderful ease and negligence in all her manner, an upper lip mixed with snuff and the mace, is what is presented to the observation of all who have the honour to eat with her. The pretty creature her niece does all she can to be as disagreeable as her aunt; and if she is not as offensive to the eye, she is quite as much to the ear, and makes up all she wants in a confident air, by a nauseous rattle of the nose, when the snuff is delivered, and the fingers make the stops and closes on the nostrils. This, perhaps, is not a very courtly image in speaking of ladies: that is very true; but where arises the offence? Is it in those who commit, or those who observe it? As for my part I have been so extremely disgusted with this filthy phylac hanging on the lip, that the most agreeable conversation, or person, has not been able to make up for it. As to those who take it for no other end but to give themselves occasion for pretty action, or to fill up little intervals of discourse, I can bear with them; but then they must not use it when another is speaking, who ought to be heard with too much respect, to admit of offering at that time from hand to hand the snuff-box. But Flavilla is so far taken with her behaviour in this kind, that she pulls out her box (which is indeed full of good Brazil) in the middle of the sermon; and, to show she has the audacity of a well-bred woman, she offers it the men as well as the women who sit near her: but since by this time all the world knows she has a

fine hand, I am in hopes she may give herself no further trouble in this matter. On Sunday was sevennight, when they came about for the offering, she gave her charity with a very good air, but at the same time asked the churchwarden, if he would take a pinch. Pray, sir, think of these things in time, and you will oblige

'SIR,
'Your most humble servant.

STEELE.

T.

N^o 345. SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1712.

*Sacrus hic animal, mentisque capaxius alba
Inerat adhuc, et quod dominari in cetera possit,
Natus homo est*—

OVID. Met. lib. 1. ver. 73

A creature of a more exalted kind
Was wanting yet, and then was man design'd;
Conscious of thought, of more capacious breast,
For empire form'd, and fit to rule the rest.

DRYDEN.

THE accounts which Raphael gives of the battle of angels, and the creation of the world, have in these those qualifications which the critics judge requisite to an episode. They are nearly related to the principal action, and have a just connection with the fable.

The eighth book opens with a beautiful description of the impression which this discourse of the archangel made on our first parents. Adam afterwards, by a very natural curiosity, inquires concerning the motions of those celestial bodies which make the most glorious appearance among the 'stars' work. The poet here, with a great deal of art, represents Eve as withdrawing from the part of their conversation, to amusements more suitable to her sex. He well knew that the episode in the book, which is filled with Adam's account of his passion and esteem for Eve, would have been improper for her hearing, and has therefore devised very just and beautiful reasons for her retiring:

'So spake our sire, and by his countenance seem'd
Ent'ring on studious thoughts abstract; which Eve
Perceiving, where she sat retir'd in sight,
With lowliness majestic from her seat,
And grace, that won who saw to wish her stay,
Rose; and went forth among her fruits and flowers.
To visit how they prosper'd, bud and bloom,
Her nursery: they at her coming sprung,
And, touch'd by her fair tendance, gladder grew.
Yet went she not, as not with such discourse
Delighted, or not capable her ear
Of what was high: such pleasure she reserv'd,
Adam relating, she sole auditress;
Her husband the relater she preferr'd
Before the angel, and of him to ask
Chose rather: he, she knew, would intermix
Grateful digressions, and solve high dispute
With conjugal caresses; from his lip
Not words alone pleas'd her. (O when meet now
Such pairs, in love and mutual bosom join'd!)

The angel's returning a doubtful answer to Adam's inquiries, was not only proper for the moral reason which the poet assigns, but because it would have been highly absurd to have given the sanction of an archangel to any particular system of philosophy. The chief points in the Platonic and Copernican hypotheses are described with great conciseness and perspicuity, and at the same time dressed in very pleasing and poetical images.

Adam, to detain the angel, enters afterwards upon his own history, and relates to him the circumstances in which he found himself upon his creation; as also his conversation with his Maker, and his first meeting with Eve. There is a great

he poem more apt to raise the attention of the reader, than this discourse of our great ancestor; nothing can be more surprising and delightful to than to hear the sentiments that arose in the man, while he was yet new and fresh from the hands of his Creator. The poet has interwoven a thing which is delivered upon this subject in writ, with so many beautiful imaginations of his own, that nothing can be conceived more just and natural than this whole episode. As our author on this subject could not but be agreeable to his reader, he would not throw it into the relation of six days' work, but reserved it for a distinct episode, that he might have an opportunity of extending upon it more at large. Before I enter his part of the poem, I cannot but take notice of some shining passages in the dialogue between man and the angel. The first is that wherein our ancestor gives an account of the pleasure he is in conversing with him, which contains a very elegant moral:

For while I sit with thee, I seem in heaven,
And sweeter thy discourse is to my ear
Than fruits of palm-tree (pleasanteest to thirst
And hunger both, from labour) at the hour
Of sweet repast; they satiate, and soon fill,
Though pleasant; but thy words, with grace divine
Imbued, bring to their sweetness no satiety.

The other I shall mention, is that in which the angel gives a reason why he should be glad to hear of Adam was about to relate.

For I that day was absent as befel,
Bound on a voyage uncouth and obscure,
Far on excursion towards the gates of hell,
Guard'd in full legion (such command we had)
To see that none thence issued forth a spy,
Or enemy, while God was in his work,
And he, incens'd at such irruption bold,
Destruction with creation might have mix'd.

There is no question but our poet drew the image that follows, from that in Virgil's sixth book, where Æneas and the Sibyl stand before the adamantine gates, which are there described as shut in the place of torments, and listen to the noise, the clank of chains, and the noise of iron doors, that were heard in those regions of pain and sorrow.

— Fast we found, fast shut
The dismal gates, and barricado'd strong;
But long ere our approaching heard within
A noise, other than the sound of dance or song,
A lament, and loud lament, and furious rage.

Adam then proceeds to give an account of his situation and sentiments immediately after his creation. How agreeably does he represent the state in which he found himself, the beautiful escape that surrounded him, and the gladness of which grew up in him on that occasion!

— As new wak'd from soundest sleep,
Soft on the flow'ry herb I found me laid
In balmy sweat, which with his beams the sun
Had dry'd, and on the reeking moisture fed,
Straight towards heaven my wond'ring eyes I turn'd,
And gaz'd awhile the ample sky, till rais'd
By quick instinctive motion, up I sprung,
As thitherward endeavouring, and upright
Stood on my feet. About me round I saw
Hill, dale, and shady woods, and sunny plains,
And liquid lapse of murmuring streams; by these,
Creatures that liv'd and mov'd, and walk'd, or flew,
As on the branches warbling; all things smil'd
With fragrance, and with joy my heart o'erflow'd.

Adam is afterwards described as surprised at his existence, and taking a survey of himself, and of the works of nature. He likewise is repre-

sented as discovering by the light of reason, that he, and every thing about him, must have been the effect of some Being infinitely good and powerful, and that this Being had a right to his worship and adoration. His first address to the sun, and to those parts of the creation which made the most distinguished figure, is very natural and amusing to the imagination:

— Then sun, said I, fair light,
And thou enlighten'd earth, so fresh and gay,
Ye hills, and dales, ye rivers, woods, and plains,
And ye that live and move, fair creatures, tell,
Tell, if ye saw, how came I thus: how here!

His next sentiment, when upon his first going to sleep he fancies himself losing his existence, and falling away into nothing, can never be sufficiently admired. His dream, in which he still preserves the consciousness of his existence, together with his removal into the garden which was prepared for his reception, are also circumstances finely imagined, and grounded upon what is delivered in sacred story.

These, and the like wonderful incidents in this part of the work, have in them all the beauties of novelty, at the same time that they have all the graces of nature.

They are such as none but a great genius could have thought of, though, upon the perusal of them, they seem to rise of themselves from the subject of which he treats. In a word, though they are natural, they are not obvious; which is the true character of all fine writing.

The impression which the interdiction of the tree of life left in the mind of our first parent, is described with great strength and judgment; as the image of the several beasts and birds passing in review before him, is very beautiful and lively:

— Each bird and beast behold
Approaching two and two, these cowering low
With blandishment; each bird stoop'd on his wing:
I nam'd them as they pass'd —

Adam, in the next place, describes a conference which he held with his Maker upon the subject of solitude. The poet here represents the Supreme Being as making an essay of his own work, and putting to the trial that reasoning faculty with which he had endued his creature. Adam urges, in this divine colloquy, the impossibility of his being happy, though he was the inhabitant of Paradise, and lord of the whole creation, without the conversation and society of some rational creature, who should partake those blessings with him. This dialogue, which is supported chiefly by the beauty of the thoughts, without other poetical ornaments, is as fine a part as any in the whole poem. The more the reader examines the justness and delicacy of its sentiments, the more he will find himself pleased with it. The poet has wonderfully preserved the character of majesty and condescension in the Creator, and at the same time that of humility and adoration in the creature, as particularly in the following lines:

— Thus I presumptuous; and the vision bright
As with a smile more brighten'd, thus reply'd, &c.
— I with leave of speech implo'r'd,
And humble deprecation, thus reply'd:
— Let not my words offend thee, Heavenly Power,
My Maker, be propitious while I speak, &c.

Adam then proceeds to give an account of his second sleep, and of the dream in which he beheld the formation of Eve. The new passion that was awakened in him at the sight of her, is touched very finely:

'Under his forming hands a creature grew,
Manlike, but different sex: so lovely fair,
That what seem'd fair in all the world, seem'd now
Mean, or in her summ'd up, in her contain'd;
And in her looks, which from that time infus'd
Sweetness into my heart, unfelt before;
And all things from her air inspir'd
The spirit of love, and amorous delight.'

Adam's distress upon losing sight of this beautiful phantom, with his exclamations of joy and gratitude at the discovery of a real creature who resembled the apparition which had been presented to him in his dream; the approaches he makes to her, and his manner of courtship, are all laid together in a most exquisite propriety of sentiments.

Though this part of the poem is worked up with great warmth and spirit, the love which is described in it is every way suitable to a state of innocence. If the reader compares the description which Adam here gives of his leading Eve to the nuptial bower, with that which Mr. Dryden has made on the same occasion in a scene of his "Fall of Man," he will be sensible of the great care which Milton took to avoid all thoughts on so delicate a subject that might be offensive to religion, or good manners. The sentiments are chaste, but not cold; and convey to the mind ideas of the most transporting passion, and of the greatest purity. What a noble mixture of rapture and innocence has the author join'd together, in the reflection which Adam makes on the pleasures of love compared to those of sense!

'Thus have I told thee all my state, and brought
My story to the sum of earthly bliss
Which I enjoy; and must confess to find
In all things else delight indeed, but such
As, us'd or not, works in the mind no change
Nor vehement desire; these delicacies
I mean of taste, sight, smell, herbs, fruits, and flowers,
Walks, and the melody of birds: but here
Far otherwise, transported I behold,
Transported touch; here passion first I felt,
Commotion strange! in all enjoyments else
Superior and unmov'd, here only weak
Against the charm of beauty's powerful glance.
Of nature fall'd in me, and left some part
Not proof enough such object to sustain;
Or from my side subducting, took perhaps
More than enough; at least on her bestow'd
Too much of ornament, in outward show
Elaborate, of inward less exact.

When I approach
Her loveliness, so absolute she seems,
And in herself complete, so well to know
Her own, that what she wills to do or say,
Seems wisest, virtuousest, discreetest, best;
All higher knowledge in her presence falls
Degraded: wisdom in discourse with her
Loses, discountenanc'd, and like folly shows:
Authority and reason on her wait,
As one intended first, not after made
Occasionally; and, to consummate all,
Greatness of mind and nobleness their seat
Build in her loveliest, and create an awe
About her, as a guard angelic plac'd.'

These sentiments of love in our first parent gave the angel such an insight into human nature, that he seems apprehensive of the evils which might befall the species in general, as well as Adam in particular, from the excess of his passion. He therefore fortifies him against it by timely admonitions; which very artfully prepare the mind of the reader for the occurrences of the next book, where the weakness, of which Adam here gives such distant discoveries, brings about the fatal event which is the subject of the poem. His discourse, which follows the gentle rebuke he received from the angel, shows that his love, however violent it might appear, was still founded in reason, and consequently not improper for Paradise:

'Neither her outside form'd so fair, nor aught
In procreation common to all kinds,
(Though higher of the genal bed by far,
And with mysterious reverence I deem)
So much delights me, as those graceful acts,
Those thousand decencies that daily flow
From all her words and actions, mixt with love
And sweet compliance, which declare unfeign'd
Union of mind, or in us both one soul;
Harmony to behold in wedded pair!'

Adam's speech, at parting with the angel, has in it a deference and gratitude agreeable to an inferior nature, and at the same time a certain dignity and greatness suitable to the father of mankind in his state of innocence.

ADDISON.

L

N° 346. MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1712.

Consuetudinem benignitatis largitioni manerum hoc antepono. Hec est gravium hominum atque nigrorum; illa quasi ascetorum populi, multitudine locitatem voluptate quasi titillantium.

TULL.

I esteem a habit of benignity greatly preferable to meanness. The former is peculiar to great and distinguished persons; the latter belongs to flatterers of the people, who court the applause of the inconstant vulgar.

WHEN we consider the offices of human life, there is, methinks, something in what we ordinarily call generosity, which when carefully examined seems to flow rather from a loose and unguarded temper, than an honest and liberal mind. For this reason it is absolutely necessary that all liberality should have for its basis and support, frugality. By this means the beneficent spirit works in a man from the convictions of reason, not from the impulse of passion. The generous man in the ordinary acceptance, without respect of the demands of his own family, will soon find upon the foot of an account, that he has sacrificed to fools, knaves, flatterers, or the deservedly unhappy, all the opportunities of affording any future assistance where it ought to be. Let him therefore reflect, that if to bestow be in itself laudable, should not a man take care to secure an ability to do things praiseworthy as long as he lives? or, could there be a more cruel piece of railery upon a man who should have reduced his fortune below the capacity of acting according to his natural temper, than to see of him, 'That gentleman was generous?' My beloved author therefore has, in the sentence on the top of my paper, turned his eye with a certain satiety from beholding the addresses to the people by largesses and public entertainments, which he asserts to be in general vicious, and are always to be regulated according to the circumstances of time, and a man's own fortune. A constant benignity in commerce with the rest of the world, which ought to run through all a man's actions, has effects more useful to those whom you oblige, and less ostentations in yourself. He turns his commendation of this virtue on commercial life, and, according to him, a citizen who is frank in his kindnesses, and abhors severity in his demands; he who, in buying, selling, lending, doing acts of good neighbourhood, is just and easy; he who appears naturally averse to disputes, and above the sense of little sufferings; bears a nobler character, and does much more good to mankind than any other man's fortune, without commerce, can possibly support. For the citizen, above all other men, has opportunities of arriving at 'that highest fruit of wealth, to be liberal without the least expense of a man's own fortune.' It is not to be denied

such a practice is liable to hazard; but this therefore adds to the obligation, that, among others, he who obliges is as much concerned to keep the favour a secret, as he who receives it. The unhappy distinctions among us in England are great, that to celebrate the intercourse of commercial friendship (with which I am daily made acquainted) would be to raise the virtuous man so many enemies of the contrary party. I am obliged to conceal all I know of Tom the Bounteous, who is at the ordinary interest, to give men of less tune opportunities of making greater advances. He conceals, under a rough air and distant behaviour, a bleeding compassion and womanish delicacy. This is governed by a most exact circumspection, that there is no industry wanting in person whom he is to serve, and that he is guilty of no improper expenses. This I know of Tom; who dare say it of so known a tory? The more I was forced to use some time ago in the out of another's virtue, and said fifty instead of hundred, because the man I pointed at was a tory. Actions of this kind are popular, without being invidious: for every man of ordinary circumstances looks upon a man, who has this known benediction in his nature, as a person ready to be his friend upon such terms as he is ought to expect it; the wealthy, who may envy such a character, do no injury to its interests but by the imitation of it, in which the good citizen will rejoice to be rivalled. I know not how to form to myself a greater idea of human life, than in what is the practice of some wealthy men whom I could name, to make no step to the improvement of their fortunes, wherein they do not also advance the case of other men who would languish in poverty without that munificence. In a nation, where there are so many public funds to be supported, I know whether he can be called a good subject who does not embark some part of his fortune with the state, to whose vigilance he owes the security of his whole. This certainly is an immediate way of giving an obligation upon many, and extending his dignity the furthest a man can possibly, who is engaged in commerce. But he who trades, besides giving the state some part of this sort of duty, he gives his banker, may, in all the occurrences of his life, have his eye upon removing want from the door of the industrious, and defending the happy upright man from bankruptcy. Without benignity, pride or vengeance will precipitate man to choose the receipt of half his demands from one whom he has undone, rather than the whole from one to whom he has shown mercy. Benignity is essential to the character of a trader, and any man who designs to enjoy his wealth with honour and self-satisfaction: nay, it would not be hard to maintain, that the practice of supporting good and industrious men, would carry a man further, even to his profit, than indulging the propensity of serving and obliging the fortunate. My author argues on this subject, in order to incline men's minds to those who want most, after this manner: 'We must always consider the nature of things, and govern ourselves accordingly. The wealthy man, when he has repaid you, is upon a balance with you; but the poor whom you favoured with a loan, if he be a good man, will think himself in your debt after he has paid you. The wealthy and the conspicuous are not obliged by the benefits you do them; they ask they conferred a benefit when they received

one. Your good offices are always suspected, and it is with them the same thing to expect their favour as to receive it. But the man below you, who knows, in the good you have done him, you respected himself more than his circumstances, does not act like an obliged man only to him from whom he has received a benefit, but also to all who are capable of doing him one. And whatever little offices he can do for you, he is so far from magnifying it, that he will labour to extenuate it in all his actions and expressions. Moreover, the regard to what you do to a great man, at best is taken notice of no further than by himself or his family; but what you do to a man of an humble fortune (provided always that he is a good and a modest man), raises the affections towards you of all men of that character (of which there are many) in the whole city.'

There is nothing gains a reputation to a preacher so much as his own practice; I am therefore casting about what act of benignity is in the power of a Spectator. Alas! that lies but in a very narrow compass; and I think the most immediately under my patronage are either players, or such whose circumstances bear an affinity with theirs. All therefore I am able to do at this time of this kind, is to tell the town, that on Friday the 11th of this instant, April, there will be performed, in York-buildings, a concert of vocal and instrumental music, for the benefit of Mr. Edward Keen, the father of twenty children; and that this day the haughty George Powel hopes all the good-natured part of the town will favour him, whom they applauded in Alexander, Timon, Lear, and Orestes, with their company this night, when he hazards all his heroic glory for their approbation in the humbler condition of honest Jack Falstaff.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 347. TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1712.

Quis furor, o cives! quæ tanta licentia ferri!
LUCAN, lib. I. ver. 8.

What blind, detested madness could afford
Such horrid licence to the murdering sword!
ROWE.

I do not question but my country readers have been very much surprised at the several accounts they have met with in our public papers, of that species of men among us, lately known by the name of Mohocks. I find the opinions of the learned, as to their origin and designs, are altogether various, insomuch that very many begin to doubt whether indeed there were ever any such society of men. The terror which spread itself over the whole nation some years since on account of the Irish, is still fresh in most people's memories, though it afterwards appeared there was not the least ground for that general consternation.

The late panic fear was, in the opinion of many deep and penetrating persons, of the same nature. These will have it, that the Mohocks are like those spectres and apparitions which frighten several towns and villages in her majesty's dominions, though they were never seen by any of the inhabitants. Others are apt to think that these Mohocks are a kind of bull-beggars, first invented by prudent married men, and masters of families, in order to deter their wives and daughters from taking the air at unseasonable hours; and that when they tell them 'the Mohocks will catch them,' it is a caution of the same nature with that of our fore-

* See Nº 248; the letter of W. P.

fathers, when they bid their children have a care of Raw-head and Bloody-bones.

For my own part, I am afraid there was too much reason for that great alarm the whole city has been in upon this occasion; though at the same time I must own, that I am in some doubt whether the following pieces are genuine and authentic; and the more so, because I am not fully satisfied that the name, by which the emperor subscribes himself, is altogether conformable to the Indian orthography.

I shall only further inform my readers, that it was some time since I received the following letter and manifesto, though for particular reasons I did not think fit to publish them till now.

‘ TO THE SPECTATOR.

‘ SIR,
‘ FINDING that our earnest endeavours for the good of mankind have been basely and maliciously represented to the world, we send you inclosed our imperial manifesto, which it is our will and pleasure that you forthwith communicate to the public, by inserting it in your next daily paper. We do not doubt of your ready compliance in this particular, and therefore bid you heartily farewell.

‘ (Signed)

‘ TAW WAW EBEN ZAN KALADAR,
‘ Emperor of the Mohocks.’

‘ *The Manifesto of Taw Waw Eben Zan Kaladar, Emperor of the Mohocks.*

‘ WHEREAS we have received information, from sundry quarters of this great and populous city, of several outrages committed on the legs, arms, noses, and other parts of the good people of England, by such as have styled themselves our subjects; in order to vindicate our imperial dignity from the false aspersions which have been cast on it, as if we ourselves might have encouraged or abetted any such practices; we have, by these presents, thought fit to signify our utmost abhorrence and detestation of all such tumultuous and irregular proceedings; and do hereby further give notice, that if any person or persons has or have suffered any wound, hurt, damage, or detriment, in his, or their limb or limbs, otherwise than shall be hereafter specified, the said person or persons, upon applying themselves to such as we shall appoint for the inspection and redress of the grievances aforesaid, shall be forthwith committed to the care of our principal surgeon, and be cured at our own expense, in some one or other of those hospitals which we are now erecting for that purpose.

‘ And to the end that no one may, either through ignorance or inadvertency, incur those penalties which we have thought fit to inflict on persons of loose and dissolute lives, we do hereby notify to the public, that if any man be knocked down or assaulted while he is employed in his lawful business, at proper hours, that it is not done by our order; and we do hereby permit and allow any such person, so knocked down or assaulted, to rise again, and defend himself in the best manner that he is able.

‘ We do also command all and every our good subjects, that they do not presume, upon any pretext whatsoever, to issue and sally forth from their respective quarters till between the hours of eleven and twelve. That they never tip the lion upon man, woman, or child, till the clock at St. Dunstan’s shall have struck one.

‘ That the sweat he never given but between the hours of one and two; always provided, that our hunters may begin to hunt a little after the close of the evening, any thing to the contrary hereto notwithstanding. Provided also, that if ever they are reduced to the necessity of pinking, it shall always be in the most fleshy parts, and such as are least exposed to view.

‘ It is also our imperial will and pleasure, that our good subjects the sweaters do establish their hummums in such close places, alleys, nooks, and corners, that the patient or patients may not be in danger of catching cold.

‘ That the tumblers, to whose care we chiefly commit the female sex, confine themselves to Drury Lane, and the purlieus of the Temple; and that every other party and division of our subjects do each of them keep within their respective quarters we have allotted to them. Provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall in any wise be construed to extend to the hunters, who have our full licence and permission to enter into any part of the town wherever their game shall lead them.

‘ And whereas we have nothing more at our imperial heart than the reformation of the cities of London and Westminster, which to our unspeakable satisfaction we have in some measure already effected, we do hereby earnestly pray and exhort all husbands, fathers, housekeepers, and masters of families, in either of the aforesaid cities, not only to repair themselves to their respective habitations at early and seasonable hours; but also to keep their wives and daughters, sons, servants, and apprentices, from appearing in the streets at those times and seasons which may expose them to a military discipline, as it is practised by our good subjects the Mohocks; and we do further promise, on our imperial word, that as soon as the reformation aforesaid shall be brought about, we will forthwith cause all hostilities to cease.

‘ Given from our court at the Devil-tavern, March 15, 1712.’

BODGELL,

X.

Nº 348. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1712.

Invidiam placare parus, virtute relicta ?
HOR. Sat. lib. 1. li. ver. 13.

To shun detraction, wouldst thou virtue fly?

‘ MR. SPECTATOR,

‘ I HAVE not seen you lately at any of the places where I visit, so that I am afraid you are wholly unacquainted with what passes among my part of the world, who are, though I say it, without controversy, the most accomplished and best bred of the town. Give me leave to tell you, that I am extremely discomposed when I hear scandal, and am an utter enemy to all manner of detraction, and think it the greatest meanness that people of distinction can be guilty of. However, it is hardly possible to come into company, where you do not find them pulling one another to pieces, and that from no other provocation but that of hearing any one commended. Merit, both as to wit and beauty, is become no other than the possession of a few trifling people’s favour, which you cannot possibly arrive at, if you have really any thing in you that is deserving. What they would bring to pass is, to make all good and evil consist in report, and with whispers, calumnies, and inspers-

ances, to have the conduct of those reports. By is means innocents are blasted upon their first appearance in town; and there is nothing more required to make a young woman the object of envy and hatred, than to deserve love and admiration. This abominable endeavour to suppress or lessen every thing that is praiseworthy, is as frequent among the men as the women. If I can remember what passed at a visit last night, it will serve as an instance that the sexes are equally inclined to defamation, with equal malice, with equal impudence. Jack Triplett came into my Lady Airy's room about eight of the clock. You know the manner of his visit at a visit, and I need not describe the circumstances; but Mr. Triplett came in, introduced by two persons, supported by a spruce servant, whose hair under a cap till my lady's candles are all lighted up, and the hour of ceremony begins: I say, Jack Triplett came in, and singing (for he is really good company) "Every feature, charming creature"—"I went on," "It is a most unreasonable thing that people cannot go peaceably to see their friends, if these murderers are let loose. Such a shape! Oh an air! what a glance was that as her chariot used by mine!"—My lady herself interrupted him; "Pray who is this fine thing?"—"I warrant," says another, "'tis the creature I was telling your ladyship of just now."—"You were telling of?" says Jack; "I wish I had been so happy to have come in and heard you, for I have not words to say what she is: but if an agreeable sight, a modest air, a virgin shame, and impudence of being beheld amidst a blaze of ten thousand charms—" The whole room flew out—"Oh, Mr. Triplett!"—When Mrs. Lofly, a known acquaintance, said, she believed she knew whom the gentleman meant; but she was, indeed, as he civilly presented her, impatient of being beheld—when turning to the lady next to her—"The most unbred creature you ever saw." Another resumed the discourse: "As unbred, madam, as you may think her, she is extremely belied if she be the novice she appears; she was last week at a ball till two in the morning; Mr. Triplett knows better he was the happy man that took care of her home; but—" This was followed by some particular exception that each woman in the room made to some peculiar grace or advantage; so that Mr. Triplett was beaten from one limb and feature to another, till he was forced to resign the sole woman. In the end, I took notice Triplett corded all this malice in his heart; and saw in countenance, and a certain waggish shrug, that he designed to repeat the conversation; I therefore let the discourse die, and soon after took an occasion to recommend a certain gentleman of my acquaintance for a person of singular modesty, courage, integrity, and withal as a man of an entertaining conversation, to which advantages he had shape and manner peculiarly graceful. Mr. Triplett, who is a woman's man, seemed to hear with patience enough commend the qualities of his mind. He never heard indeed but that he was very honest man, and no fool; but for a fine gentleman he must ask pardon. Upon no other foundation than this, Mr. Triplett took occasion to give the gentleman's pedigree, by what methods the part of the estate was acquired, how much was beholden to a marriage for the present circumstances of it; after all, he could see nothing in a common man in his person, his breeding, or understanding.

Thus, Mr. Spectator, this impertinent humour diminishing every one who is produced in con-

versation to their advantage, runs through the world; and I am, I confess, so fearful of the force of ill tongues, that I have begged of all those who are my well-wishers never to commend me, for it will but bring my frailties into examination; and I had rather be unobserved, than conspicuous for disputed perfections. I am confident a thousand young people, who would have been ornaments to society, have, from fear of scandal, never dared to exert themselves in the polite arts of life. Their lives have passed away in an odious rusticity, in spite of great advantages of person, genius, and fortune. There is a vicious terror of being blamed in some well-inclined people, and a wicked pleasure in suppressing them in others; both which I recommend to your spectral wisdom to annul and invert upon; and if you can be successful in it, I need not say how much you will deserve of the town; but new toasts will owe to you their beauty, and new wits their fame.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

MARY.

T.

STEEL.

No 349. THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1712.

— Quos ille timor

Maximus haud urget, lethi metus: inde ruendi
In ferrum mens prona viris, animaeque capaces
Mortis—

LUCAN, lib. 1. ver. 454.

Thrice happy they beneath their northern skies,
Who that worst fear, the fear of death despise;
Hence they no cares for this frail being feel,
But rush undaunted on the pointed steel,
Provoke approaching fate, and bravely scorn
To spare that life which must so soon return.

ROWE.

I AM very much pleased with a consolatory letter of Phalaris*, to one who had lost a son that was a young man of great merit. The thought with which he comforts the afflicted father is, to the best of my memory, as follows:—That he should consider death had set a kind of seal upon his son's character, and placed him out of the reach of vice and infamy: that, while he lived, he was still within the possibility of falling away from virtue, and losing the fame of which he was possessed†. Death only closes a man's reputation, and determines it as good or bad.

This, among other motives, may be one reason why we are naturally averse to the launching out into a man's praise till his head is laid in the dust. Whilst he is capable of changing, we may be forced to retract our opinions. He may forfeit the esteem we have conceived of him, and some time or other appear to us under a different light from what he does at present. In short, as the life of any man cannot be called happy or unhappy,

* The authenticity of the epistles of Phalaris has been much contested; but whoever wrote them, they possess infinite merit. Sir William Temple says of them, 'They have more grace, more spirit, more force of wit and genius, than any others I have ever seen, either ancient or modern.' Such diversity of passions upon such variety of actions and passages of life and government, such freedom of thought, such boldness of expression, such bounty to his friends, such scorn of his enemies, such honour of learned men, such esteem of good, such knowledge of life, such contempt of death, with such fierceness of nature, and cruelty of revenge, could never be represented but by him that possessed them.

† 'Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul.—His soul pleased the Lord; therefore hastened he to take him away from among the wicked,' &c. Wisdom of Solomon, iv. 11. 14.

so neither can it be pronounced vicious or virtuous, before the conclusion of it.

It was upon this consideration that Epaminondas, being asked whether Chabrias, Iphicrates, or he himself, deserved most to be esteemed? 'You must first see us die,' saith he, 'before that question can be answered.'

As there is not a more melancholy consideration to a good man than his being obnoxious to such a change, so there is nothing more glorious than to keep up an uniformity in his actions, and preserve the beauty of his character to the last.

The end of a man's life is often compared to the winding up of a well-written play, where the principal persons still act in character, whatever the fate is which they undergo. There is scarce a great person in the Grecian or Roman history, whose death has not been remarked upon by some writer or other, and censured or applauded, according to the genius or principles of the person who has descanted upon it. Monsieur de St. Evremont is very particular in setting forth the constancy and courage of Petronius Arbiter during his last moments, and thinks he discovers in them a greater firmness of mind and resolution, than in the death of Seneca, Cato, or Socrates. There is no question but this polite author's affectation of appearing singular in his remarks, and making discoveries which had escaped the observation of others, threw him into this course of reflection. It was Petronius's merit, that he died in the same gaiety of temper in which he lived; but as his life was altogether loose and dissolute, the indifference which he showed at the close of it, is to be looked upon as a piece of natural carelessness and levity, rather than fortitude. The resolution of Socrates proceeded from very different motives, the consciousness of a well-spent life, and the prospect of a happy eternity. If the ingenious author above-mentioned was so pleased with gaiety of humour in a dying man, he might have found a much nobler instance of it in our countryman Sir Thomas More.

This great and learned man was famous for enlivening his ordinary discourses with wit and pleasantry; and, as Erasmus tells him in an epistle dedicatory, acted in all parts of life like a second Democritus.

He died upon a point of religion, and is respected as a martyr by that side for which he suffered. That innocent mirth, which had been so conspicuous in his life, did not forsake him to the last. He maintained the same cheerfulness of heart upon the scaffold, which he used to show at his table; and, upon laying his head on the block*, gave instances of that good humour with which he had always entertained his friends in the most ordinary occurrences. His death was of a piece with his life. There was nothing in it new, forced, or affected. He did not look upon the severing his head from his body as a circumstance that ought to produce any change in the disposition of his mind; and as he died under a fixed and settled hope of immortality, he thought any unusual degree of sorrow and concern improper on such an occasion, as had nothing in it which could deject or terrify him.

There is no great danger of imitation from this example. Men's natural fears will be a sufficient guard against it. I shall only observe, that what was philosophy in this extraordinary man, would

* He bade the executioner stay till he had removed his beard, saying, 'My beard has never committed any treason.'

be frenzy in one who does not resemble him as well in the cheerfulness of his temper, as in the sanctity of his life and manners.

I shall conclude this paper with the instance of a person who seems to me to have shown more intrepidity and greatness of soul in his dying moments, than what we meet with among any of the most celebrated Greeks and Romans. I met with this instance in the History of the Revolution in Portugal, written by the Abbot de Vertot.

When Don Sebastian, King of Portugal, had invaded the territories of Muli Moluc, Emperor of Morocco, in order to dethrone him, and set his crown upon the head of his nephew, Moluc was wearing away with a distemper which he himself knew was incurable. However, he prepared for the reception of so formidable an enemy. He was indeed so far spent with his sickness, that he did not expect to live out the whole day, when the last decisive battle was given; but knowing the fatal consequences that would happen to his children and people, in case he should die before he put an end to that war, he commanded his principal officers, that if he died during the engagement, they should conceal his death from the army, and that they should ride up to the litter in which his corpse was carried, under pretence of receiving orders from him as usual. Before the battle began, he was carried through all the ranks of his army in an open litter, as they stood drawn up in array, encouraging them to fight valiantly, in defence of their religion and country. Finding afterwards the battle to go against him, though he was very near his last agonies, he threw himself out of his litter, rallied his army, and led them on to the charge; which afterwards ended in a complete victory on the side of the Moors. He had no sooner brought his men to the engagement, but, finding himself utterly spent, he was again replaced in his litter, where, laying his finger on his mouth, to enjoin secrecy to his officers, who stood about him, he died a few moments after in that posture.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 350. FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1712.

Ea animi elatio quæ cernitur in periculis, si justus vacat pugnatque pro suis commodis, in otio est.

TULL.

That courage and intrepidity of mind, which distinguishes itself in danger, if it is void of all regard to justice, and supports a man only in the pursuit of his own interest, is vicious.

CAPTAIN SENTRY was last night at the club, and produced a letter from Ipswich, which his correspondent desired him to communicate to his friend the Spectator. It contained an account of an engagement between a French privateer, commanded by one Dominick Pottiere, and a little vessel of that place laden with corn, the master whereof, as I remember was one Goodwin. The Englishman defended himself with incredible bravery, and beat off the French, after having been boarded three or four times. The enemy still came on with greater fury, and hoped by his number of men to carry the prize, till at last the Englishman, finding himself sink apace, and ready to perish, struck: but the effect which this singular gallantry had upon the captain of the privateer, was no other than an unmanly desire of vengeance for the loss he had sustained in his several attacks.

told the Ipswich man 'in a speaking-trumpet, that he would not take him aboard, and that he eyed to see him sink. The Englishman at the same time observed a disorder in the vessel, which he rightly judged to proceed from the disdain which the ship's crew had of their captain's inhumanity. With this hope he went into his boat, and approached the enemy. He was taken in by the men in spite of their commander; but though he received him against his command, they hated him when he was in the ship in the manner he directed. Pottiere caused his men to hold him down, while he beat him with a stick, till he shed with loss of blood, and rage of heart; after which he ordered him into irons, without allowing him any food, but such as one or two of the men gave to him under peril of the like usage. After he kept him several days overwhelmed with misery of stench, hunger, and soreness, he brought him into Calais. The governor of the town was soon acquainted with all that had passed, and praised Pottiere from his charge with ignominy, and gave Goodwin all the relief which a man of our kind would bestow upon an enemy barbarously treated, to recover the imputation of cruelty upon prince and country.

When Mr. Bentry had read his letter, full of other circumstances which aggravate the barity, he fell into a sort of criticism upon magnanimity and courage, and argued that they were parable; and that courage, without regard to justice and humanity, was no other than the fierceness of a wild beast. 'A good and truly bold it,' continued he, 'is ever actuated by reason, a sense of honour and duty. The affectation of such a spirit exerts itself in an impudent aspect, overbearing confidence, and a certain negligence of giving offence. This is visible in all the king's youths you see about this town, who are vain in assemblies, unawed by the presence of brave and virtuous men; in a word, insensible of the honours and decencies of human life. A needless fellow takes advantage of merit clothed in modesty and magnanimity, and, in the eyes of the little people, appears sprightly and agreeable; while the man of resolution and true gallantry is looked and disregarded, if not despised. There is propriety in all things; and I believe what scholars call just and sublime, in opposition to idle and bombast expression, may give you an idea of what I mean, when I say modesty is the plain indication of a great spirit, and impudence an affectation of it. He that writes with judgment, and never rises into improper warmth, manifests the true force of genius; in like manner, he who is quiet and equal in his behaviour, is supported in that deportment by what we may call courage. Alas! it is not so easy a thing to be a brave man as the unthinking part of mankind imagine. To dare, is not all that there is in it. In privateer we were just now talking of, had modesty enough to attack his enemy, but not judgment enough to admire the same quality exerted by that enemy in defending himself.

Thus his base and little mind was wholly taken up in the sordid regard to the prize of which he failed, and the damage done to his own estate; and therefore he used an honest man, who had ended his own from him, in the manner as he would a thief that should rob him. He was equally disappointed, and had not judgment enough to consider, that one case would be laudable and the other criminal. Malice, rancour, revenge, are what tear the breasts of mean

men in fight; but fame, glory, conquests, desires of opportunities to pardon and oblige their opposers, are what glow in the minds of the gallant.' The captain ended his discourse with a specimen of his book-learning; and gave us to understand, that he had read a French author on the subject of justness in point of gallantry. 'I love,' said Mr. Bentry, 'a critic who mixes the rules of life with annotations upon writers. My author,' added he, 'in his discourse upon epic poem, takes occasion to speak of the same quality of courage drawn in the two different characters of Turnus and Æneas. He makes courage the chief and greatest ornament of Turnus; but in Æneas there are many others which outshine it; among the rest, that of piety. Turnus is therefore all along painted by the poet full of ostentation, his language haughty and vain-glorious, as placing his honour in the manifestation of his valour: Æneas speaks little, is slow to action, and shows only a sort of defensive courage. His equipage and address make Turnus appear more courageous than Æneas, conduct and success prove Æneas more valiant than Turnus,

STEELE.

T.

No. 351. SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1712.

In te omnis domus inclinata recumbit.

VIRG. ÆN. xii. ver. 59.

On thee the fortunes of our house depend.

If we look into the three great heroic poems which have appeared in the world, we may observe that they are built upon very slight foundations. Homer lived near 300 years after the Trojan war; and, as the writing of history was not then in use among the Greeks, we may very well suppose that the tradition of Achilles and Ulysses had brought down but very few particulars to his knowledge; though there is no question but he has wrought into his two poems such of their remarkable adventures as were still talked of among his contemporaries.

The story of Æneas, on which Virgil founded his poem, was likewise very bare of circumstances, and by that means afforded him an opportunity of embellishing it with fiction, and giving a full range to his own invention. We find, however, that he has interwoven, in the course of his fable, the principal particulars, which were generally believed among the Romans, of Æneas's voyage and settlement in Italy.

The reader may find an abridgment of the whole story, as collected out of the ancient historians, and as it was received among the Romans, in Dionysius Halicarnassus.

Since none of the critics have considered Virgil's fable with relation to this history of Æneas, it may not perhaps be amiss to examine it in this light, so far as regards my present purpose. Whoever looks into the abridgment above-mentioned, will find that the character of Æneas is filled with piety to the gods, and a superstitious observation of prodigies, oracles, and predictions. Virgil has not only preserved this character in the person of Æneas, but has given a place in his poem to those particular prophecies which he found recorded of him in history and tradition. The poet took the matters of fact as they came down to him, and circumstanced them after his own manner, to make them appear the more natural, agreeable, or surprising. I believe very many readers have been shocked at that ludicrous prophecy which one

of the harpies pronounces to the Trojans in the third book, namely, that before they had built their intended city, they should be reduced by hunger to eat their very tables. But, when they hear that this was one of the circumstances that had been transmitted to the Romans in the history of Æneas, they will think the poet did very well in taking notice of it. The historian above-mentioned acquaints us, that a prophetic had foretold Æneas that he should take his voyage westward, till his companions should eat their tables; and that, accordingly, upon his landing in Italy, as they were eating their flesh upon cakes of bread for want of other conveniences, they afterwards fed on the cakes themselves; upon which one of the company said merrily, 'We are eating our tables.' They immediately took the hint, says the historian, and concluded the prophecy to be fulfilled. As Virgil did not think it proper to omit so material a particular in the history of Æneas, it may be worth while to consider with how much judgment he has qualified it, and taken off every thing that might have appeared improper, for a passage in an heroic poem. The prophetic who foretels it, is an hungry harpy, as the person who discovers it is young Ascanius.

'Hous etiam menus consumimus, inquit Iulv.'
ÆN. vii. ver. 116.

'See, we devour the plates on which we fed.'
DRYDEN.

Such an observation, which is beautiful in the mouth of a boy, would have been ridiculous from any other of the company. I am apt to think that the changing of the Trojan fleet into water-nymphs, which is the most violent machine in the whole Æneid, and has given offence to several critics, may be accounted for the same way. Virgil himself, before he begins that relation, premises, that what he was going to tell appeared incredible, but that it was justified by tradition. What further confirms me that this change of the fleet was a celebrated circumstance in the history of Æneas, is, that Ovid has given a place to the same metamorphosis in his account of the heathen mythology.

None of the critics I have met with have considered the fable of the Æneid in this light, and taken notice how the tradition on which it was founded, authorizes those parts in it which appear most exceptionable. I hope the length of this reflection will not make it unacceptable to the curious part of my readers.

The history which was the basis of Milton's poem, is still shorter than either that of the Iliad, or Æneid. The poet has likewise taken care to insert every circumstance of it in the body of his fable. The ninth book, which we are here to consider, is raised upon that brief account in scripture, wherein we are told, that the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field; that he tempted the woman to eat of the forbidden fruit; that she was overcome by this temptation, and that Adam followed her example. From these few particulars Milton has formed one of the most entertaining fables that invention ever produced. He has disposed of these several circumstances among so many beautiful and natural fictions of his own, that his whole story looks only like a comment upon sacred writ, or rather seems to be a full and complete relation of what the other is only an epitome. I have insisted the longer on this consideration, as I look upon the disposition and contrivance of the

fable to be the principal beauty of the ninth book, which has more story in it, and is fuller of incidents, than any other in the whole poem. Satan, traversing the globe, and still keeping within the shadow of the night, as fearing to be discovered by the angel of the sun, who had before detected him, is one of those beautiful imaginations with which he introduces this his second series of adventures. Having examined the nature of every creature, and found out one which was the most proper to his purpose, he again returns to Paradise; and, to avoid discovery, sinks by night with a river that ran under the garden, and rises up again through a fountain that issued from it by the tree of life. The poet, who, as we have before taken notice, speaks as little as possible in his own person, and, after the example of Homer, fills every part of his work with manners and characters, introduces a soliloquy of this infernal agent, who was thus restless in the destruction of man. He is then described as gliding through the garden, under the resemblance of a mist, in order to find out that creature in which he designed to tempt our first parents. This description has something in it very poetical and surprising:

'So saying, through each thicket dank or dry,
Like a black mist low creeping, he held on
His midnight search, where soonest he might find
The serpent: him fast sleeping soon he found
In labyrinth of many a round self-rolld,
His head the midst, well stor'd with subtle wiles.'

The author afterwards gives us a description of the morning, which is wonderfully suitable to a divine poem, and peculiar to that first season of nature. He represents the earth, before it was cursed, as a great altar breathing out its incense from all parts, and sending up a pleasant savour to the nostrils of its Creator; to which he adds a noble idea of Adam and Eve, as offering that morning worship, and filling up the universal concert of praise and adoration:

'Now when a sacred light began to dawn
In Eden on the humid flowers, that breath'd
Their morning incense, when all things that breathe
From th' earth's great altar send up silent praise
To the Creator, and his nostrils fill
With grateful smell; forth came the human pair,
And join'd their vocal worship to the choir
Of creatures wanting voice ———.'

The dispute which follows between our two first parents, is represented with great art. It proceeds from a difference of judgment, not of passion, and is managed with reason, not with heat. It is such a dispute as we may suppose might have happened in Paradise, had man continued happy and innocent. There is a great delicacy in the moralities which are interspersed in Adam's discourse, and which the most ordinary reader cannot but take notice of. That force of love which the father of mankind so finely describes in the eighth book, and which is inserted in my last Saturday's paper, shows itself here in many instances: as in those fond regards he casts towards Eve at her parting from him:

'Her long with ardent look his eye pursu'd
Delighted, but desiring more her stay.
Oft he to her his charge of quick return
Repeated; she to him as oft engag'd
To be return'd by noon amid the bow'rs.'

In his impatience and amusement during her absence:

'——— Adam the while,
Waiting desirous her return, had wove
Of choicest flow'rs a garland to adorn

Her tresses, and her rural labours crown,
As reapers oft are wont their harvest glean.
Great joy he promis'd to his thoughts, and new
Solace in her return, so long delay'd.

but particularly in that passionate speech, he, seeing her irrecoverably lost, he resolves to wish with her, rather than to live without her:

Some cursed fraud
Or enemy hath beguill'd thee, yet unknown,
And me with thee hath ruin'd; for with thee
Certain my resolution is to die:
How can I live without thee? how forego
Thy sweet converse and love so dearly join'd,
To live again in these wild woods forlorn?
Should God create another Eve, and I
Another rib afford, yet loss of thee
Would never from my heart! no, no! I feel
The link of nature draw me: flesh of flesh,
Bone of my bone thou art, and from thy state
Mine never shall be parted, bliss or woe!

The beginning of this speech, and the preparation to it, are animated with the same spirit as the conclusion, which I have here quoted.

the several wiles which are put in practice by the tempter, when he found Eve separated from husband, the many pleasing images of nature which are intermixed in this part of the story, and its gradual and regular progress to the fatal catastrophe, are so very remarkable, that it would be superfluous to point out their respective beauties.

we have avoided mentioning any particular similes in my remarks on this great work, because we have given a general account of them in my paper in the first book. There is one, however, in this part of the poem which I shall here quote, it is not only very beautiful, but the closest of in the whole poem; I mean that where the serpent is described as rolling forward in all his ease, animated by the evil spirit, and conducting to her destruction, while Adam was at too great a distance from her to give her his assistance. The several particulars are all of them wrought into the following similitude:

Hope elevates, and joy
Brightens his crest; as when a wandering fire,
Compact of unctuous vapour, which the night
Condenses, and the cold environs round,
Kindled through agitation to a flame,
(Which oft, they say, some evil spirit attends)
Hovers and blazing with delusive light,
Misleads the amaz'd night-wanderer from his way
To bogs and mires, and oft through pool or pool,
There swallow'd up and lost, from succour far.

that secret intoxication of pleasure, with all the transient flushings of guilt and joy, which the poet represents in our first parents upon their eating the forbidden fruit, to those flaggings of it, damps of sorrow, and mutual accusations which succeed it, are conceived with a wonderful imagination, and described in very natural sentiments.

When Dido, in the fourth Æneid, yielded to the fatal temptation which ruined her, Virgil tells us the earth trembled, the heavens were filled with flashes of lightning, and the nymphs howled upon mountain tops. Milton, in the same poetical style, has described all nature as disturbed upon Adam's eating the forbidden fruit:

So saying, her rash hand in evil hour
Forth reaching to the fruit, she pluck'd, she eat:
Earth felt the wound, and Nature from her seat
Sighing, through all her works gave signs of woe
That all was lost

Upon Adam's falling into the same guilt, the whole creation appears a second time in confusion:

He scrupled not to eat
Against his better knowledge; not deceiv'd,
But fondly overcome with female charm.
Earth trembled from her entrails, as again
In pangs, and Nature gave a second groan;
Sky lour'd, and, muttering thunder, some sad drops
Wept at completing of the mortal sin.

As all nature suffered by the guilt of our first parents, these symptoms of trouble and consternation are wonderfully imagined, not only as prodigies, but as marks of her sympathising in the fall of man.

Adam's converse with Eve, after having eaten the forbidden fruit, is an exact copy of that between Jupiter and Juno in the fourteenth Iliad, Juno there approaches Jupiter with the girdle which she had received from Venus; upon which he tells her, that she appeared more charming and desirable than she had ever done before, even when their loves were at the highest. The poet afterwards describes them as reposing on a summit of mount Ida, which produced under them a bed of flowers, the lotus, the crocus, and the hyacinth; and concludes his description with their falling asleep.

Let the reader compare this with the following passage in Milton, which begins with Adam's speech to Eve:

"For never did thy beauty, since the day
I saw thee first, and wedded thee, adorn'd
With all perfections, so inflame my sense
With ardour to enjoy thee, fairer now
Than ever, bounty of this virtuous tree."
"So said he, and forbore not glance or toy
Of amorous intent, well understood
Of Eve, whose eye darted contagious fire.
Her hand he seiz'd, and to a shady bank,
Thick over-head with verdant roof embower'd,
Held her nothing loth; flowers were the couch,
Pansies, and violets, and asphodel,
And hyacinth, Earth's freshest softest lap.
There they their fill of love and love's disport
Took largely of their mutual guilt the seal,
The solace of their sin, till dewy sleep
Oppress'd them

As no poet seems ever to have studied Homer more, or to have more resembled him in the greatness of genius, than Milton, I think I should have given but a very imperfect account of its beauties, if I had not observed the most remarkable passages which look like parallels in these two great authors. I might, in the course of these criticisms, have taken notice of many particular lines and expressions which are translated from the Greek poet; but as I thought this would have appeared too minute and over-curious, I have purposely omitted them. The greater incidents, however, are not only set off by being shown in the same light with several of the same nature in Homer, but by that means may be also guarded against the cavils of the tasteless or ignorant.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 352. MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1712.

Si ad honestatem nati sumus, ea aut sola expectanda est, aut certe omni pondere gravior est habenda quam reliqua omnia.

TULL.

If virtue be the end of our being, it must either ingross our whole concern, or at least take place of all our other interests.

WILL HONEYCOMB was complaining to me yesterday, that the conversation of the town is so altered of late years, that a fine gentleman is at a loss for matter to start discourse, as well as unable to fall in

with the talk he generally meets with. Will takes notice, that there is now an evil under the sun which he supposes to be entirely new, because not mentioned by any satirist, or moralist, in any age. 'Men,' said he, 'grow knaves sooner than they ever did since the creation of the world before.' If you read the tragedies of the last age, you find the artful men, and persons of intrigue, are advanced very far in youth; and beyond the pleasures and sallies of youth; but now Will observes, that the young have taken in the vices of the aged, and you shall have a man of five-and-twenty, crafty, false, and intriguing, not ashamed to overreach, cozen, and beguile. My friend adds, that, till about the latter end of King Charles's reign, there was not a rascal of any eminence under forty. In the places of resort for conversation, you now hear nothing but what relates to the improving men's fortunes, without regard to the methods towards it. This is so fashionable, that young men form themselves upon a certain neglect of every thing that is candid, simple, and worthy of true esteem; and affect being yet worse than they are, by acknowledging, in their general turn of mind and discourse, that they have not any remaining value for true honour and honesty; preferring the capacity of being artful to gain their ends, to the merit of despising those ends when they come in competition with their honesty. All this is due to the very silly pride that generally prevails, of being valued for the ability of carrying their point; in a word, from the opinion that shallow and unexperienced people entertain of the short-lived force of cunning. But I shall, before I enter upon the various faces, which folly, covered with artifice, puts on to impose upon the unthinking, produce a great authority* for asserting, that nothing but truth and ingenuity has any lasting good effect, even upon a man's fortune and interest.

'Truth and reality have all the advantages of appearance, and many more. If the show of any thing be good for any thing, I am sure sincerity is better; for why does any man dissemble, or seem to be that which he is not, but because he thinks it good to have such a quality as he pretends to? for to counterfeit and dissemble, is to put on the appearance of some real excellency. Now the best way in the world for a man to seem to be any thing, is really to be what he would seem to be. Besides that it is many times as troublesome to make good the pretence of a good quality, as to have it; and if a man have it not, it is ten to one but he is discovered to want it, and then all his pains and labour to seem to have it, is lost. There is something unnatural in painting, which a skilful eye will easily discern from native beauty, and complexion.

'It is hard to personate and act a part long; for where truth is not at the bottom, nature will always be endeavouring to return, and will peep out and betray herself one time or other. Therefore if any man think it convenient to seem good, let him be so indeed, and then his goodness will appear to every body's satisfaction; so that upon all accounts sincerity is true wisdom. Particularly as to the affairs of this world, integrity hath many advantages over all the fine and artificial ways of dissimulation and deceit; it is much the plainer and easier, much the safer and more secure way of dealing in the world; it has less of trouble and

difficulty, of intanglement and perplexity, of danger and hazard, in it; it is the shortest and nearest way to our end, carrying us thither in a straight line, and will hold out and last longest. The arts of deceit and cunning do continually grow weaker, and less effectual and serviceable to them that use them; whereas integrity gains strength by use, and the more and longer any man practiseth it, the greater service it does him, by confirming his reputation, and encouraging those with whom he has to do, to repose the greatest trust and confidence in him, which is an unspeakable advantage in the business and affairs of life.

'Truth is always consistent with itself, and needs nothing to help it out; it is always near at hand, and sits upon our lips, and is ready to drop out before we are aware; whereas a lie is troublesome, and sets a man's invention upon the rack, and one trick needs a great many more to make it good. It is like building upon a false foundation, which continually stands in need of props to shore it up, and proves at last more chargeable, than to have raised a substantial building at first upon a true and solid foundation; for sincerity is firm and substantial, and there is nothing hollow and unsound in it, and because it is plain and open, fears no discovery; of which the crafty man is always in danger; and when he thinks he walks in the dark, all his pretences are so transparent, that he that runs may read them; he is the last man that finds himself to be found out, and whilst he takes it for granted that he makes fools of others, he renders himself ridiculous.

'Add to all this, that sincerity is the most commendable wisdom, and an excellent instrument for the speedy dispatch of business; it creates confidence in those we have to deal with, saves the labour of many inquiries, and brings things to an issue in a few words. It is like travelling in a plain beaten road, which commonly brings a man sooner to his journey's end than by-ways, in which men often lose themselves. In a word, whatsoever conveniences may be thought to be in falsehood and dissimulation, it is soon over; but the inconvenience of it is perpetual, because it brings a man under an everlasting jealousy and suspicion, so that he is not believed when he speaks truth, nor trusted perhaps when he means honesty. When a man has once forfeited the reputation of his integrity, he is set fast; and nothing will then serve his turn, neither truth nor falsehood.

'And I have often thought, that God hath in his great wisdom hid from men of false and dishonest minds, the wonderful advantages of truth and integrity to the prosperity even of our worldly affairs: these men are so blinded by their covetousness and ambition, that they cannot look beyond a present advantage, nor forbear to seize upon it, though by ways never so indirect: they cannot see so far as to the remotest consequence of a steady integrity, and the vast benefit and advantages which it will bring a man at last. Were but this sort of men wise and clear-sighted enough to discern this, they would be honest out of very knavery, not out of any love to honesty and virtue, but with a crafty design to promote and advance more effectually their own interests; and therefore the justice of the Divine Providence hath hid this truest point of wisdom from their eyes, that bad men might not be upon equal terms with the just and upright, and serve their own wicked designs by honest and lawful means.

'Indeed, if a man were only to deal in the world for a day, and should never have occasion

* The following Extracts are from the Sermons of Abp. Tillotson, in folio, vol. ii. Sermon. i.

o converse more with mankind, never more need
their good opinion or good word, it were then no
great matter (speaking as to the concerns of
his world) if a man spent his reputation all at
once, and ventured it at one throw: but if he be
to continue in the world, and would have the ad-
vantage of conversation whilst he is in it, let him
make use of truth and sincerity in all his words
and actions; for nothing but this will last and hold
out to the end: all other arts will fail, but truth
and integrity will carry a man through, and bear
him out to the last.'

STEEL.

T.

N^o 353. TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1712.*In tenui labor* —.

VIRG. Georg. liv. ver. 6.

Tho' low the subject, it deserves our pains.

A gentleman who obliges the world in general,
and me in particular, with his thoughts upon edu-
cation, has just sent me the following letter.

'SIR,
I TAKE the liberty to send you a fourth letter *
on the education of youth. In my last I gave
my thoughts about some particular tasks which
conceived it might not be amiss to mix with their
usual exercises, in order to give them an early
tuning of virtue; I shall in this propose some
others, which I fancy might contribute to give them
right turn for the world, and enable them to
take their way in it.

'The design of learning is, as I take it, either to
render a man an agreeable companion to himself,
and teach him to support solitude with pleasure;
if he is not born to an estate, to supply that
defect, and furnish him with the means of acquiring
it. A person who applies himself to learning
in the first of these views, may be said to study
for ornament; as he who proposes to himself the
second, properly studies for use. The one does it
to raise himself a fortune; the other, to set off that
which he is already possessed of. But as far the
latter part of mankind are included in the latter
view, I shall only propose some methods at present
for the service of such who expect to advance
themselves in the world by their learning. In
order to which I shall premise, that many more
states have been acquired by little accomplish-
ments than by extraordinary ones; those qualities
which make the greatest figure in the eye of the
world, not being always the most useful in them-
selves, or the most advantageous to their owners.

The parts which require men of shining and
common parts to discharge them, are so very few,
that many a great genius goes out of the world
without ever having had an opportunity to exert
himself; whereas persons of ordinary endowments
with occasions fitted to their parts and capaci-
ties every day in the common occurrences of life.

I am acquainted with two persons who were for-
merly school-fellows†, and have been good friends
ever since. One of them was not only thought an

impenetrable blockhead at school, but still main-
tained his reputation at the university; the other
was the pride of his master, and the most celebrated
person in the college of which he was a member.
The man of genius is at present buried in a coun-
try parsonage of eight-score pounds a year; while
the other, with the bare abilities of a common
scrivener, has got an estate of above an hundred
thousand pounds.

'I fancy, from what I have said, it will almost
appear a doubtful case to many a wealthy citizen,
whether or no he ought to wish his son should be a
great genius: but this I am sure of, that nothing is
more absurd than to give a lad the education of
one, whom nature has not favoured with any par-
ticular marks of distinction.

'The fault, therefore, of our grammar-schools is,
that every boy is pushed on to works of genius:
whereas it would be far more advantageous for the
greatest part of them to be taught such little prac-
tical arts and sciences as do not require any great
share of parts to be master of them, and yet may
come often into play during the course of a man's
life.

'Such are all the parts of practical geometry.
I have known a man contract a friendship with a
minister of state, upon cutting a dial in his win-
dow; and remember a clergyman who got one of
the best benefices in the west of England, by set-
ting a country gentleman's affairs in some method,
and giving him an exact survey of his estate.

'While I am upon this subject, I cannot forbear
mentioning a particular which is of use in every
station of life, and which methinks every master
should teach his scholars; I mean the writing of
English letters. To this end, instead of perplexing
them with Latin epistles, themes, and verses, there
might be a punctual correspondence established
between two boys, who might act in any imaginary
parts of business, or be allowed sometimes to give
a range to their own fancies, and communicate to
each other whatever trifles they thought fit, pro-
vided neither of them ever failed at the appointed
time to answer his correspondent's letter.

'I believe I may venture to affirm, that the gene-
rality of boys would find themselves more advan-
taged by this custom, when they come to be men,
than by all the Greek and Latin their masters can
teach them in seven or eight years.

'The want of it is very visible in many learned
persons, who, while they are admiring the styles of
Demosthenes or Cicero, want phrases to express
themselves on the most common occasions. I have
seen a letter from one of these Latin orators, which
would have been deservedly laughed at by a com-
mon attorney.

'Under this head of writing, I cannot omit ac-
counts and short-hand, which are learned with little
pains, and very properly come into the number of
such arts as I have been here recommending.

'You must doubtless, sir, observe, that I have
hitherto chiefly insisted upon these things for such
boys as do not appear to have any thing extraor-
dinary in their natural talents, and consequently
are not qualified for the finer parts of learning;
yet I believe I might carry this matter still further,
and venture to assert, that a lad of genius has some-
times occasion for these little acquisitions, to be
as it were the forerunners of his parts, and to in-
troduce him into the world.

'History is full of examples of persons who,
though they have had the largest abilities, have
been obliged to insinuate themselves into the fa-
vour of great men by these trivial accomplish-

See Nos. 307, 313, and 337.

Dean Swift, and Mr. Stratford, a merchant. * Stratford is
th a plumb, and is now lending the government 40,000 £.;
we were educated together at the same school and uni-
versity. † Swift's Works, vol. xiv. p. 201, 8vo. edit. 1801.
also in the same volume, p. 262, and vol. xv. p. 227,
277-279.

ments; as the complete gentleman, in some of our modern comedies, makes his first advances to his mistress under the disguise of a painter, or a dancing-master.

'The difference is, that in a lad of genius these are only so many accomplishments, which in another are essentials; the one diverts himself with them, the other works at them. In short, I look upon a great genius, with these little additions, in the same light as I regard the Grand Seigneur, who is obliged, by an express command in the Alcoran, to learn and practise some handicraft trade: though I need not to have gone for my instance further than Germany, where several emperors have voluntarily done the same thing. Leopold, the last, worked in wood; and I have heard there are several handicraft works of his making, to be seen at Vienna, so neatly turned, that the best joiner in Europe might safely own them, without any disgrace to his profession*.

'I would not be thought, by any thing I have said, to be against improving a boy's genius to the utmost pitch it can be carried. What I would endeavour to show in this essay is, that there may be methods taken to make learning advantageous even to the meanest capacities.

'I am, SIR,

'Yours, &c.'

X.

BUDGELL.

Nº 354. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1712.

— Cum magnis virtutibus offert
Grande supercilium —

JUV. Sat. vi. ver. 168.

We own thy virtues; but we blame beside
Thy mind elate with insolence and pride.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'You have in some of your discourses described most sorts of women in their distinct and proper classes, as the Ape, the Coquette, and many others; but I think you have never yet said any thing of a Devotee. A devotee is one of those who disparage religion by their indiscreet and unseasonable introduction of the mention of virtue on all occasions. She professes she is what nobody ought to doubt she is; and betrays the labour she is put to, to be, what she ought to be with cheerfulness and alacrity. She lives in the world, and denies herself none of the diversions of it, with a constant declaration, how insipid all things in it are to her. She is never herself but at church; there she displays her virtue, and is so fervent in her devotions, that I have frequently seen her pray herself out of breath. While other young ladies in the house are dancing, or playing at questions and commands, she reads aloud in her closet. She says, all love is ridiculous, except it be celestial; but she speaks of the passion of one mortal to another with too much bitterness, for one that had no jealousy mixed with her contempt of it. If at any time she sees a man warm in his addresses to his mistress, she will lift up her eyes to heaven, and cry, "What nonsense is that fool talking! Will the bell never ring for prayers?" We have an eminent lady of this stamp in our country, who pretends to amusements very much above the rest of her sex. She never carries a white shock-dog with bells under her arm, nor a squirrel or dormouse in her

pocket, but always an abridged piece of morality, to steal out when she is sure of being observed. When she went to the famous ass-race (which I must confess was but an odd diversion to be encouraged by people of rank and figure), it was not, like other ladies, to hear those poor animals bray, nor to see fellows run naked, or to bear country squires in bob-wigs and white girdles make love at the side of a coach, and cry, "Madam, this is dainty weather." Thus she described the diversion; for she went only to pray heartily that nobody might be hurt in the crowd, and to see if the poor fellow's face, which was distorted with grinning, might any way be brought to itself again. She never chats over her tea, but covers her face, and is supposed in an ejaculation before she tastes a sup. This ostentatious behaviour is such an offence to true sanctity, that it disparages it, and makes virtue not only unamiable, but also ridiculous. The sacred writings are full of reflection, which abhor this kind of conduct; and a devotee is so far from promoting goodness, that she detests others by her example. Folly and vanity in one of these ladies, is like vice in a clergyman; it does not only debase him, but makes the inconsiderate part of the world think the worse of religion.

'I am, SIR,

'Your humble servant,

'NOTWIP P.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'XENOPHON, in his short account of the Spartan commonwealth, speaking of the behaviour of the young men in the streets, says, "There was so much modesty in their looks, that you might as soon have turned the eyes of a marble statue upon you as theirs; and that in all their behaviour they were more modest than a bride when put to bed upon her wedding-night." This virtue, which is always subjoined to magnanimity, had such an influence upon their courage, that in battle an enemy could not look them in the face, and they durst not but die for their country.

'Whenever I walk into the streets of London and Westminster, the countenances of all the young fellows that pass by me make me wish myself in Sparta: I meet with such blustering airs, big looks, and bold fronts, that, to a superficial observer, would bespeak a courage above those Grecians. I am arrived to that perfection in speculation, that I understand the language of the eyes, which would be a great misfortune to me, had I not corrected the testiness of old age by philosophy. There is scarce a man in a red coat who does not tell me, with a full stare, he is a bold man: I see several swear inwardly at me, without any offence of mine, but the oddness of my person: I meet contempt in every street, expressed in different manners, by the scornful look, the elevated eye-brow, and the swelling nostrils, of the proud and properous. The 'prentice speaks his disrespect by an extended finger, and the porter by stealing out his tongue. If a country gentleman appears a little curious in observing the edifices, signs, clocks, coaches, and dials, it is not to be imagined how the polite rabble of this town, who are acquainted with these objects, ridicule his rusticity. I have known a fellow with a burden on his head, steal a hand down from his load, and slyly twist the cock of a squire's hat behind him; while the offending person is swearing, or out of countenance, all the wag-wits in the highway are grinning in applause of the ingenious rogue that gave him the tip, and the folly of him who had not eyes all round his

* The Czar, Peter the Great of Russia, is a still more remarkable instance of imperial handicraft.

ad to prevent receiving it. These things arise from a general affectation of smartness, wit, and urage. Wycherly somewhere rallies the pretensions this way, by making a fellow say, "Red robes are a certain sign of valour;" and Otway takes a man, to boast his agility, trip up a beggar crutches. From such hints I beg a speculation on this subject: in the meantime I shall do all in the power of a weak old fellow in my own defence; for as Diogenes, being in quest of an honest man, sought for him when it was broad daylight with a lantern and candle, so I intend for the future to walk the streets with a dark lantern, which is a convex crystal in it; and if any man stares at me, I give fair warning that I will direct the light full into his eyes. Thus despairing to find a modest, I hope by this means to evade their pudence.

' I am, sir,
' Your most humble servant,
' SOPHROSUNUS.'

TELE.

T.

Nº 355. THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1712.

Non ego mordaci distinxī carmine quencquam.
OVID. Trist. li. ver. 363.

I never in gall dipp'd my envenom'd pen,
Nor branded the bold front of shameless men.

I HAVE been very often tempted to write invectives upon those who have detracted from my merits, or spoken in derogation of my person; but I look upon it as a particular happiness, that I have always hindered my resentments from proceeding to this extremity. I once had gone through half a satire, but found so many motions of humanity rising in me towards the persons whom I had severely treated, that I threw it into the fire without ever finishing it. I have been angry enough to make several little epigrams and lampoons; and, after having admired them a day or two, have likewise committed them to the flames. I look upon as so many sacrifices to humanity, and have received much greater satisfaction in the suppressing such performances, than I could have done from any reputation they might have procured me, or from any mortification they might have given my enemies, in case I had made them public. If a man has any talent in writing, shows a good mind to forbear answering calumnies and reproaches in the same spirit of bitterness with which they are offered. But when a man has been at some pains in making suitable returns to an enemy, and has the instruments of revenge in his hands, to let drop his wrath, and stifle his resentments, seems to have something in it great and heroic. There is a particular merit in such a way of forgiving an enemy; and the more violent and unprovoked the offence has been, the greater still is the merit of him who thus forgives it. I never met with a consideration that is more easily spun, and what has better pleased me, than that in Epictetus*, which places an enemy in a different light, and gives us a view of him altogether different from that in which we are used to regard him. The sense of it is as follows: 'Does a man reproach thee for being proud or ill-natured, envious or conceited, ignorant or detracting? Consider with thyself whether his reproaches are true.

If they are not, consider that thou art not the person whom he reproaches, but that he reviles an imaginary being, and perhaps loves what thou really art, though he hates what thou appearest to be. If his reproaches are true, if thou art the envious ill-natured man he takes thee for, give thyself another turn, become mild, affable, and obliging, and his reproaches of thee naturally cease. His reproaches may indeed continue, but thou art no longer the person whom he reproaches.'

I often apply this rule to myself; and when I hear of a satirical speech or writing that is aimed at me, I examine my own heart, whether I deserve it or not. If I bring in a verdict against myself, I endeavour to rectify my conduct for the future in those particulars which have drawn the censure upon me; but if the whole invective be grounded upon a falsehood, I trouble myself no further about it, and look upon my name at the head of it to signify no more than one of those fictitious names made use of by an author to introduce an imaginary character. Why should a man be sensible of the sting of a reproach, who is a stranger to the guilt that is implied in it? or, subject himself to the penalty, when he knows he has never committed the crime? This is a piece of fortitude, which every one owes to his own innocence, and without which it is impossible for a man of any merit, or figure, to live at peace with himself, in a country that abounds with wit and liberty.

The famous Monsieur Balzac, in a letter to the Chancellor of France, who had prevented the publication of a book against him, has the following words, which are a lively picture of the greatness of mind so visible in the works of that author: 'If it was a new thing, it may be I should not be displeased with the suppression of the first libel that should abuse me; but since there are enough of them to make a small library, I am secretly pleased to see the number increased, and take delight in raising a heap of stones that envy has cast at me without doing me any harm.'

The author here alludes to those monuments* of the eastern nations, which were mountains of stones raised upon the dead bodies by travellers, that used to cast every one his stone upon it as they passed by. It is certain that no monument is so glorious as one which is thus raised by the hands of envy. For my part, I admire an author for such a temper of mind as enables him to bear an undeserved reproach without resentment, more than for all the wit of any the finest satirical reply.

Thus far I thought necessary to explain myself in relation to those who have animadverted on this paper, and to show the reasons why I have not thought fit to return them any formal answer. I must further add, that the work would have been of very little use to the public, had it been filled with personal reflections and debates; for which reason I have never once turned out of my way to observe those little cavils which have been made against it by envy or ignorance. The common fry of scribblers, who have no other way of being taken notice of but by attacking what has gained some reputation in the world, would have furnished me with business enough, had they found me disposed to enter the lists with them.

I shall conclude with the fable of Boccacini's traveller, who was so pestered with the noise of grasshoppers in his ears, that he alighted from his horse in great wrath to kill them all. 'This,' says

Enchiridion, or Compendium of the Stoic Philosophy, 48 and 64.

* In North Britain there are monuments of the same kind, which are called *cairns*.

the author, 'was troubling himself to no manner of purpose. Had he pursued his journey without taking notice of them, the troublesome insects would have died of themselves in a very few weeks, and he would have suffered nothing from them.'

ADDISON.

L*.

Nº 356. FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1712.

*Artissima quaque debunt dil,
Charior est illis homo quam sibi! —*

JUV. Sat. x. ver. 349.

— The gods will grant
What their unerring wisdom sees thee want:
In goodness, as in greatness, they excel;
Ah, that we lov'd ourselves but half so well!
DRYDEN.

It is owing to pride, and a secret affectation of a certain self-existence, that the noblest motive for action that ever was proposed to man, is not acknowledged the glory and happiness of their being. The heart is treacherous to itself, and we do not let our reflections go deep enough to receive religion as the most honourable incentive to good and worthy actions. It is our natural weakness to flatter ourselves into a belief, that if we search into our inmost thoughts, we find ourselves wholly disinterested, and divested of any views arising from self-love and vainglory. But however spirits of superficial greatness may disdain at first sight to do any thing, but from a noble impulse in themselves, without any future regards in this or another being; upon stricter inquiry they will find, to act worthily, and expect to be rewarded only in another world, is as heroic a pitch of virtue as human nature can arrive at. If the tenour of our actions have any other motive than the desire to be pleasing in the eye of the Deity, it will necessarily follow that we must be more than men, if we are not too much exalted in prosperity, and depressed in adversity. But the Christian world has a leader, the contemplation of whose life and sufferings must administer comfort in affliction, while the sense of his power and omnipotence must give them humiliation in prosperity.

It is owing to the forbidding and unlovely constraint with which men of low conceptions act when they think they conform themselves to religion, as well as to the more odious conduct of hypocrites, that the word Christian does not carry with it at first view all that is great, worthy, friendly, generous, and heroic. The man who suspends his hopes of the reward of worthy actions till after death, who can bestow unseen, who can overlook hatred, do good to his slanderer, who can never be angry at his friend, never revengeful to his enemy, is certainly formed for the benefit of society. Yet these are so far from heroic virtues, that they are but the ordinary duties of a Christian.

When a man with a steady faith looks back on the great catastrophe of this day †, with what bleeding emotions of heart must he contemplate the life and sufferings of his Deliverer! When his agonies occur to him, how will he weep to reflect that he has often forgot them for the glance of a wanton, for the applause of a vain world, for a heap of fleeting past pleasures which are at present aching sorrows!

How pleasing is the contemplation of the lowly steps our Almighty Leader took in conducting us

to his heavenly mansions! In plain and apt simile, similitude, and allegory, our great Master enforced the doctrine of our salvation; but they of his acquaintance, instead of receiving what they could not oppose, were offended at the presumption of being wiser than they. They could not raise their little ideas above the consideration of him in those circumstances familiar to them, or conceive that he, who appeared not more terrible or pompous, should have any thing more exalted than themselves; he in that place therefore would no longer ineffectually exert a power which was incapable of conquering the prepossession of the narrow and mean conceptions.

Multitudes followed him, and brought him the dumb, the blind, the sick, and maimed; when their Creator had touched, with a second life they saw, spoke, leaped, and ran. In affection to him, and admiration of his actions, the crowd could not leave him, but waited near him till they were almost as faint and helpless as others they brought for succour. He had compassion on them, and by a miracle supplied their necessities. Oh, the ecstatic entertainment, when they could behold their food immediately increase to the distributor's hand, and see their God in person feeding and refreshing his creatures! Oh, envied happiness! But why do I say envied? as if our God did not still preside over our temperate meals, cheerful hours, and innocent conversations.

But though the sacred story is every where full of miracles not inferior to this, and though in the midst of those acts of divinity he never gave the least hint of a design to become a secular prince, yet had not hitherto the apostles themselves any other than hopes of worldly power, preferment, riches, and pomp; for Peter, upon an accident of ambition among the apostles, hearing his Master explain that his kingdom was not of this world, was so scandalized, that he whom he had so long followed should suffer the ignominy, shame, and death which he foretold, that he took him aside and said, 'Be it far from thee, Lord; this shall not be unto thee' for which he suffered a severe reprobation from his Master, as having in his view the glory of man rather than that of God.

The great change of things began to draw near, when the Lord of Nature thought fit as a saviour and deliverer to make his public entry into Jerusalem with more than the power and joy, but none of the ostentation and pomp of a triumph; he came humble, meek, and lowly: with an unsifted new ecstasy, multitudes strewed his way with garments and olive-branches, crying, with loud gladness and acclamation, 'Hosannah to the Son of David! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord!' At this great King's accession to the throne, men were not ennobled, but saved; crimes were not remitted, but sins forgiven. He did not bestow medals, honours, favours; but health, joy, sight, speech. The first object the blind ever saw was, the Author of sight; while the lame ran before, and the dumb repeated the Hosannah. The attended, he entered into his own house, the same temple, and by his divine authority expelled traders and worldlings that profaned it: and thus did he for a time use a great and despotic power, to let unbelievers understand that it was not want of, but superiority to, all worldly dominion, that made him not exert it. But is this then the Saviour? Is this the Deliverer? Shall this obscure Nazarene command Israel, and sit on the throne of David? Their proud and disdainful hearts, which were petrified with the love and pride of this world, were

* In Nº 262, Addison had adverted to the same subject.

† Good Friday.

regnable to the reception of so mean a benefactor, and were now enough exasperated with spirits to conspire his death. Our Lord was sensible of their design, and prepared his disciples to it, by recounting to them now more distinctly what should befall him; but Peter, with an unshaken resolution, and in a flush of temper, made an ingenu protestation, that though all men were against him, yet would not he be offended, was a great article of our Saviour's business in the world to bring us to a sense of our inability, without God's assistance, to do any thing great or good; he therefore told Peter, who thought so little of his courage and fidelity, that they would fail him, and even he should deny him thrice very night.

But what heart can conceive, what tongue express the sequel? Who is that yonder, buffeted, kicked, and spurned? Whom do they drag like a felon? Whither do they carry my Lord, my King, my Saviour, and my God? And will he die to expiate these very injuries? See where they have led the Lord and Giver of life! How his wounds are opened, his body writhes, and heart heaves with pain, and with agony! Oh almighty sufferer, look down, look down from thy triumphant infamy. He inclines his head to his sacred bosom! He groans! See, he expires! The earth trembles, the temple rears, the rocks burst, the stones arise. Which are the quick? Which are the dead? Sure nature, all nature, is departing with the Creator *.

EEL.

T.

357. SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1712.

*Quis talia fando
Temperet a lachrymis?*

VIRG. II. ver. 6.

Who can relate such woes without a tear!

tenth book of *Paradise Lost* has a greater variety of persons in it than any other in the whole poem. The author upon the winding up of his action introduces all those who had any concern in the story, and shows with great beauty the influence which each had upon each of them. It is like the last act of a well-written tragedy, in which all who had a part in it are generally drawn up before the audience, and represented under those circumstances which the determination of the action places

shall therefore consider this book under four divisions, in relation to the celestial, the infernal, the human, and the imaginary persons, who have their respective parts allotted in it.

We begin with the celestial persons. The guardian angels of Paradise are described as returning to heaven upon the fall of man, in order to appear to their vigilance; their arrival, their manner of reception, with the sorrow which appeared in themselves, and in those spirits who are said to regret the conversion of a sinner, are very finely together in the following lines:

Up into heav'n from Paradise in haste
Th' angelic guards ascended, mute and sad
For man; for of his state by this they knew:
Such wond'ring how the subtle fiend had stol'n
Entrance unseen. Soon as th' unwelcome news
From earth arriv'd at heaven gate, displeas'd

This last paragraph is a transcript by Steele from his "Christian Hero."

All were who heard; dim sadness did not spare
That time celestial visages; yet mix'd
With pity, violated not their bliss.
About the new-arriv'd, in multitudes
Th' ethereal people ran, to hear and know
How all befel. They tow'rd the throne supreme
Accountable made haste, to make appear,
With righteous plea, their utmost vigilance,
And easily approv'd; when the Most High
Eternal Father, from his secret cloud
Amidst, in thunder utter'd thus his voice.*

The same Divine Person, who in the foregoing parts of this poem interceded for our first parents before their fall, overthrew the rebel angels, and created the world, is now represented as descending to Paradise, and pronouncing sentence upon the three offenders. The cool of the evening being a circumstance with which holy writ introduces this great scene, it is poetically described by our author, who has also kept religiously to the form of words in which the three several sentences were passed upon Adam, Eve, and the serpent. He has rather chosen to neglect the numerousness of his verse, than to deviate from those speeches which are recorded on this great occasion. The guilt and confusion of our first parents, standing naked before their judge, is touched with great beauty. Upon the arrival of Sin and Death into the works of the creation, the Almighty is again introduced as speaking to his angels that surrounded him:

'See! with what heat these dogs of hell advance,
To waste and havoc yonder world, which I
So fair and good created;' &c.

The following passage is formed upon that glorious image in holy writ, which compares the voice of an innumerable host of angels, uttering hallelujahs, to the voice of mighty thunderings, or of many waters:

'He ended, and the heav'nly audience loud
Sung Hallelujah, as the sound of seas,
Through multitude that sung. "Just are thy ways,
Righteous are thy decrees in all thy works,
Who can extenuate thee?"'

Though the author in the whole course of his poem, and particularly in the book we are now examining, has infinite allusions to places of scripture; I have only taken notice in my remarks of such as are of a poetical nature, and which are woven with great beauty into the body of his fable. Of this kind is that passage in the present book, where, describing Sin as marching through the works of nature, he adds,

'—— Behind her Death
Close following pace for pace, not mounted yet
On his pale horse ——'

Which alludes to that passage in scripture so wonderfully poetical, and terrifying to the imagination: 'And I looked, and behold a pale horse, and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him: and power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with sickness, and with the beasts of the earth.' Under this first head, of celestial persons, we must likewise take notice of the command which the angels received, to produce several changes in nature, and rally the beauty of the creation. Accordingly they are represented as infecting the stars and planets with malignant influences, weakening the light of the sun, bringing down the winter into the milder regions of nature, planting winds and storms in several quarters of the sky, storing the clouds with thunder, and, in short, perverting the whole frame-

of the universe to the condition of its criminal inhabitants. As this is a noble incident in the poem, the following lines, in which we see the angels heaving up the earth, and placing it in a different posture to the sun from what it had been before the fall of man, is conceived with that sublime imagination which was so peculiar to this great author:

'Some say he bid his angels turn askance
The poles of earth twice ten degrees and more
From the sun's axle; they with labour push'd
Oblique the centric globe——'

We are in the second place to consider the infernal agents under the view which Milton has given us of them in this book. It is observed, by those who would set forth the greatness of Virgil's plan, that he conducts his reader through all the parts of the earth which were discovered in his time. Asia, Africa, and Europe, are the several scenes of his fable. The plan of Milton's poem is of an infinitely greater extent, and fills the mind with many more astonishing circumstances. Satan, having surrounded the earth seven times, departs at length from Paradise. We then see him steering his course among the constellations, and, after having traversed the whole creation, pursuing his voyage through the chaos, and entering into his own infernal dominions.

His first appearance in the assembly of fallen angels is worked up with circumstances which give a delightful surprise to the reader: but there is no incident in the whole poem which does this more than the transformation of the whole audience, that follows the account their leader gives them of his expedition. The gradual change of Satan himself is described after Ovid's manner, and may vie with any of those celebrated transformations which are looked upon as the most beautiful parts in that poet's works. Milton never fails of improving his own hints, and bestowing the last finishing touches in every incident which is admitted into his poem. The unexpected hiss which arises in this episode, the dimensions and bulk of Satan so much superior to those of the infernal spirits who lay under the same transformation, with the annual change which they are supposed to suffer, are instances of this kind. The beauty of the diction is very remarkable in this whole episode, as I have observed in the sixth paper of these remarks the great judgment with which it was contrived.

The parts of Adam and Eve, or the human persons, come next under our consideration. Milton's art is no where more shown than in his conducting the parts of these our first parents. The representation he gives of them, without falsifying the story, is wonderfully contrived to influence the reader with pity and compassion towards them. Though Adam involves the whole species in misery, his crime proceeds from a weakness which every man is inclined to pardon and commiserate, as it seems rather the frailty of human nature, than of the person who offended. Every one is apt to excuse a fault which he himself might have fallen into. It was the excess of love for Eve that ruined Adam and his posterity. I need not add, that the author is justified in this particular by many of the fathers, and the most orthodox writers. Milton has by this means filled a great part of his poem with that kind of writing which the French critics call the *tendre*, and which is in a particular manner engaging to all sorts of readers.

Adam and Eve, in the book we are now considering, are likewise drawn with such sentiments as

do not only interest the reader in their afflictions but raise in him the most melting passions of humanity and commiseration. When Adam sees the several changes of nature produced about him, he appears in a disorder of mind suitable to one who had forfeited both his innocence and his happiness: he is filled with horror, remorse, despair; in the anguish of his heart he expostulates with his Creator for having given him an unasked existence:

'Did I request thee, Maker, from the clay
To mould me man? Did I solicit thee
From darkness to promote me? or here place
In this delicious garden? As my will
Concurr'd not to my being, 'twere but right
And equal to reduce me to my dust,
Desirous to resign, and render back
All I receive'd——'

He immediately after recovers from his pre-occupation, owns his doom to be just, and begs that the death which is threatened him may be inflicted as him:

'——— Why delays
His hand to execute what his decree
Fix'd on this day? Why do I overlive?
Why am I mock'd with death, and lengthen'd out
To deathless pain? How gladly would I meet
Mortality my sentence, and be earth
Insensible! how glad would lay me down,
As in my mother's lap! There should I rest
And sleep secure; his dreadful voice no more
Would thunder in my ears: no fear of worse
To me, and to my offspring, would torment me
With cruel expectation——'

This whole speech is full of the like emotion, and varied with all those sentiments which we can suppose natural to a mind so broken and disturbed. I must not omit that generous concern which our first father shows in it for his posterity, and which is so proper to affect the reader:

'——— Hide me from the face
Of God, whom to behold was then my height
Of happiness! yet well, if here would end
The misery; I deserv'd it, and would bear
My own deservings: but this will not serve;
All that I eat, or drink, or shall beget,
Is propagat'd curse. O voice once heard
Delightfully, "Increase and multiply!"
Now death to hear!——'

In me all
Posterity stands curst! Fair patrimony,
That I must leave ye, sons! O were I able
To waste it all myself, and leave you none!
So disinherited, how would you bless
Me now your curse! Ah, why should all mankind,
For one man's fault, thus guiltless be condemn'd,
If guiltless! But from me what can proceed
But all corrupt!——'

Who can afterwards behold the father of mankind, extended upon the earth, uttering his midnight complaints, bewailing his existence, and wringing for 'death, without sympathizing with him in his distress?

'Thus Adam to himself lamented loud
Through the still night; not now (as ere man fell)
Wholesome and cool, and mild, but with black air,
Accompanied with damps and dreadful gloom;
Which to his evil conscience represented
All things with double terror. On the ground
Outstretch'd he lay; on the cold ground; and oft
Curst his creation; death as oft accus'd
Of tardy execution——'

The part of Eve in this book is no less passionate, and apt to sway the reader in her favour. She is represented with great tenderness as approaching Adam, but is spurned from him with a spirit of upbraiding and indignation, conformable to the nature of man, whose passions had now gained the dominion over him. The following passage, wherein she is described as renewing her

addresses to him, with the whole speech that follows it, have something in them exquisitely moving and pathetic:

'He added not, and from her turn'd: but Eve,
Not so repuls'd, with tears that ceas'd not flowing,
And tresses all disorder'd, at his feet
Fell humble; and embracing them besought
His peace, and thus proceeded in her plaint.

'Forsake me not thus, Adam! Witness Heav'n
What love sincere, and rev'rence in my heart
I bear thee, and unwetted have offended,
Unhappily deceiv'd: Thy suppliant
I beg, and clasp thy knees; bereave me not
(Whereon I live!) thy gentle looks, thy aid,
Thy counsel in this uttermost distress,
My only strength, and stay! Forlorn of thee,
Whither shall I betake me, where subsist?
While yet we live (scarce one short hour perhaps)
Between us two let there be peace,' &c.

Adam's reconciliation to her is worked up in the same spirit of tenderness. Eve afterwards proposes to her husband, in the blindness of her desire, that to prevent their guilt from descending on posterity, they should resolve to live children; or, if that could not be done, they should risk their own deaths by violent methods. As these sentiments naturally engage the reader to regard the mother of mankind with more than ordinary commiseration, they likewise contain a very moral. The resolution of dying to end our sorrows, does not show such a degree of magnanimity as a resolution to bear them, and submit to dispensations of Providence. Our author has, therefore, with great delicacy, represented Eve entertaining this thought, and Adam as disapproving it.

We are, in the last place, to consider the imaginary persons, as Death and Sin, who act a large part in this book. Such beautiful extended allegories are certainly some of the finest compositions of genius; but, as I have before observed, are not suitable to the nature of an heroic poem. This Sin and Death is very exquisite in its kind, if considered as a part of such a work. The beauties contained in it are so clear and open, that I do not lose time in explaining them; but shall observe, that a reader, who knows the strength of the English tongue, will be amazed to think the poet could find such apt words and phrases to describe the actions of those two imaginary persons, and particularly in that part where Death is depicted as forming a bridge over the chaos; a description suitable to the genius of Milton.

Once the subject I am upon gives me an opportunity of speaking more at large of such shadowy imaginary persons as may be introduced into epic poems, I shall beg leave to explain myself on a matter which is curious in its kind, and which some of the critics have treated of. It is certain, Homer and Virgil are full of imaginary persons, and are very beautiful in poetry when they are shown without being engaged in any series of action. Homer indeed represents Sleep as a person, and ascribes a short part to him in his *Iliad*; we must consider, that though we now regard him as a person as entirely shadowy and unsubstantial, the heathens made statues of him, placed him in their temples, and looked upon him as a real person. When Homer makes use of other such allegorical persons, it is only in short expressions, which convey an ordinary thought to the mind in the most pleasing manner, and may rather be looked upon as poetical phrases, than allegorical depictions. Instead of telling us that men naturally when they are terrified, he introduces the person of Flight and Fear, who, he tells us, are inse-

parable companions. Instead of saying that the time was come when Apollo ought to have received his recompense, he tells us that the Hours brought him his reward. Instead of describing the effects which Minerva's ægis produced in battle, he tells us, that the brims of it were encompassed by Terror, Rout, Discord, Fury, Pursuit, Massacre, and Death. In the same figure of speaking, he represents Victory as following Diomedes; Discord as the mother of funerals and mourning; Venus as dressed by the Graces; Bellona as wearing Terror and Consternation like a garment. I might give several other instances out of Homer, as well as a great many out of Virgil. Milton has likewise very often made use of the same way of speaking, as where he tells us, that Victory sat on the right hand of the Messiah, when he marched forth against the rebel angels; that at the rising of the sun, the Hours unbarred the gates of light; that Discord was the daughter of Sin. Of the same nature are those expressions, where, describing the singing of the nightingale, he adds, 'Silence was pleased;' and upon the Messiah's bidding peace to the chaos, 'Confusion heard his voice.' I might add innumerable instances of our poet's writing in this beautiful figure. It is plain that these I have mentioned, in which persons of an imaginary nature are introduced, are such short allegories as are not designed to be taken in the literal sense, but only to convey particular circumstances to the reader, after an unusual and entertaining manner. But when such persons are introduced as principal actors, and engaged in a series of adventures, they take too much upon them, and are by no means proper for an heroic poem, which ought to appear credible in its principal parts. I cannot forbear therefore, thinking, that Sin and Death are as improper agents in a work of this nature, as Strength and Necessity in one of the tragedies of Æschylus, who represented those two persons nailing down Prometheus to a rock; for which he has been justly censured by the greatest critics. I do not know any imaginary person made use of in a more sublime manner of thinking than that in one of the prophets, who, describing God as descending from heaven, and visiting the sins of mankind, adds that dreadful circumstance, 'Before him went the Pestilence.' It is certain this imaginary person might have been described in all her purple spots. The Fever might have marched before her, Pain might have stood at her right hand, Phrensy on her left, and Death in her rear. She might have been introduced as gliding down from the tail of a comet, or darted from the earth in a flash of lightning. She might have tainted the atmosphere with her breath. The very glaring of her eyes might have scattered infection. But I believe every reader will think, that in such sublime writings the mentioning of her, as it is done in scripture, has something in it more just, as well as great, than all that the most fanciful poet could have bestowed upon her in the richness of his imagination.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 358. MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1712.

— *Desipere in loco.*

HOR. Od. xii. l. 4. ver. ult.

'Tis wisdom's part sometimes to play the fool.

CHARLES LILLY attended me the other day, and made me a present of a large sheet of paper, on which is delineated a pavement in Mosaic work, lately discovered at Stunsfield, near Woodstock *. A person who has so much the gift of speech as Mr. Lilly, and can carry on a discourse without a reply, had great opportunity on that occasion to expatiate upon so fine a piece of antiquity. Among other things, I remember he gave me his opinion, which he drew from the ornaments of the work, that this was the floor of a room dedicated to mirth and concord. Viewing this work, made my fancy run over the many gay expressions I have read in ancient authors, which contained invitations to lay aside care and anxiety, and give a loose to that pleasing forgetfulness wherein men put off their characters of business, and enjoy their very selves. These hours were generally passed in rooms adorned for that purpose, and set out in such a manner, as the objects all around the company gladdened their hearts; which, joined to the cheerful looks of well-chosen and agreeable friends, gave new vigour to the airy, produced the latent fire of the modest, and gave grace to the slow humour of the reserved. A judicious mixture of such company, crowned with chaplets of flowers, and the whole apartment glittering with gay lights, cheered with a profusion of roses, artificial falls of water, and intervals of soft notes to songs of love and wine, suspended the cares of human life, and made a festival of mutual kindness. Such parties of pleasure as these, and the reports of the agreeable passages in their jollities, have in all ages awakened the dull part of mankind to pretend to mirth and good-humour, without capacity for such entertainments; for, if I may be allowed to say so, there are an hundred men fit for any employment, to one who is capable of passing a night in company of the first taste, without shocking any member of the society, overrating his own part of the conversation, but equally receiving and contributing to the pleasure of the whole company. When one considers such collections of companions in past times, and such as one might name in the present age, with how much spleen must a man needs reflect upon the awkward gaiety of those who affect the frolic with an ill grace! I have a letter from a correspondent of mine, who desires me to admonish all loud, mischievous, airy, dull companions, that they are mistaken in what they call a frolic. Irregularity in itself is not what creates pleasure and mirth; but to see a man, who knows what rule and decency are, descend from them agreeably in our company, is what denominates him a pleasant companion. Instead of that, you find many whose mirth consists only in doing things which do not become them, with a secret consciousness that all the world know they know better: to this is always added something mischievous to themselves or others. I have heard of some very merry fellows among whom the frolic was started, and passed by a great majority, that every man should immediately draw a tooth; after which they have gone in a body and smoked

a cobler. The same company, at another night, has each man burned his cravat; and one, perhaps, whose estate would bear it, has thrown a long wig and laced hat into the same fire *. They then have jested themselves stark-naked, and run into the streets, and frightened women very successfully. There is no inhabitant of any standing in Covent-garden, but can tell you an hundred good humours, where people have come off with a little bloodshed, and yet scoured all the witty hours of the night. I know a gentleman that has several wounds in the head by watch-poles, and has been thrice run through the body, to carry on a good jest. He is very old for a man of so much good humour; but to this day he is seldom merry but he has occasion to be valiant at the same time. But, by the favour of these gentlemen, I am humbly of opinion, that a man may be a very witty man, and never offend one statute of this kingdom, not excepting even that of stabbing.

The writers of plays have what they call *easy* of time and place, to give a justice to their representation; and it would not be amiss if all who pretend to be companions would confine their actions to the place of meeting; for a frolic carried further may be better performed by other animals than men. It is not to rid much ground, or do much mischief, that should denominate a pleasant fellow; but that is truly frolic which is the play of the mind, and consists of various and unforced talies of imagination. Festivity of spirit is a very uncommon talent, and must proceed from an assemblage of agreeable qualities in the same person. There are some few whom I think peculiarly happy in it: but it is a talent one cannot name in a man, especially when one considers, that it is never very grateful but where it is regarded by him who possesses it in the second place. The best man that I know of for heightening the revel gaiety of a company is Estcourt †, whose jovial humour diffuses itself from the highest person at an entertainment to the meanest waiter. Merry tales, accompanied with apt gestures and lively representations of circumstances and persons, beguile the gravest mind into a consent to be as humorous as himself. Add to this, that when a man is in his good graces, he has a mimicry that does not debase the person he represents; but which, taking from the gravity of the character, adds to the agreeableness of it. This pleasant fellow gives one some idea of the ancient Pantomime, who is said to have given the audience, in dumb-show, an exact idea of any character or passion, or an intelligible relation of any public occurrence, with no other expression than that of his looks and gestures. If all who have been obliged to these talents in Estcourt will be at Love for Love ‡ to-morrow night, they will but pay him what they owe him, at so easy a rate as being present at a play which nobody would ever see, that had, or had not, ever seen it before.

STEELE.

T.

* A frolic of Sir Charles Sedley, and others.

† See Nos. 264 and 468.

‡ A comedy, by Congreve, 4to. 1695.

N° 350. TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1712

*Torren laena lupum sequitur, lupus ipse capellam :
Florentem cytissum sequitur laniatos capella.*

VIRG. Ecl. ii. ver. 63.

The greedy lioness the wolf pursues,
The wolf the kid, the wanton kid the browes.

DRYDEN.

I was at the club last night, I observed that my old friend Sir Roger, contrary to his usual custom, sat very silent, and, instead of minding what was said by the company, was whistling to himself a very thoughtful mood, and playing with a cork-jogged Sir Andrew Freeport, who sat between us; and, as we were both observing him, we saw a knight shake his head, and heard him say to himself, 'A foolish woman! I can't believe it.' Sir Andrew gave him a gentle pat upon the shoulder, and offered to lay him a bottle of wine that was thinking of the widow. My old friend started, and, recovering out of his brown study, told Sir Andrew, that once in his life he had been in the right. In short, after some little hesitation, Sir Roger told us in the fulness of his heart, that he had just received a letter from his steward, which acquainted him that his old rival and antagonist in the country, Sir David Dundrum, had been making visit to the widow. 'However,' says Sir Roger, 'I can never think that she'll have a man that's at least a year older than I am, and a noted republican to the bargain.'

Will Honeycomb, who looks upon love as his particular province, interrupting our friend with a jaunt laugh, 'I thought, knight,' said he, 'that thou dost live long enough in the world, not to pin thy happiness upon one that is a woman, and a widow. I think that, without vanity, I may pretend to know as much of the female world as any man in Great Britain, though the chief of my knowledge consists in this, that they are not to be known.' He immediately, with his usual fluency, rambled on an account of his own amours. 'I am now,' says he, 'upon the verge of fifty' (though by the way he well knew he was turned of threescore). 'You may easily guess,' continued Will, 'that I have not lived so long in the world without having had some thoughts of settling in it, as the phrase is. Tell you truly, I have several times tried my fortune that way, though I cannot much boast of success.'

'I made my first addresses to a young lady in the country; but, when I thought things were pretty well drawing to a conclusion, her father happening to hear that I had formerly boarded with a surgeon, he old put forbid me his house, and within a fortnight after married his daughter to a fox-hunter in the neighbourhood.'

'I made my next application to a widow, and attacked her so briskly, that I thought myself within a fortnight of her. As I waited upon her one morning, she told me, that she intended to keep ready money and jointure in her own hand, and desired me to call upon her attorney in Lion's den, who would adjust with me what it was proper for me to add to it. I was so rebuffed by this certificate, that I never inquired either for her or her attorney afterwards.'

'A few months after, I addressed myself to a young lady who was an only daughter and of a good family. I danced with her at several balls, squeezed her by the hand, said soft things to her, and in

short made no doubt of her heart; and, though my fortune was not equal to her's, I was in hopes that her fond father would not deny her the man she had fixed her affections upon. But as I went one day to the house, in order to break the matter to him, I found the whole family in confusion, and heard, to my unspeakable surprise, that Miss Jenny was that very morning run away with the butler.'

'I then courted a second widow, and am at a loss to this day how I came to miss her, for she had often commended my person and behaviour. Her maid indeed told me one day, that her mistress said she never saw a gentleman with such a spindle pair of legs as Mr. Honeycomb.'

'After this I laid siege to four heiresses successively; and, being a handsome young dog in those days, quickly made a breach in their hearts; but I don't know how it came to pass, though I seldom failed of getting the daughter's consent, I could never in my life get the old people on my side.'

'I could give you an account of a thousand other unsuccessful attempts, particularly of one which I made some years since upon an old woman, whom I had certainly borne away with flying colours, if her relations had not come pouring in to her assistance from all parts of England; nay, I believe, I should have got her at last, had not she been carried off by a hard frost.'

As Will's transitions are extremely quick, he turned from Sir Roger, and, applying himself to me, told me there was a passage in the book I had considered last Saturday, which deserved to be writ in letters of gold; and, taking out a pocket Milton, read the following lines, which are part of one of Adam's speeches to Eve after the fall:

— Oh! why did God,
Creator wise, that peopled highest heav'n
With spirits masculine, create at last
This novelty on earth, this fair defect
Of nature? and not fill the world at once
With men, as angels, without feminine?
Or find some other way to generate
Mankind! This mischief had not then befall'n,
And more that shall befall, innumerable
Disturbances on earth, through female snares,
And straight conjunction with this sex: for either
He never shall find out fit mate; but such
As some misfortune brings him, or mistake;
Or, whom he wishes most, shall seldom gain,
Through her perverseness; but shall see her gain'd
By a far worse: or if she love, withheld
By parents; or his happiest choice too late
Shall meet already link'd, and wedlock-bound
To a fell adversary, his hate or shame:
Which infinite calamity shall cause
To human life, and household peace confound.'

Sir Roger listened to this passage with great attention; and, desiring Mr. Honeycomb to fold down a leaf at the place, and lend him his book, the knight put it up in his pocket, and told us that he would read over those verses again before he went to bed.

BUDGELL.

X.

N° 360. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1712.

*De paupertate tacentes
Plus poeantes ferunt.*

HOR. Epist. xvii. l. 1. ver. 43.

The man that's silent, nor proclaims his want,
Gets more than him that makes a loud complaint:
CREECH.

I HAVE nothing to do with the business of this day, any farther than affixing the piece of Latin on the head of my paper; which I think a motto not un-

suitable, since, if silence of our poverty is a recommendation, still more commendable is his modesty who conceals it by a decent dress *.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

'THERE is an evil under the sun, which has not yet come within your speculation, and is the censure, disesteem, and contempt, which some young fellows meet with from particular persons, for the reasonable methods they take to avoid them in general. This is by appearing in a better dress than may seem to a relation regularly consistent with a small fortune; and therefore may occasion a judgment of a suitable extravagance in other particulars: but the disadvantage with which the man of narrow circumstances acts and speaks, is so feelingly set forth in a little book called *The Christian Hero* †, that the appearing to be otherwise is not only pardonable, but necessary. Every one knows the hurry of conclusions that are made in contempt of a person that appears to be calamitous; which makes it very excusable to prepare oneself for the company of those that are of a superior quality and fortune, by appearing to be in a better condition than one is, so far as such appearance shall not make us really of worse.

'It is a justice due to the character of one who suffers hard reflections from any particular person upon this account, that such persons would inquire into his manner of spending his time; of which, though no further information can be had than that he remains so many hours in his chamber, yet, if this is cleared, to imagine that a reasonable creature, wrong with a narrow fortune, does not make the best use of this retirement, would be a conclusion extremely uncharitable. From what has, or will be said, I hope no consequence can be extorted, implying, that I would have any young fellow spend more time than the common leisure which his studies require, or more money than his fortune or allowance may admit of, in the pursuit of an acquaintance with his betters: for as to his time, the gross of that ought to be sacred to more substantial acquisitions; for each irrevocable moment of which he ought to believe he stands religiously accountable. And as to his dress, I shall engage myself no further than in the modest defence of two plain suits a year: for being perfectly satisfied in *Eutrapelus's* contrivance of making a Mohock of a man, by presenting him with laced and embroidered suits, I would by no means be thought to controvert the conceit, by insinuating the advantages of foppery. It is an assertion which admits of much proof, that a stranger of tolerable sense, dressed like a gentleman, will be better received by those of quality above him, than one of much better parts, whose dress is regulated by the rigid notions of frugality. A man's appearance falls within the censure of every one that sees him; his parts and learning very few are judges of; and even upon these few, they can't at first be well intruded; for policy and good-breeding will counsel him to be reserved among strangers, and to support himself only by the common spirit of conversation. Indeed among the injudicious, the words 'delicacy, idiom, fine images, structure of periods, genius, fire,' and the rest, made use of with a frugal and comely gravity, will maintain the figure of immense reading, and the depth of criticism.

All gentlemen of fortune, at least the young and middle-aged, are apt to pride themselves a little too much upon their dress, and consequently

to value others in some measure upon the same consideration. With what confusion is a man of figure obliged to return the civilities of the hat to a person whose air and attire hardly entitle him to it! for whom nevertheless the other has a particular esteem, though he is ashamed to have it challenged in so public a manner. It must be allowed, that any young fellow that affects to dress and appear genteelly, might, with artificial management, save ten pounds a-year; as, instead of fine holland, he might mourn in sackcloth, and in other particulars be proportionably shabby: but of what service would this sum be to avert any misfortune, whilst it would leave him deserted by the little good acquaintance he has, and prevent his gaining any other? As the appearance of an easy fortune is necessary towards making one, I don't know but it might be of advantage sometimes to throw into one's discourse certain exclamations about *bast stock*, and to show a marvellous surprise upon to fall, as well as the most affected triumph upon to rise. The veneration and respect which the practice of all ages has preserved to appearances, without doubt suggested to our tradesmen that wise and politic custom, to apply and recommend themselves to the public by all those decorations upon their sign-posts and houses, which the most eminent hands in the neighbourhood can furnish them with. What can be more attractive to a man of letters, than that immense erudition of all ages and languages, which a skilful bookseller, in conjunction with a painter, shall image upon his column, and the extremities of his shop? The same spirit of maintaining a handsome appearance reigns among the grave and solid apprentices of the law (here I could be particularly dull in proving the word apprentice to be significant of a barrister); and you may easily distinguish who has most lately made his pretensions to business, by the whitest and most ornamental frame of his window: if indeed the chamber is a ground-room, and has rails before it, the finery is of necessity more extended, and the pomp of business better maintained. And what can be a greater indication of the dignity of dress, than that burdensome finery which is the regular habit of our judges, nobles, and bishops, with which, upon certain days, we see them incumbered? And though it may be said, this is awful, and necessary for the dignity of the state, yet the wisest of them have been remarkable, before they arrived at their present stations, for being very well-dressed persons. As to my own part, I am near thirty; and since I left school have not been idle, which is a modern phrase for having studied hard. I brought off a clean system of moral philosophy, and a tolerable jargon of metaphysics, from the university; since that, I have been engaged in the clearing part of the perplexed style and matter of the law, which so hereditarily descends to all its professors. To all which severe studies I have thrown in, at proper interims, the pretty learning of the classics. Notwithstanding which, I am what *Shakespeare* calls a fellow of no mark or likelihood: which makes me understand the more fully, that since the regular methods of making friends and a fortune by the mere force of a profession is so very slow and uncertain, a man should take all reasonable opportunities, by enlarging a good acquaintance, to court that time and chance which is said to happen to every man.

STEEL.

1.

* See Nos. 264 and 280.

† See N° 356.

Nº 361. THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1712.

*Tartaream intendit vocem, qua protinus omnis
Contremuit domus*——

VIRG. *Æn.* vii. ver. 514.

The blast Tartarean spreads its notes around;
The house astonish'd trembles at the sound.

I have lately received the following letter from a untry gentleman:

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'HE night before I left London, I went to see a play called *The Humorous Lieutenant**. Upon the rising of the curtain I was very much surprised at the great concert of cat-calls which was exhibited that evening, and began to think with myself that I had made a mistake, and gone to a music-acting instead of the playhouse. It appeared indeed a little odd to me, to see so many persons of quality, of both sexes, assembled together at a kind of caterwauling; for I cannot look upon that performance to have been any thing better, whether the musicians themselves might think of it. I had no acquaintance in the house to ask questions of, and was forced to go out of town early next morning, I could not learn the secret of the matter. What I would therefore desire of you, to give me some account of this strange instrument, which I found the company called a cat-call; I particularly to let me know whether it be a piece of music lately come from Italy. For my part, to be free with you, I would rather hear English fiddle: though I durst not show my like whilst I was in the playhouse, it being my duty to sit the very next man to one of the performers. I am, sir,

'Your most affectionate
'friend and servant,
'JOHN SHALLOW, ESQ.'

In compliance with 'Squire Shallow's request, I sign this paper as a dissertation upon the cat-call. In order to make myself a master of the subject, I purchased one the beginning of last week, though not without great difficulty, being offered at two or three toy-shops that the players lately bought them all up. I have since consulted many learned antiquaries in relation to its origin, and find them very much divided among themselves upon that particular. A fellow of the old society, who is my good friend, and a great proficient in the mathematical part of music, concludes, from the simplicity of its make, and the formity of its sound, that the cat-call is older than any of the inventions of Jubal. He observes very well, that musical instruments took their first rise from the notes of birds, and other melodious animals; 'and what,' says he, 'was more natural for the first ages of mankind to imitate the note of a cat that lived under the same roof with them?' He added, that the cat had contributed more to harmony than any other animal; as we not only beholden to her for this wind instrument, but for our string-music in general. Another virtuoso of my acquaintance will not allow the cat-call to be older than Theophrastus, and is to think it appeared in the world soon after ancient comedy; for which reason it has still a place in our dramatic entertainments. Nor must I

here omit what a very curious gentleman, who is lately returned from his travels, has more than once assured me, namely, that there was lately dug up at Rome the statue of a Momus, who holds an instrument in his right hand very much resembling our modern cat-call.

There are others who ascribe this invention to Orpheus, and look upon the cat-call to be one of those instruments which that famous musician made use of to draw the beasts about him. It is certain, that the roaring of a cat does not call together a greater audience of that species, than this instrument, if dexterously played upon in proper time and place.

But, notwithstanding these various and learned conjectures, I cannot forbear thinking, that the cat-call is originally a piece of English music. Its resemblance to the voice of some of our British songsters, as well as the use of it, which is peculiar to our nation, confirms me in this opinion. It has at least received great improvements among us, whether we consider the instrument itself, or those several quavers and graces which are thrown into the playing of it. Every one might be sensible of this, who heard that remarkable overgrown cat-call which was placed in the centre of the pit, and presided over all the rest at the celebrated performance lately exhibited in Drury-lane.

Having said thus much concerning the original of the cat-call, we are in the next place to consider the use of it. The cat-call exerts itself to most advantage in the British theatre. It very much improves the sound of nonsense, and often goes along with the voice of the actor who pronounces it, as the violin or harpsichord accompanies the Italian recitativo.

It has often supplied the place of the ancient chorus, in the words of Mr. ***. In short, a bad poet has as great an antipathy to a cat-call, as many people have to a real cat.

Mr. Collier, in his ingenious essay upon music, has the following passage:

'I believe it is possible to invent an instrument that shall have a quite contrary effect to those martial ones now in use; an instrument that shall sink the spirits, and shake the nerves, and curdle the blood, and inspire despair and cowardice and consternation, at a surprising rate. 'Tis probable the roaring of lions, the warbling of cats and screech-owls, together with a mixture of the howling of dogs, judiciously imitated and compounded, might go a great way in this invention. Whether such anti-music as this might not be of service in a camp, I shall leave to the military men to consider.'

What this learned gentleman supposes in speculation, I have known actually verified in practice. The cat-call has struck a damp into generals, and frightened heroes off the stage. At the first sound of it I have seen a crowned head tremble, and a princess fall into fits. The humorous lieutenant himself could not stand it; nay, I am told that even Almanzor looked like a mouse, and trembled at the voice of this terrifying instrument.

As it is of a dramatic nature, and peculiarly appropriated to the stage, I can by no means approve the thought of that angry lover, who, after an unsuccessful pursuit of some years, took leave of his mistress in a serenade of cat-calls.

I must conclude this paper with the account I have lately received of an ingenious artist, who has long studied this instrument, and is very well versed in all the rules of the drama. He teaches

A tragedy by Beaumont and Fletcher, folio, 1647.
The strings being of cat-gut.

to play on it by book, and to express by it the whole art of criticism. He has his bass and his treble cat-call; the former for tragedy, the latter for comedy; only in tragi-comedies they may both play together in concert. He has a particular squeak, to denote the violation of each of the unities, and has different sounds to show whether he aims at the poet or the player. In short, he teaches the smut-note, the fustian-note, the stupid-note, and has composed a kind of air that may serve as an act-tune to an incorrigible play, and which takes in the whole compass of the cat-call.

ADDISON.

L.

N° 362. FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1712.

Laudibus arguitur vini vinicosus

HOR. Ep. xix. l. 1. ver. 6.

The man, who praises drinking, stands from thence
Convict a sot on his own evidence.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

' Temple, April 24.

'SEVERAL of my friends were this morning got together over a dish of tea in very good health, though we had celebrated yesterday* with more glasses than we could have dispensed with, had we not been beholden to Brooke and Hellier. In gratitude, therefore, to those good citizens, I am, in the name of the company, to accuse you of great negligence in overlooking their merit, who have imported true and generous wine, and taken care that it should not be adulterated by the retailers before it comes to the tables of private families, or the clubs of honest fellows. I cannot imagine how a Spectator can be supposed to do his duty, without frequent resumption of such subjects as concern our health, the first thing to be regarded, if we have a mind to relish any thing else. It would therefore very well become your spectatorial vigilance, to give it in orders to your officer for inspecting signet†, that in his march he would look into the itinerants who deal in provisions, and inquire where they buy their several wares. Ever since the decease of Cully-Mully-Puff‡, of agreeable and noisy memory, I cannot say I have observed any thing sold in carts, or carried by horse or ass, or, in fine, in any moving market, which is not perished or putrified; witness the wheel-barrows of rotten raisins, almonds, figs, and currants, which you see vended by a merchant dressed in a second-hand suit of a foot soldier. You should consider that a child may be poisoned for the worth of a farthing; but except his poor parents send to one certain doctor§ in town, they can have no advice for him under a guinea. When poisons are thus cheap, and medicines thus dear, how can you be negligent in inspecting what we eat and drink, or take no notice of such as the above-mentioned citizens, who have been so serviceable to us of late in that particular? It was a custom among the old Romans, to do him particular honours who had saved the life of a citizen; how much more does the world owe to those who prevent the death of multitudes? As these men deserve well of your office, so such as act to the detriment of our health, you ought to represent to themselves and their fellow-subjects in the colours which they de-

serve to wear. I think it would be for the public good, that all who vend wines should be under oath in that behalf. The chairman at the quarter-sessions should inform the country, that the vintner who mixes wine to his customers, shall (upon proof that the drinker thereof died within a year and a day after taking it) be deemed guilty of wilful murder, and the jury shall be instructed to inquire and present such delinquents accordingly. It is no mitigation of the crime, nor will it be conceived that it can be brought in chance-medley or man-slaughter, upon proof that it shall appear wine joined to wine, or right Herefordshire poured into Port O Port; but his selling it for one thing, knowing it to be another, must justly bear the foreman guilt of wilful murder: for that he, the said vintner, did an unlawful act willingly in the false mixture, and is therefore with equity liable to all the pains to which a man would be, if it were proved he designed only to run a man through the arm, whom he whipped through the lungs. This is my third year at the Temple, and this is, or should be, law. An ill intention well proved should meet with no alleviation, because it outran itself. There cannot be too great severity used against the injustice as well as cruelty of those who play with men's lives, by preparing liquors, whose nature, for aught they know, may be noxious when mixed, though innocent when apart; and Brooke and Hellier, who have insured our safety at our meals, and drives jealousy from our cups in conversation, deserve the custom and thanks of the whole town; and it is your duty to remind them of the obligation.

' I am, sir,

' Your humble servant,

' TOM FOTTL.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a person who was long immersed in a college, read much, saw little; so that I knew no more of the world than what a lecture or view of the map taught me. By this means I improved in my study, but became unpleasant in conversation. By conversing generally with the dead, I grew almost unfit for the society of the living; so by a long confinement I contracted an ungainly aversion to conversation, and ever discoursed with pain to myself, and little entertainment to others. At last I was in some measure made sensible of my failing, and the mortification of never being spoke to, or speaking, unless the discourse ran upon books, put me upon forcing myself amongst men. I immediately affected the politest company, by the frequent use of which I hoped to wear off the rust I had contracted; but, by an uncouth imitation of men used to act in public, I got no further than to discover I had a mind to appear a finer thing than I really was.

'Such I was, and such was my condition, when I became an ardent lover, and passionate admirer, of the beautiful Belinda. Then it was that I really began to improve. This passion changed all my fears and diffidences in my general behaviour, to the sole concern of pleasing her. I had not now to study the action of a gentleman; but love possessing all my thoughts, made me truly be the thing I had a mind to appear. My thoughts grew free and generous; and the ambition to be agreeable to her I admired, produced in my carriage a faint similitude of that disengaged manner of my Belinda. The way we are in at present is, that she sees my passion, and sees I at present forbear speaking of it through prudential regards. The respect to her she returns with much civility, and

* April 23; the Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

† See N° 28.

‡ See N° 251.

§ A physician of that day, who advertised his readiness to attend patients at determinate distances all over London, &c. for the small fee of a shilling, &c. to half-a-crown a time each visit.

as my value for her as little a misfortune to us is consistent with discretion. She sings very mingly, and is readier to do so at my request, use she knows I love her. She will dance me rather than another for the same reason. Fortune must alter from what it is, before I peak my heart to her; and her circumstances are of considerable enough to make up for the oneness of mine. But I write to you now, only re you the character of Belinda, as a woman has address enough to demonstrate a gratitude r lover, without giving him hopes of success passion. Belinda has from a great wit, ned by as great prudence, and both adorned innocence, the happiness of always being to discover her real thoughts. She has many, who are now her admirers; but her treat- of us is so just and proportioned to our merit ds her, and what we are in ourselves, that I st to you, I have neither jealousy nor hatred ds my rivals. Such is her goodness, and the wldgment of every man who admires her, he thinks he ought to believe she will take who best deserves her. I will not say that this among us is not owing to self-love, which pts each to think himself the best deserver. ik there is something uncommon and worthy itation in this lady's character. If you will e to print my letter, you will oblige the little nity of happy rivals, and in a more particu- anner,

‘ SIR,
‘ Your most humble servant,
‘ WILL CYNON.’

E.L.E.

T.

‘ 363. SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1712.

— *Crudelis ubique
actus, ubique pavor, et plurima mortis imago.*
VIRG. *Æn.* ii. ver. 368.

I parts resound with tumults, plaints, and fears,
And grisly death in sundry shapes appears.

DRYDEN.

or has shown a wonderful art in describing ariety of passions, which arise in our first pa- upon the breach of the commandment that en given them. We see them gradually g from the triumph of their guilt, through e, shame, despair, contrition, prayer and to a perfect and complete repentance. At id of the tenth book they are represented as ating themselves upon the ground, and wa- the earth with their tears: to which the poet his beautiful circumstance, that they offered air penitential prayers, on the very place : their Judge appeared to them when he pro- ed their sentence :

‘ ——— They forthwith to the place
pairing where he judg’d them, prostrate fell
fore him rev’reut, and both confess’d
mbly their faults, and pardon begg’d, with tears
stering the ground——’

re is a beauty of the same kind in a tragedy phocles, where Oedipus, after having put out n eyes, instead of breaking his neck from three battlements (which furnishes so elegant tertainment for our English audience) desires e may be conducted to mount Cithæron, in to end his life in that very place where he xposed in his infancy, and where he should

then have died, had the will of his parents been executed.

As the author never fails to give a poetical turn to his sentiments, he describes in the beginning of this book the acceptance which these their prayers met with, in a short allegory, formed upon that beautiful passage in holy writ *, ‘ And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar, which was before the throne: and the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God.’

‘ ——— To heaven their prayers
Flew up, nor miss’d the way, by envious winds
Blown vagabond or frustrate: In they pass’d
Dimensionless through heav’nly doors, then clad
With incense, where the golden altar fum’d,
By their great Intercessor, came in sight
Before the Father’s throne——’

We have the same thought exprest a second time in the intercession of the Messiah, which is conceived in very emphatical sentiments and expressions.

Among the poetical parts of scripture, which Milton has so finely wrought into this part of his narration, I must not omit that wherein Ezekiel, speaking of the angels who appeared to him in a vision, adds, that every one had four faces, and that their whole bodies, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, were full of eyes round about:

‘ ——— The cohort bright
Of watchful cherubim, four faces each
Had, like a double Janus, all their shape
Spangled with eyes——’

The assembling of all the angels of heaven to hear the solemn decree passed upon man, is represented in very lively ideas. The Almighty is here described as remembering mercy in the midst of judgment, and commanding Michael to deliver his message in the mildest terms, lest the spirit of man, which was already broken with the sense of his guilt and misery, should fail before him:

‘ ——— Yet lest they faint
At the sad sentence rigorously urg’d,
For I behold them soft’ned, and with tears
Bewailing their excess, all terror hide.

The conference of Adam and Eve is full of moving sentiments. Upon their going abroad, after the melancholy night which they had passed together, they discover the lion and the eagle, pursuing each of them their prey towards the eastern gates of Paradise. There is a double beauty in this incident, not only as it presents great and just omens, which are always agreeable in poetry, but as it expresses that enmity which was now produced in the animal creation. The poet, to show the like changes in nature, as well as to grace his fable with a noble prodigy, represents the sun in an eclipse. This particular incident has likewise a fine effect upon the imagination of the reader, in regard to what follows; for at the same time that the sun is under an eclipse, a bright cloud descends in the western quarter of the heavens, filled with an host of angels, and more luminous than the sun itself. The whole theatre of nature is darkened, that this glorious machine may appear with all its lustre and magnificence:

• Revelation viii. 3, 4

' ——— Why in the east
Darkness ere day's mid-course? and morning light
More orient in that western cloud that draws
O'er the blue firmament a radiant white,
And slow descends with something heav'nly fraught?
He err'd not, for by this the heav'nly bands
Down from a sky of jasper lighted now
In Paradise, and on a hill made halt:
A glorious apparition —'

I need not observe how properly this author, who always suits his parts to the actors whom he introduces, has employed Michael in the expulsion of our first parents from Paradise. The archangel on this occasion neither appears in his proper shape, nor in that familiar manner with which Raphael the sociable spirit entertained the father of mankind before the fall. His person, his port, and behaviour, are suitable to a spirit of the highest rank, and exquisitely described in the following passage:

' ——— Th' archangel soon drew nigh,
Not in his shape celestial: but as man
Clad to meet man: over his lucid arms
A military vest of purple flow'd,
Liveller than Meliboean, or the grain
Of Sarra, worn by kings and heroes old,
In time of truce: Iris had dipt the woof:
His starry helm, unbuckled, show'd him prime
In manhood where youth ended; by his side,
As in a glist'ring zodiac hung the sword,
Satan's dire dread, and in his hand the spear.
Adam bow'd low; he kingly from his state
Inclin'd not, but his coming thus declar'd.'

Eve's complaint, upon hearing that she was to be removed from the garden of Paradise, is wonderfully beautiful. The sentiments are not only proper to the subject, but have something in them particularly soft and womanish:

' Must I then leave thee, Paradise? Thus leave
Thee, native soil, these happy walks and shades,
Fit haunt of gods? where I had hope to spend
Quiet, though sad, the respite of that day
That must be mortal to us both. O flow'rs,
That never will in other climate grow,
My early visitation, and my last
At ev'n, which I bred up with tender hand
From the first opening bud, and gave you names;
Who now shall rear you to the sun, or rank
Your tribes, and water from the ambrosial fount?
Thee, lastly, nuptial bower, by me adorn'd
With what to sight or smell was sweet: from thee
How shall I part, and whither wander down
Into a lower world, to this, obscure
And wild? how shall we breathe in other air
Less pure, accustom'd to immortal fruits?'

Adam's speech abounds with thoughts which are equally moving, but of a more masculine and elevated turn. Nothing can be conceived more sublime and poetical than the following passage in it:

' This most afflicts me, that departing hence
As from his face I shall be bid, depriv'd
His blessed countenance; here I could frequent,
With worship place by place where he vouchsaf'd
Presence divine, and to my sons relate,
On this mount he appear'd, under this tree
Stood visible, among these pines his voice
I heard; here with him at this fountain talk'd;
So many grateful altars I would rear
Of grassy turf, and pile up every stone
Of lustre from the brook, in memory
Or monument to ages, and thereon
Offer sweet-smelling gums and fruits and flow'rs.
In yonder nether world, where shall I seek
His bright appearance, or footsteps trace?
For though I had him angry, yet recall'd
To life prolong'd and promis'd race, I now
Gladly behold him but his utmost skirts
Of glory, and far off his steps adore.'

The angel afterwards leads Adam to the highest mount of Paradise, and lays before him a whole hemisphere, as a proper stage for those visions

which were to be represented on it. I have been observed how the plan of Milton's poem is many particulars greater than that of the *Iliad* or *Æneid*. Virgil's hero, in the last of these poems is entertained with a sight of all those who are to descend from him; but though that episode is justly admired as one of the noblest designs in the whole *Æneid*, every one must allow that this of Milton is of a much higher nature. Adam's vision is confined to any particular tribe of mankind, but extends to the whole species.

In this great review which Adam takes of all his sons and daughters, the first objects he is presented with, exhibit to him the story of Cain and Abel, which is drawn together with much clearness and propriety of expression. That curiosity and natural horror which arises in Adam at the sight of the first dying man, is touched with great beauty

' But have I now seen death? Is this the way
I must return to native dust? O sight
Of terror foul, and ugly to behold,
Horrid to think, how horrible to feel!'

The second vision sets before him the image of death, in a great variety of appearance. The angel, to give him a general idea of those diseases which his guilt had brought upon his posterity, places before him a large hospital, or lazaretto, filled with persons lying under all kinds of mortal diseases. How finely has the poet told us that sick persons languished under lingering and curable distempers, by an apt and judicious use of such imaginary beings as those I mentioned in last Saturday's paper *!

' Dire was the tossing, deep the groans; Despair
Tended the sick, busy from couch to couch;
And over them triumphant Death his dart
Shook, but delay'd to strike, tho' oft invoked
With vows, as their chief good and final hope.'

The passion which likewise rises in Adam on this occasion, is very natural.

' Sight so deform what heart of rock could long
Dry-ry'd behold? Adam could not, but wept.
Tho' not of woman born; companion quell'd
His best of man, and gave him up to tears.'

The discourse between the angel and Adam which follows, abounds with noble morals.

As there is nothing more delightful in poetry than a contrast and opposition of incidents, the author, after this melancholy prospect of death and sickness, raises up a scene of mirth, love, and jollity. The secret pleasure that steals into Adam's heart, as he is intent upon this vision, is mixed with great delicacy. I must not omit the description of the loose female troop, who seduced the sons of God, as they are called in scripture.

' For that fair female troop thou saw'st, that seem'd
Of goddesses, so blythe, so smooth, so gay,
Yet empty of all good, wherein consists
Woman's domestic honour, and chief praise;
Bred only and completed to the taste
Of lustful appetite, to sing, to dance,
To dress, and trouble the tongue, and roll the eye:
To these that sober race of men, whose lives
Religious titled them the sons of God,
Shall yield up all their virtue, all their fame,
Ignobly, to the trains and to the smiles
Of those fair atheists —'

The next vision is of a quite contrary scene, and filled with the horrors of war. Adam at the sight of it melts into tears, and breaks out into a passionate speech,

'——— O what are these !
 ath's ministers, not men, who thus deal death
 humanly to men, and multiply
 n thousandfold the sin of him who slew
 y brother: for of whom such massacre
 le they, but of their brethren, men of men !'

ton, to keep up an agreeable variety in his
 , after having raised in the mind of his
 the several ideas of terror which are con-
 ble to the description of war, passes on to
 offer images of triumphs and festivals, in that
 of lewdness and luxury which ushers in the

it is visible that the poet had his eye upon
 account of the universal deluge, the reader
 observe with how much judgment he has
 d every thing that is redundant or puerile
 Latin poet. We do not here see the wolf
 ing among the sheep, nor any of those wan-
 aginations, which Seneca found fault with,
 coming the great catastrophe of nature. If
 oet has imitated that verse in which Ovid
 s that there was nothing but sea, and that this
 d no shore to it, he has not set the thought in
 light as to incur the censure which critics
 based upon it. The latter part of that verse
 d is idle and superfluous, but just and beau-
 Milton.

*Unque mare et tellus nullum discrimen habebant,
 l'nis pontus erat, decrant quoque littora ponto.*
 OVID. Met. l. ver. 291.

ow seas and earth were in confusion lost;
 rold of waters, and without a coast.'
 DRYDEN.

'——— Sea cover'd sea,
 without shore———'
 MILTON.

Milton the former part of the description does
 restal the latter. How much more great and
 on this occasion is that which follows in
 nglish poet,

'——— And in their palaces,
 ere luxury late reign'd, sea-monsters whelp'd
 d stab'd———'

bat in Ovid, where we are told that the sea-
 y in those places where the goats were used
 use ! The reader may find several other pa-
 passages in the Latin and English description
 deluge, wherein our poet has visibly the ad-
 ge. The sky's being overcharged with clouds,
 scending of the rains, the rising of the seas,
 e appearance of the rainhow, are such de-
 ons as every one must take notice of. The
 stance relating to Paradise is so finely ima-
 , and suitable to the opinions of many learned
 s, that I cannot forbear giving it a place in
 aper.

'——— Then shall this mount
 Paradise by might of waves be mov'd
 tof his place, pushed by the horned flood;
 n all his verdure spoil'd, and trees adrift,
 wa the great river to th' op'ning gulf,
 d there take root; an island salt and bare,
 e haunt of seals and orcs and sea-mews clang.'

transition which the poet makes from the
 of the deluge, to the concern it occasioned
 am, is exquisitely graceful, and copied after
 , though the first thought it introduces is ra-
 n the spirit of Ovid :

low didst thou grieve then, Adam, to behold
 cent of all thy offspring, and so sad,
 pulation ! Thee another flood,
 tears and sorrow, a flood thee also drown'd,

And sunk thee as thy sons; till gently rear'd
 By th' angel, on thy feet thou stood'st at last,
 Tho' comfortless, as when a father mourns
 His children all in view destroy'd at once.'

I have been the more particular in my quota-
 tions out of the eleventh book of *Paradise Lost*,
 because it is not generally reckoned among the
 most shining books of this poem ; for which reason
 the reader might be apt to overlook those many
 passages in it which deserve our admiration. The
 eleventh and twelfth are indeed built upon that
 single circumstance of the removal of our first pa-
 rents from Paradise ; but though this is not in it-
 self so great a subject as that in most of the fore-
 going books, it is extended and diversified with so
 many surprising incidents and pleasing episodes,
 that these two last books can by no means be looked
 upon as unequal parts of this divine poem. I must
 further add, that, had not Milton represented our
 first parents as driven out of Paradise, his fall of
 man would not have been complete, and conse-
 quently his action would have been imperfect.

ADDISON.

L.

N° 364. MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1712.

——— *Narcibus atque
 Quadrigis patimus bene vivere.*
 HOR. Ep. xi. l. l. ver. 28.

We ride and sail in quest of happiness.
 CREECH.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'A LADY of my acquaintance, for whom I have
 too much respect to be easy while she is doing an
 indiscreet action, has given occasion to this trou-
 ble. She is a widow, to whom the indulgence of
 a tender husband has entrusted the management of
 a very great fortune, and a son about sixteen, both
 which she is extremely fond of. The boy has parts
 of the middle size, neither shining nor despicable,
 and has passed the common exercises of his years
 with tolerable advantage, but is withal what you
 would call a forward youth: by the help of this
 last qualification, which serves as a varnish to all
 the rest, he is enabled to make the best use of his
 learning, and display it at full length upon all
 occasions. Last summer he distinguished himself
 two or three times very remarkably, by puzzling
 the vicar before an assembly of most of the ladies
 in the neighbourhood; and from such weighty con-
 siderations as these, as it too often unfortunately
 falls out, the mother is become invincibly per-
 suaded that her son is a great scholar; and that to
 chain him down to the ordinary methods of edu-
 cation, with others of his age, would be to cramp
 his faculties, and do an irreparable injury to his
 wonderful capacity.

'I happened to visit at the house last week, and
 missing the young gentleman at the tea-table, where
 he seldom fails to officiate, could not upon so ex-
 traordinary a circumstance avoid inquiring after
 him. My lady told me he was gone out with her
 woman, in order to make some preparations for
 their equipage; for that she intended very speedily
 to carry him to 'travel.' The oddness of the ex-
 pression shocked me a little; however, I soon re-
 covered myself enough to let her know, that all
 I was willing to understand by it was, that she de-
 signed this summer to show her son his estate in a
 distant county, in which he had never yet been.
 But she soon took care to rob me of that agree-

able mistake, and let me into the whole affair. She enlarged upon young master's prodigious improvements, and his comprehensive knowledge of all book-learning; concluding, that it was now high time he should be made acquainted with men and things; that she had resolved he should make the tour of France and Italy, but could not bear to have him out of her sight, and therefore intended to go along with him.

'I was going to rally her for so extravagant a resolution, but found myself not in a fit humour to meddle with a subject that demanded the most soft and delicate touch imaginable. I was afraid of dropping something that might seem to bear hard either upon the son's abilities, or the mother's discretion; being sensible that in both these cases, though supported with all the powers of reason, I should, instead of gaining her ladyship over to my opinion, only expose myself to her disesteem: I therefore immediately determined to refer the whole matter to the Spectator.

'When I came to reflect at night, as my custom is, upon the occurrences of the day, I could not but believe that this humour of carrying a boy to travel in his mother's lap, and that upon pretence of learning men and things, is a case of an extraordinary nature, and carries on it a particular stamp of folly. I did not remember to have met with its parallel within the compass of my observation, though I could call to mind some not extremely unlike it. From hence my thoughts took occasion to ramble into the general notion of travelling, as it is now made a part of education. Nothing is more frequent than to take a lad from grammar and law, and, under the tuition of some poor scholar, who is willing to be banished for thirty pounds a year and a little victuals, send him crying and anivelling into foreign countries. Thus he spends his time as children do at puppet-shows, and with much the same advantage in staring and gaping at an amazing variety of strange things; strange indeed to one who is not prepared to comprehend the reasons and meaning of them; whilst he should be laying the solid foundations of knowledge in his mind, and furnishing it with just rules to direct his future progress in life under some skilful master of the art of instruction.

'Can there be a more astonishing thought in nature, than to consider how men should fall into so palpable a mistake? It is a large field, and may very well exercise a sprightly genius; but I do not remember you have yet taken a turn in it. I wish, sir, you would make people understand, that "travel" is really the last step to be taken in the institution of youth; and to set out with it, is to begin where they should end.

'Certainly the true end of visiting foreign parts, is to look into their customs and policies, and observe in what particulars they excel or come short of our own; to unlearn some odd peculiarities in our manners, and wear off such awkward stiffnesses and affectations in our behaviour, as possibly may have been contracted from constantly associating with one nation of men, by a more free, general, and mixed conversation. But how can any of these advantages be attained by one who is a mere stranger to the customs and policies of his native country, and has not yet fixed in his mind the first principles of manners and behaviour? To endeavour it, is to build a gaudy structure without any foundations; or, if I may be allowed the expression, to work a rich embroidery upon a cobweb.

'Another end of travelling, which deserves to be considered, is the improving our taste of the

best authors of antiquity, by seeing the places where they lived, and of which they wrote; to compare the natural face of the country with the descriptions they have given us, and observe how well the picture agrees with the original. This must certainly be a most charming exercise to the mind that is rightly turned for it; besides that it may in a good measure be made subservient to morality, if the person is capable of drawing conclusions concerning the uncertainty of human things, from the ruinous alterations time and barbarity have brought upon so many palaces, cities, and whole countries, which make the most glorious figures in history. And this hint may be not a little improved by examining every little spot of ground that we find celebrated as the scene of some famous action, or retaining any footstep of a Cato, Cicero, or Brutus, or some such great virtuous man. A nearer view of any such particular, though really little and trifling in itself, may serve the more powerfully to warm a generous mind to an emulation of their virtues and a greater ardency of ambition to imitate their bright examples, if it comes duly tempered and prepared for the impression. But this I believe you will hardly think those to be, who are so far from entering into the sense and spirit of the action that they do not yet understand their language with any exactness.

'But I have wandered from my purpose, and was only to desire you to save, if possible, a fond English mother, and mother's own son, from being shown a ridiculous spectacle through the most polite parts of Europe. Pray tell them, that though they be sea-sick, or jumbled in an outlandish stage coach, may perhaps be healthful for the constitution of the body, yet it is apt to cause such a dizziness in young empty heads, as too often lasts their lifetime.

[Mr. PHILIP YORKE,—
afterwards Earl of
Hardwicke.]

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant.
'PHILIP MONESIEU.

'SIR,
Bucha L—
'I was married on Sunday last, and went peacefully to bed; but, to my surprise, was awakened the next morning by the thunder of a set of drums. These warlike sounds (methinks) are very improper in a marriage-concert, and give great offence; they seem to insinuate, that the joys of this state are short, and that jars and discord soon ensue. I find they have been ominous to many matches, and sometimes proved a prelude to a battle in the honeymoon. A nod from you may hush them; therefore, pray sir, let them be silenced, that for the future none but soft airs may usher in the morn-

* The following paragraph is here reprinted from the 1st edition of this paper in folio. Whether written originally by the Earl of Hardwicke, or inserted afterwards by Sir R. Steele, it was probably suppressed on the first republication at the request of Addison, to whom it is so very flatteringly complimentary:—'I cannot quit this head without paying acknowledgments to one of the most entertaining persons whose age has produced, for the pleasure it gave me. You will easily guess, that the book I have in my hand is Mr. Addison's Remarks upon Italy. That ingenious gentleman has with much art and judgment applied his exact knowledge of the parts of classical learning, to illustrate the adventures of his travels, that his work alone is a progress of what I have said. Nobody that has a taste for it, can read him going from Rome to Naples, and making known to Silius Italicus his chart, but he must feel some uneasiness in himself to reflect that he was not in his return; I am sure I wished it ten times in every page, and without a secret vanity to think, in what state I should have travelled the Appian road, with Horace for a guide, and in company with a countryman of my own, who, of all men living, knows best how to follow his steps.'

of a bridal night; which will be a favour not only to those who come after, but to me, who can still subscribe myself,

'Your most humble
'and most obedient servant,
'ROBIN BRIDEGROOM.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM one of that sort of women whom the gayer part of our sex are apt to call a prude. But to show them that I have very little regard to their raillery, I shall be glad to see them all at The Amorous Widow, or, The Wanton Wife, which is to be acted for the benefit of Mrs. Porter, on Monday the 28th instant. I assure you, I can laugh at an amorous widow, or wanton wife, with as little temptation to imitate them, as I could at any other vicious character. Mrs. Porter * obliged me so very much in the exquisite sense she seemed to have of the honourable sentiments and noble passions in the character of Hermione, that I shall appear in her behalf at a comedy, though I have no great relish for any entertainments where the mirth is not seasoned with a certain severity, which ought to recommend it to people who pretend to keep reason and authority over all their actions.

'I am, SIR,
'Your frequent reader,
'ALTAMIRA.'

STEEL.

T.

N° 365. TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1712.

Vere magis, quia vere calor reddit ossibus —
VIRG. Georg. lib. iii. ver. 272.

But most in spring; the kindly spring inspires
Revin'g heat, and kindles genial fires.

THE author of the Menagiana acquaints us, that, discoursing one day with several ladies of quality about the effects of the month of May, which infuses a kindly warmth into the earth, and all its inhabitants; the Marchioness of S——, who was one of the company, told him, that though she would promise to be chaste in every month besides, she could not engage for herself in May. As the beginning therefore of this month is now very near, I design this paper for a caveat to the fair sex, and publish it before April is quite out, that if any of them should be caught tripping, they may not pretend they had not timely notice.

I am induced to this, being persuaded the above-mentioned observation is as well calculated for our climate as for that of France, and that some of our British ladies are of the same constitution with the French marchioness.

I shall leave it among physicians to determine what may be the cause of such an anniversary inclination; whether or no it is that the spirits, after having been as it were frozen and congealed by winter, are now turned loose, and set a-rambling; or that the gay prospects of fields and meadows, with the courtship of the birds in every bush, naturally unbend the mind, and soften it to pleasure; or that, as some have imagined, a woman is prompted by a kind of instinct to throw herself on a bed of flowers, and not to let those beautiful couches which nature has provided lie useless. However it be, the effects of this month on the

lower part of the sex, who act without disguise, are very visible. It is at this time that we see the young wenches in a country parish dancing round a May-pole, which one of our learned antiquaries supposes to be a relic of a certain pagan worship that I do not think fit to mention.

It is likewise on the first day of this month that we see the ruddy milk-maid exerting herself in a most sprightly manner under a pyramid of silver tankards, and, like the virgin Tarpeia *, oppressed by the costly ornaments which her benefactors lay upon her.

I need not mention the ceremony of the green gown, which is also peculiar to this gay season.

The same periodical love-fit spreads through the whole sex, as Mr. Dryden well observes in his description of this merry month.

'For thee, sweet month, the groves green liv'ries wear,
If not the first, the fairest of the year;
For thee the Graces lead the dancing Hours,
And Nature's ready pencil paints the flowers.
The sprightly May commands our youth to keep
The vigils of her night, and breaks their sleep;
Each gentle breast with kindly warmth she moves,
Inspires new flames, revives extinguish'd loves.'

Accordingly, among the works of the great masters in painting, who have drawn this genial season of the year, we often observe Cupids confused with Zephyrs flying up and down promiscuously in several parts of the picture. I cannot but add from my own experience, that about this time of the year love-letters come up to me in great numbers from all quarters of the nation.

I received an epistle in particular by the last post from a Yorkshire gentleman, who makes heavy complaints of one Zelinda, whom it seems he has courted unsuccessfully these three years past. He tells me that he designs to try her this May; and if he does not carry his point, he will never think of her more.

Having thus fairly admonished the female sex, and laid before them the dangers they are exposed to in this critical month, I shall in the next place lay down some rules and directions for their better avoiding those calenitures, which are so very frequent in this season.

In the first place, I would advise them never to venture abroad in the fields, but in the company of a parent, a guardian, or some other sober discreet person. I have before shown how apt they are to trip in a flowery meadow, and shall further observe to them, that Proserpine was out a maying when she met with that fatal adventure to which Milton alludes when he mentions,

'———That fair field
Of Enna, where Proserpine gath'ring flowers,
Herself a fairer flower, by gloomy Dis
Was gather'd——'

Since I am going into quotations, I shall conclude this head with Virgil's advice to young people, while they are gathering wild strawberries and nosegays, that they should have a care of the snake in the grass.

In the second place, I cannot but approve those prescriptions which our astrological physicians give

* See Plutarch's Life of Romulus. She was daughter of Tarpeius, governor of the capitol, which she betrayed to Tatius, general of the Sabines, on condition that they should give her what they wore on their left hands, meaning their golden bracelets; which they did; but Tatius, as he entered the gates, to punish her perfidy, threw, not only his bracelet, but his shield also, upon Tarpeia: his followers imitated his example; and Tarpeia was crushed under the weight of the bracelets and shields of the Sabines. The place of her burial has been since called the Tarpeian Rock.

* Of this admirable actress some anecdotes will be found in Davies's Dramatic Miscellanies, vol. iii. p. 494, &c. edit. 1706.

In their almanacks for this month; such as are 'a spare and simple diet, with the moderate use of phlebotomy.'

Under this head of abstinence, I shall also advise my fair readers to be in a particular manner, careful how they meddle with romances, chocolate, novels, and the like inflamers, which I look upon as very dangerous to be made use of during this great carnival of nature.

As I have often declared, that I have nothing more at heart than the honour of my dear countrywomen, I would beg them to consider, whenever their resolutions begin to fail them, that there are but one-and-thirty days of this soft season, and that if they can but weather out this one month, the rest of the year will be easy to them. As for that part of the fair sex who stay in town, I would advise them to be particularly cautious how they give themselves up to their most innocent entertainments. If they cannot forbear the playhouse, I would recommend tragedy to them rather than comedy; and should think the puppet-show much safer for them than the opera, all the while the sun is in Gemini.

The reader will observe, that this paper is written for the use of those ladies who think it worth while to war against nature in the cause of honour. As for that abandoned crew who do not think virtue worth contending for, but give up their reputation at the first summons, such warnings and premonitions are thrown away upon them. A prostitute is the same easy creature in all months of the year, and makes no difference between May and December.

BUDGELL*.

X.

N^o 366. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1712.

*Pone me pigris ubi nulla campis
Arbor ætica recreatur aura;
Dulce ridentem Lalagen amabo,
Dulce loquentem.*

HOR. Od. xxi. l. 1. ver 17

Set me where on some pathless plain
The swarthy Africans complain,
To see the chariot of the sun
So near the scorching country run:
The burning zone, the frozen isles,
Shall hear me sing of Celia's smiles;
All cold, but in her breast, I will despise,
And dare all heat, but that of Celia's eyes.

RUSCOMMON.

THERE are such wild inconsistencies in the thoughts of a man in love, that I have often reflected there can be no reason for allowing him more liberty than others possessed with phrenzy, but that his distemper has no malevolence in it to any mortal. That devotion to his mistress kindles in his mind a general tenderness, which exerts itself towards every object as well as his fair one. When this passion is represented by writers, it is common with them to endeavour at certain quaintnesses and turns of imagination, which are apparently the work of a mind at ease; but the men of true taste can easily distinguish the exertion of a mind which overflows with tender sentiments, and the labour of one which is only describing distress. In performances of this kind, the most absurd of all things is to be witty; every sentiment must grow out of the occasion, and be suitable to the circumstances of the character. Where this rule is transgressed, the humble servant, in all the fine things he says,

is but showing his mistress how well he can dream, instead of saying how well he loves. Lace and drapery is as much a man, as wit and turn is passion.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

The following verses are a translation of a Lapland love-song, which I met with in Scheffer's history of that country. I was agreeably surprised to find a spirit of tenderness and poetry in a region which I never suspected for delicacy. In hotter climates, though altogether uncivilized, I had not wondered if I had found some sweet wild notes among the natives, where they live in groves of oranges, and hear the melody of birds about them. But a Lapland lyric, breathing sentiments of love and poetry, not unworthy old Greece or Rome; a regular ode from a climate pinched with frost, and cursed with darkness so great a part of the year; where it is amazing that the poor natives should get food, or be tempted to propagate their species: this, I confess, seemed a greater miracle to me, than the famous stories of their drums, their winds, and enchantments.

I am the bolder in commending this northern song, because I have faithfully kept to the sentiments, without adding or diminishing; and pretend to no greater praise from my translation, than they who smooth and clean the furs of that country which have suffered by carriage. The numbers in the original are as loose and unequal as those in which the British ladies sport their Pindarics; and perhaps the fairest of them might not think it a disagreeable present from a lover. But I have ventured to bind it in stricter measures, as being more proper for our tongue, though perhaps wilder graces may better suit the genius of the Laponian language.

It will be necessary to imagine, that the author of this song*, not having the liberty of visiting his mistress at her father's house, was in hopes of spying her at a distance in the fields.

"Thou rising sun, whose gladsome ray
Invites my fair to rural play,
Dispel the mist, and clear the skies,
And bring my Orra to my eyes.

Oh! were I sure my dear to view,
I'd climb that pine-tree's topmost bough,
Aloft in air that quiv'ring plays,
And round and round for ever gaze.

My Orra Moor, where art thou laid?
What wood conceals my sleeping maid?
Fast by the roots enrag'd I'd tear
The trees that hide my promis'd fair.

Oh! could I ride the clouds and skies,
Or on the raven's pinions rise:
Ye storks, ye swans, a moment stay,
And waft a lover on his way.

My bliss too long my bride denies,
Apace the wasting summer flies:
Nor yet the wintry blasts I fear,
Nor storms or night shall keep me here.

What may for strength with steel compare?
Oh! love has fetters stronger far:
By bolts of steel are limbs confin'd,
But cruel love enchains the mind.

No longer then perplex thy breast;
When thoughts torment, the first are best:
'Tis mad to go, 'tis death to stay;
Away to Orra, haste away."

* MR. SPECTATOR,

April the 10th.

I AM one of those despicable creatures called a chambermaid, and have lived with a mistress for

* See N^o 395.

* This song is ascribed to Ambrose Philips.

some time, whom I love as my life, which has made my duty and pleasure inseparable. My greatest delight has been in being employed about her person; and indeed she is very seldom out of humour, for a woman of her quality. But here lies my complaint, sir. To bear with me is all the encouragement she is pleased to bestow upon me; for she gives her cast-off clothes from me to others; some she is pleased to bestow in the house to those that neither want nor wear them, and some to hangers-on, that frequent the house daily, who come dressed out in them. This, sir, is a very mortifying sight to me, who am a little necessitous for clothes, and love to appear what I am; and causes an uneasiness, so that I cannot serve with that cheerfulness as formerly; which my mistress takes notice of, and calls envy and ill-temper at seeing others preferred before me. My mistress has a younger sister lives in the house with her, that is some thousands below her in estate, who is continually heaping her favours on her maid; so that she can appear every Sunday, for the first quarter, in a fresh suit of clothes of her mistress's giving, with all other things suitable. All this I see without envying, but not without wishing my mistress would a little consider what a discouragement it is to me to have my perquisites divided between fawners and jobbers, which others enjoy entire to themselves. I have spoken to my mistress, but to little purpose; I have desired to be discharged (for indeed I fret myself to nothing), but that she answers with silence. I beg, sir, your direction what to do, for I am fully resolved to follow your counsel; who am

'Your admirer,
'and humble servant,
'CONSTANTIA COMB-BRUSH.'

'I beg that you will put it in a better dress, and let it come abroad, that my mistress, who is an admirer of your speculations, may see it.'

STEEL.

T.

N° 367. THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1712.

— *Peritura parcite chartæ.*

JUV. Sat. l. ver. 18.

In mercy spare us, when we do our best
To make as much waste-paper as the rest.

I HAVE often pleased myself with considering the two kinds of benefits which accrue to the public from these my speculations, and which, were I to speak after the manner of logicians, I would distinguish into the material and the formal. By the latter I understand those advantages which my readers receive, as their minds are either improved or delighted by these my daily labours; but having already several times descanted on my endeavours in this light, I shall at present wholly confine myself to the consideration of the former. By the word material, I mean those benefits which arise to the public from these my speculations, as they consume a considerable quantity of our paper-manufacture, employ our artisans in printing, and find business for great numbers of indigent persons.

Our paper-manufacture takes into it several mean materials which could be put to no other use, and affords work for several hands in the collecting of them, which are incapable of any other employment. Those poor retailers, whom we see so busy in every street, deliver in their respective

gleanings to the merchant. The merchant carries them in loads to the paper-mill, where they pass through a fresh set of hands, and give life to another trade. Those who have mills on their estates, by this means considerably raise their rents, and the whole nation is in a great measure supplied with a manufacture, for which formerly she was obliged to her neighbours.

The materials are no sooner wrought into paper, but they are distributed among the presses, where they again set innumerable artists at work, and furnish business to another mystery. From hence, accordingly as they are stained with news and politics, they fly through the town in Postmen, Post-boys, Daily Courants, Reviews, Medleys, and Examiners. Men, women, and children, contend who shall be the first bearers of them, and get their daily sustenance by spreading them. In short, when I trace in my mind a bundle of rags to a quire of Spectators, I find so many hands employed in every step they take through their whole progress, that while I am writing a Spectator, I fancy myself providing bread for a multitude.

If I do not take care to obviate some of my witty readers, they will be apt to tell me, that my paper, after it is thus printed and published, is still beneficial to the public on several occasions. I must confess I have lighted my pipe with my own works for this twelvemonth past. My landlady often sends up her little daughter to desire some of my old Spectators, and has frequently told me, that the paper they are printed on is the best in the world to wrap spice in. They likewise make a good foundation for a mutton-pye, as I have more than once experienced, and were very much sought for last Christmas by the whole neighbourhood.

It is pleasant enough to consider the changes that a linen fragment undergoes, by passing through the several hands above mentioned. The finest pieces of holland, when worn to tatters, assume a new whiteness more beautiful than their first, and often return in the shape of letters to their native country. A lady's shift may be metamorphosed into billets-doux, and come into her possession a second time. A beau may peruse his cravat after it is worn out, with greater pleasure and advantage than ever he did in a glass. In a word, a piece of cloth, after having officiated for some years as a towel or a napkin, may by this means be raised from a dunghill, and become the most valuable piece of furniture in a prince's cabinet.

The politest nations of Europe have endeavoured to vie with one another for the reputation of the finest printing. Absolute governments as well as republics have encouraged an art which seems to be the noblest and most beneficial that ever was invented among the sons of men. The present king of France, in his pursuits after glory, has particularly distinguished himself by the promoting of this useful art, inasmuch that several books have been printed in the Louvre at his own expence, upon which he sets so great a value, that he considers them as the noblest presents he can make to foreign princes and ambassadors. If we look into the commonwealths of Holland and Venice, we shall find that in this particular they have made themselves the envy of the greatest monarchies. Elzevir and Aldus are more frequently mentioned than any pensioner of the one, or doge of the other.

The several presses which are now in England, and the great encouragement which has been given to learning for some years last past, has made our

own nation as glorious upon this account, as for its late triumphs and conquests. The new edition which is given us of Caesar's Commentaries*, has already been taken notice of in foreign gazettes, and is a work that does honour to the English press. It is no wonder that an edition should be very correct, which has passed through the hands of one of the most accurate, learned, and judicious writers this age has produced. The beauty of the paper, of the character, and of the several cuts with which this noble work is illustrated, makes it the finest book that I have ever seen; and is a true instance of the English genius, which, though it does not come the first into any art, generally carries it to greater heights than any other country in the world. I am particularly glad that this author comes from a British printing-house in so great a magnificence, as he is the first who has given us any tolerable account of our country.

My illiterate readers, if any such there are, will be surprised to hear me talk of learning as the glory of a nation, and of printing as an art that gains a reputation to a people among whom it flourishes. When men's thoughts are taken up with avarice and ambition, they cannot look upon any thing as great or valuable, which does not bring with it an extraordinary power or interest to the person who is concerned in it. But as I shall never sink this paper so far as to engage with Goths and Vandals, I shall only regard such kind of reasoners with that pity which is due to so deplorable a degree of stupidity and ignorance.

ADDISON.

L.

Nº 368. FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1712.

*Nos decet
Lugere ubi exst aliquis in lucem editus,
Humana vile varia reputantia mala;
At qui labores morte finit et graves,
Omnes amicos laude et letitia crequis.*

EURIP. apud TULL.

When first an infant draws the vital air,
Officious grief should welcome him to care;
But joy should life's concluding scene attend
And mirth be kept to grace a dying friend.

As the Spectator is in a kind, a paper of news from the natural world, as others are from the busy and politic part of mankind, I shall translate the following letter, written to an eminent French gentleman in this town from Paris, which gives us the exit of an heroine, who is a pattern of patience and generosity:

'SIR,
Paris, April 18, 1712.
'It is so many years since you left your native country, that I am to tell you the characters of your nearest relations as much as if you were an utter stranger to them. The occasion of this is to give you an account of the death of Madam de Villacerfe, whose departure out of this life I know not whether a man of your philosophy will call unfortunate or not, since it was attended with some circumstances as much to be desired as to be lamented. She was her whole life happy in an uninterrupted health, and was always honoured for an evenness of temper and greatness of mind. On the 10th instant that lady was taken with an indisposition which confined her to her chamber, but

was such as was too slight to make her take a sick bed, and yet too grievous to admit of any satisfaction in being out of it. It is notoriously known, that some years ago Monsieur Festeau, one of the most considerable surgeons in Paris, was desperately in love with this lady. Her quality placed her above any application to her on the account of his passion: but as a woman always has some regard to the person whom she believes to be her real admirer, she now took it in her head (upon advice of her physicians to lose some of her blood) to send for Monsieur Festeau on that occasion. I happened to be there at that time, and my near relation gave me the privilege to be present. As soon as her arm was stripped bare, and he began to press it in order to raise the vein, his colour changed, and I observed him seized with a sudden tremor, which made me take the liberty to speak of it to my cousin with some apprehension. She smiled, and said, she knew Mr. Festeau had so inclination to do her injury. He seemed to recover himself, and smiling also proceeded in his work. Immediately after the operation, he cried out that he was the most unfortunate of all men, for that he had opened an artery instead of a vein. It is as impossible to express the artist's distraction as the patient's composure. I will not dwell on little circumstances, but go on to inform you, that within three days time it was thought necessary to take off her arm. She was so far from using Festeau as it would be natural for one of a lower spirit to treat him, that she would not let him be absent from any consultation about her present condition, and on every occasion asked whether he was satisfied in the measures that were taken about her. Before this last operation she ordered her will to be drawn, and after having been about a quarter of an hour alone, she bid the surgeons, of whom poor Festeau was one, go on in their work. I know not how to give you the terms of art; but there appeared such symptoms after the amputation of her arm, that it was visible she could not live four-and-twenty hours. Her behaviour was so magnanimous throughout this whole affair, that I was particularly curious in taking notice of what passed, as her fate approached nearer and nearer, and took notes of what she said to all about her, particularly word for word what she spoke to Mr. Festeau, which was as follows:

"Sir, you give me inexpressible sorrow for the anguish with which I see you overwhelmed. I am removed to all intents and purposes from the interests of human life, therefore I am to begin to think like one wholly unconcerned in it. I do not consider you as one by whose error I have lost my life; no, you are my benefactor, as you have hastened my entrance into a happy immortality. This is my sense of this accident; but the world is which you live may have thoughts of it to your disadvantage; I have therefore taken care to provide for you in my will, and have placed you above what you have to fear from their ill-nature."

"While this excellent woman spoke these words, Festeau looked as if he received a condemnation to die, instead of a pension for his life. Madam de Villacerfe lived till eight of the clock the next night; and though she must have laboured under the most exquisite torments, she possessed her mind with so wonderful a patience, that one may rather say she ceased to breathe, than that she died at that hour. You, who had not the happiness to be personally known to this lady, have nothing but to rejoice in the honour you had of being related

* By Dr. Samuel Clarke, in folio; a most elegant work, published that year.

so great merit; but we who have lost her consolation, cannot so easily resign our own happiness by reflection upon hers.

'I am, sir,
'Your affectionate kinsman,
'and most obedient
'humble servant,
'PAUL REGNAUD.'

There hardly can be a greater instance of an open mind, than the unprejudiced manner in which Lady weighed this misfortune. The regard of herself could not make her overlook the condition of the unhappy man, whose more than ordinary concern for her was all his guilt. It would mainly be of singular use to human society to see an exact account of this lady's ordinary conduct, which was crowned by so uncommon magnanimity. Such greatness was not to be acquired in last article, nor is it to be doubted but it was constant practice of all that is praise-worthy, she made her capable of beholding death, not as dissolution, but consummation of her life.

FELIX.

T.

No 369. SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1712.

*Signis irritant animos demissa per aures,
Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus —*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 379.

—What we hear moves less than what we see.
ROSCOMMON.

rox, after having represented in vision the history of mankind to the first great period of nature, attaches the remaining part of it in narration. He has devised a very handsome reason for the proceeding with Adam after this manner; though doubtless the true reason was, the difficulty which the poet would have found to have shaded out so mixed and complicated a story in the objects. I could wish, however, that he or had done it, whatever pains it might have him. To give my opinion freely, I think that exhibiting part of the history of mankind in vision, and part in narrative, is as if an historian should put in colours one half of his subject and write down the remaining part of it. If our poem flags any where, it is in this narrative where in some places the author has been so attentive to his divinity, that he has neglected his poetry. The narration, however, rises very happily on several occasions, where the subject is capable of poetical ornaments, as particularly in the vision which he describes among the builders of Babel, and in his short sketch of the plagues of Egypt. The storm of hail and fire, with the darkness that overspread the land for three days, are described with great strength. The beautiful passage which follows, is raised upon noble hints in nature.

—Thus with ten wounds
The river-dragon tam'd at length submits
Let his sojourners depart; and oft
Unbles his stubborn heart; but still, as ice,
He harden'd after thaw: till in his rage
Issuing whom he late dismiss'd, the sea
Rallows him with his host; but them lets pass
On dry land between two crystal walls;
Told by the rod of Moses so to stand
Vindicated —

The river-dragon is an allusion to the crocodile, which inhabits the Nile, from whence Egypt derives plenty. This allusion is taken from that

sublime passage in Ezekiel: 'Thus saith the Lord God, Behold I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.' Milton has given us another very noble and poetical image in the same description, which is copied almost word for word out of the history of Moses:

'All night he will pursue, but his approach
Darkness defends between till morning watch;
Then through the fiery pillar and the cloud
God looking forth, will trouble all his host,
And craze their chariot wheels: when by command
Moses once more his potent rod extends
Over the sea: the sea his rod obeys:
On their embattel'd ranks the waves return
And overwhelm their war —'

As the principal design of this episode was to give Adam an idea of the holy person who was to reinstate human nature in that happiness and perfection from which it had fallen, the poet confines himself to the line of Abraham, from whence the Messiah was to descend. The angel is described as seeing the patriarch actually travelling towards the Land of Promise, which gives a particular liveliness to this part of the narration:

'I see him, but thou canst not, with what faith
He leaves his gods, his friends, his native soil
Ur of Chaldee, passing now the ford
To Haran; after him a cumbrous train
Of herds, and flocks, and num'rous servitude;
Not wand'ring poor, but trusting all his wealth
With God, who call'd him in a land unknown.
Canaan he now attains; I see his tent
Pitch'd about Bechem, and the neighbouring plain
Of Moreh; there by promise he receives
Gift to his progeny of all that land;
From Hamath northward to the desert south;
(Things by their names I call, though yet unnam'd.)'

As Virgil's vision in the sixth Æneid probably gave Milton the hint of this whole episode, the last line is a translation of that verse where Anchises mentions the names of places, which they were to bear hereafter:

'Hæc tum nomina erunt, nunc sunt sine nomine terræ.'

The poet has very finely represented the joy and gladness of heart which arises in Adam upon the discovery of the Messiah. As he sees his day at a distance through types and shadows, he rejoices in it; but when he finds the redemption of man completed, and Paradise again renewed, he breaks forth in rapture and transport:

'O goodness infinite, goodness immense!
That all this good of evil shall produce,' &c.

I have hinted in my sixth paper on Milton, that an heroic poem, according to the opinion of the best critics, ought to end happily, and leave the mind of the reader, after having conducted it through many doubts and fears, sorrows and disquietudes, in a state of tranquillity and satisfaction. Milton's fable, which had so many other qualifications to recommend it, was deficient in this particular. It is here, therefore, that the poet has shown a most exquisite judgment, as well as the finest invention, by finding out a method to supply this natural defect in his subject. Accordingly he leaves the adversary of mankind, in the last view which he gives us of him, under the lowest state of mortification and disappointment. We see him chewing ashes, groveling in the dust, and laden with supernumerary pains and torments. On the contrary, our two first parents are comforted by dreams and visions, cheered with promises of salvation, and in a manner raised to a greater happiness.

ness than that which they had forfeited. In short, Satan is represented miserable in the height of his triumphs, and Adam triumphant in the height of misery.

Milton's poem ends very nobly. The last speeches of Adam and the archangel are full of moral and instructive sentiments. The sleep that fell upon Eve, and the effects it had in quieting the disorders of her mind, produces the same kind of consolation in the reader, who cannot peruse the last beautiful speech, which is ascribed to the mother of mankind, without a secret pleasure and satisfaction:

'Whence thou return'st, and whither went'st, I know;
For God is also in sleep, and dreams advise;
Which he hath sent propitious, some great good
Presaging, since with sorrow and heart's distress
Wearied I fell asleep: but now lead on;
In me is no delay: with thee to go,
Is to stay here; without thee here to stay,
Is to go hence unwilling: thou to me
Art all things under heav'n, all places thou,
Who for my wilful crime art banish'd hence.
This further consolation yet secure
I carry hence; though all by me is lost,
Such favour I unworthy am vouchsaf'd,
By me the promise'd seed shall all restore.'

The following lines, which conclude the poem, rise in a most glorious blaze of poetical images and expressions.

Heliodorus in his *Æthiopics* acquaints us, that the motion of the gods differs from that of mortals, as the former do not stir their feet, nor proceed step by step, but slide over the surface of the earth by an uniform swimming of the whole body. The reader may observe with how poetical a description Milton has attributed the same kind of motion to the angels who were to take possession of Paradise.

'So spake our mother Eve; and Adam heard
Well pleas'd, but answer'd not; for now too nigh
Th' archangel stood; and from the other hill
To their fix'd station, all in bright array
The cherubim descended; on the ground
Gliding meteorous, as evening mist
Ris'n from a river, o'er the marsh glides,
And gathers ground fast at the labourer's heel
Homeward returning. High in front advanc'd
The brandish'd sword of God before them blaz'd
Fierce as a comet—'

The author helped his invention in the following passage, by reflecting on the behaviour of the angel who in holy writ has the conduct of Lot and his family. The circumstances drawn from that relation are very gracefully made use of on this occasion.

'In either hand the hast'ning angel caught
Our ling'ring parents, and to th' eastern gate
Led them direct; and down the cliff as fast
To the subjected plain; then disappear'd,
They looking back, &c.

The scene which our first parents are surprised with, upon their looking back on Paradise, wonderfully strikes the reader's imagination, as nothing can be more natural than the tears they shed on that occasion.

'They looking back, all th' eastern side beheld
Of Paradise, so late their happy seat,
Wav'd over by that flaming brand, the gate
With dreadful faces throng'd and fiery arms;
Some natural tears they dropp'd, but wip'd them soon:
The world was all before them, where to choose
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide.'

If I might presume to offer at the smallest alteration in this divine work, I should think the poem would end better with the passage here quoted, than with the two verses which follow:

'They hand in hand, with wand'ring steps and slow,
Through Eden took their solitary way.'

These two verses, though they have their beauty fall very much below the foregoing passage, and renew in the mind of the reader that anguish which was pretty well laid by that consideration:

'The world was all before them, where to choose
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide.'

The number of books in *Paradise Lost* is equal to those of the *Æneid*. Our author in his first edition had divided his poem into ten books, but afterwards broke the seventh and the eleventh of them into two different books by the help of some small additions. This second division was made with great judgment, as any one may see who will be at the pains of examining it. It was done for the sake of such a chimerical beauty, that of resembling Virgil in this particular, but for the more just and regular disposition of the great work.

Those who have read Bossu, and many of the critics who have written since his time, will pardon me if I do not find out the particular in which is inculcated in *Paradise Lost*. There can by no means think with the last-mentioned French author, that an epic writer first of all pitches upon a certain moral, as the ground-work and foundation of his poem, and afterwards lets out a story to it, I am however of opinion, that no just heroic poem ever was or can be made, from whence one great moral may not be deduced. That which reigns in Milton, is the most universal and most useful that can be imagined. It is short this, that obedience to the will of God makes men happy, and that disobedience makes them miserable. This is visibly the moral of the principal fable, which turns upon Adam and Eve, who continued in Paradise, while they kept the command that was given them, and were driven out of it soon as they had transgressed. This is likewise the moral of the principal episode, which shows how an innumerable multitude of angels fell from their state of bliss, and were cast into hell upon their disobedience. Besides this great moral, which may be looked upon as the soul of the fable, there are an infinity of under-morals, which are drawn from the several parts of the poem, and which makes this work more useful and instructive than any other poem in any language.

Those who have criticised on the *Odyssey*, *Iliad*, and *Æneid*, have taken a great deal of pains to fix the number of months and days contained in the action of each of those poems. If any one thinks it worth his while to examine this particular in Milton, he will find, that from Adam's first appearance in the fourth book, to his expulsion from Paradise in the twelfth, the author reckons 100 days. As for that part of the action which is described in the three first books, as it does not pass within the regions of nature, I have before observed that it is not subject to any calculations of time.

I have now finished my observations on a work which does an honour to the English nation: I have taken a general view of it under three heads, the fable, the characters, the sentiments, and the language, and made each of them the subject of a particular paper. I have in the next place spoke of the censures which our authors incur under each of these heads, which I have confined to two papers, though I might have enlarged the number, if I had been disposed to dwell on so ungrateful a subject. I believe, however, that the severest reader will not find any little fault in heroic poetry, which this author has fallen into.

it does not come under one of those heads among which I have distributed his several blemishes. After having thus treated at large of Paradise lost, I could not think it sufficient to have celebrated this poem in the whole, without descending to particulars. I have therefore bestowed a paper upon each book, and endeavoured not only to prove that the poem is beautiful in general, but to point out its particular beauties; and, to determine wherein they consist, I have endeavoured to show how some passages are beautified by being blime, others by being soft, others by being natural; which of them are recommended by the passion, which by the moral, which by the sentiment, and which by the expression. I have likewise endeavoured to show how the genius of the poet shines by a happy invention, a distant allusion, or judicious imitation; how he has copied or improved Homer or Virgil, and raises his own imaginations by the use which he has made of several poetical passages in scripture. I might have inserted also several passages in Tasso, which our author has imitated; but, as I do not look upon Tasso to be a sufficient voucher, I would not perplex my reader with such quotations as might do more honour to the Italian than the English poet. In short, I have endeavoured to particularize those considerable kinds of beauty, which it would be tedious to recapitulate, but which are essential to poetry, and which may be met with in the works of this great author. Had I thought, at my first engaging in this design, that it would have led me to so great a length, I believe I should never have entered upon it; but the kind reception which it is met with among those whose judgments I have value for, as well as the uncommon demands which my bookseller tells me have been made for these particular discourses, give me no reason to repent of the pains I have been at in composing em.

ADDISON.

L.

N^o 370. MONDAY, MAY 5, 1712.

Totus mundus agit histrionem.

ANY of my fair readers, as well as very gay and ill-received persons of the other sex, are extremely perplexed at the Latin sentences at the end of my speculations. I do not know whether they ought not to indulge them with translations of them: however, I have to-day taken down from the top of the stage in Drury-lane, a copy of Latin which often stands in their view, and signifies, that 'The whole world acts the player.' It is certain, that if we look all round us, and behold the different employments of mankind, you readily see one who is not, as the player is, in an assumed character. The lawyer, who is vehement and loud in a cause wherein he knows he has not a truth of the question on his side, is a player as the personated part; but incomparably meaner than he as to the prostitution of himself for hire; cause the pleader's falsehood introduces injustice; the player feigns for no other end but to divert or instruct you. The divine, whose passions import him to say any thing with any view but promoting the interests of true piety and religion, a player with a still greater imputation of guilt, proportion to his depreciating a character more

sacred. Consider all the different pursuits and employments of men, and you will find half their actions tend to nothing else but disguise and imposture; and all that is done which proceeds not from a man's very self, is the action of a player. For this reason it is that I make so frequent mention of the stage. It is with me a matter of the highest consideration, what parts are well or ill performed, what passions or sentiments are indulged or cultivated, and consequently what manners and customs are transfused from the stage to the world, which reciprocally imitate each other. As the writers of epic poems introduce shadowy persons, and represent vices and virtues under the characters of men and women; so I, who am a Spectator in the world, may perhaps sometimes make use of the names of the actors on the stage, to represent or admonish those who transact affairs in the world. When I am commending Wilks for representing the tenderness of a husband and a father in "Macbeth," the contrition of a reformed prodigal in "Harry the Fourth," the winning emptiness of a young man of good-nature and wealth in "The Trip to the Jubilee," the officiousness of an artful servant in "The Fox;" when thus I celebrate Wilks, I talk to all the world who are engaged in any of those circumstances. If I were to speak of merit neglected, misapplied, or misunderstood, might not I say Estcourt has a great capacity? But it is not the interest of others who bear a figure on the stage, that his talents were understood; it is their business to impose upon him what cannot become him, or keep out of his hands any thing in which he would shine. Were one to raise a suspicion of himself in a man who passes upon the world for a fine thing, in order to alarm him one might say, if Lord Foppington were not on the stage (Cibber acts the false pretensions to a genteel behaviour so very justly), he would have in the generality of mankind more that would admire than deride him. When we come to characters directly comical, it is not to be imagined what effect a well-regulated stage would have upon men's manners. The craft of an usurer, the absurdity of a rich fool, the awkward roughness of a fellow of half courage, the ungraceful mirth of a creature of half wit, might be for ever put out of countenance by proper parts for Dogget, Johnson, by acting Corbaccio the other night, must have given all who saw him a thorough detestation of aged avarice. The petulance of a peevish old fellow, who loves and hates he knows not why, is very excellently performed by the ingenious Mr. William Penkethman, in "The Fop's Fortune;" where, in the character of Don Cholerick Snap Shorto de Testy, he answers no questions but to those whom he likes, and wants no account of any thing from those he approves. Mr. Penkethman is also master of as many faces in the dumb-scene as can be expected from a man in the circumstances of being ready to perish out of fear and hunger. He wonders throughout the whole scene very masterly, without neglecting his particulars. If it be, as I have heard it sometimes mentioned, a great qualification for the world to follow business and pleasure too, what is it in the ingenious Mr. Penkethman to represent a sense of pleasure and pain at the same time; as you may see him do this evening?

As it is certain that a stage ought to be wholly suppressed, or judiciously encouraged, while there is one in the nation, men turned for regular pleasure cannot employ their thoughts more usefully, for the diversion of mankind, than by convincing

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that in the original publication of the Spectator, the mottoes were untranslated.

them that it is in themselves to raise this entertainment to the greatest height. It would be a great improvement, as well as embellishment to the theatre, if dancing were more regarded, and taught to all the actors. One who has the advantage of such an agreeable girlish person as Mrs. Bicknell, joined with her capacity of imitation, could in proper gesture and motion represent all the dearest characters of female life. An amiable modesty in one aspect of a dancer, and assumed confidence in another, a sudden joy in another, a falling-off with an impatience of being beheld, a return towards the audience with an unsteady resolution to approach them, and a well-acted solicitude to please, would revive in the company all the fine touches of mind raised in observing all the objects of affection and passion they had before beheld. Such elegant entertainments as these would polish the town into judgment in their gratifications; and delicacy in pleasure is the first step people of condition take in reformation from vice. Mrs. Bicknell has the only capacity for this sort of dancing of any on the stage; and I dare say all who see her performance to-morrow night (when sure the romp will do her best for her own benefit) will be of my mind,

STEEL.

T.

Nº 371. TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1712.

*Jamne igitur laudas quod de sapientibus unus
Ridebat?*

JUV. SAT. 2. 28.

And shall the sage * your approbation win,
Whose laughing features wore a constant grin?

I SHALL communicate to my reader the following letter for the entertainment of this day.

'SIR,

'You know very well that our nation is more famous for that sort of men who are called "whims" and "humorists," than any other country in the world; for which reason it is observed, that our English comedy excels that of all other nations in the novelty and variety of its characters.

'Among those innumerable sets of whims which our country produces, there are none whom I have regarded with more curiosity than those who have invented any particular kind of diversion for the entertainment of themselves or their friends. My letter shall single out those who take delight in sorting a company that has something of burlesque and ridicule in its appearance. I shall make myself understood by the following example. One of the wits of the last age, who was a man of a good estate †, thought he never laid out his money better than in a jest; as he was one year at the Bath, observing that, in the great confluence of fine people, there were several among them with long chins, a part of the visage by which he himself was very much distinguished, he invited to dinner half a score of these remarkable persons who had their mouths in the middle of their faces. They had no sooner placed themselves about the table, but they began to stare upon one another, not being able to imagine what had brought them together. Our English proverb says,

'Tis merry in the hall,
When beards wag all.'

* Democritus.

† Villiers, the last Duke of Buckingham.

It proved so in the assembly I am now speaking of, who seeing so many peaks of faces agitated with eating, drinking, and discourse, and observing all the chins that were present meeting together very often over the centre of the table, every one grew sensible of the jest, and came into it with so much good humour, that they lived in strict friendship and alliance from that day forward.

'The same gentleman some time after packed together a set of oglers, as he called them, consisting of such as had an unlucky cast in their eyes. His diversion on this occasion was to set the cross bows, mistaken signs, and wrong conveniences, that passed amidst so many broken and refracted rays of sight.

'The third feast which this merry gentleman exhibited was to the stammerers, whom he got together in a sufficient body to fill his table. He had ordered one of his servants, who was placed behind a screen, to write down their table talk, which was very easy to be done without the help of shorthand. It appears by the notes which were taken, that though their conversation never fell, there were not above twenty words spoken during the first course; that upon serving up the second, one of the company was a quarter of an hour in telling them that the ducklings and asparagus were very good; and that another took up the same time in declaring himself of the same opinion. This jest did not, however, go off so well as the former; for one of the guests being a brave man, and fuller of resentment than he knew how to express, went out of the room, and sent the factious inviter a challenge in writing, which, though it was afterwards dropped by the interposition of friends, put a stop to these ludicrous entertainments.

'Now, sir, I dare say you will agree with me, that as there is no moral in these jests, they ought to be discouraged, and looked upon rather as pieces of unluckiness than wit. However, as it is natural for one man to refine upon the thought of another, and impossible for any single person, how great soever his parts may be, to invent an art, and bring it to its utmost perfection; I shall here give you an account of an honest gentleman of my acquaintance, who, upon hearing the character of the wit above-mentioned, has himself assumed it, and endeavoured to convert it to the benefit of mankind. He invited half a dozen of his friends one day to dinner, who were each of them famous for inserting several redundant phrases in their discourse, as "D'ye hear me?—D'ye see?—That is,—And so, sir." Each of the guests making frequent use of his particular elegance, appeared so ridiculous to his neighbour, that he could not but reflect upon himself as appearing equally ridiculous to the rest of the company. By this means, before they had sat long together, every one, talking with the greatest circumspection, and carefully avoiding his favourite expletive, the conversation was cleared of its redundancies, and had a greater quantity of sense, though less of sound, in it.

'The same well-meaning gentleman took occasion, at another time, to bring together such of his friends as were addicted to a foolish habitual custom of swearing. In order to show them the absurdity of the practice, he had recourse to the invention above-mentioned, having placed an amulet in a private part of the room. After the second bottle, when men open their minds without reserve, my honest friend began to take notice of the many sonorous but unnecessary words that had passed in his house since their sitting down at table,

and how much good conversation they had lost by giving way to such superfluous phrases. "What a tax," says he, "would they have raised for the poor, had we put the laws in execution upon one another!" Every one of them took this gentle reproof in good part; upon which he told them, that, knowing their conversation would have no secrets in it, he had ordered it to be taken down in writing, and for the humour-sake, would read it to them, if they pleased. There were ten sheets of it, which might have been reduced to two, had there not been those abominable interpolations I have before mentioned. Upon the reading of it in cold blood, it looked rather like a conference of fiends than of men. In short, every one trembled at himself upon hearing calmly what he had pronounced amidst the heat and inadvertency of discourse.

'I shall only mention another occasion wherein he made use of the same invention to cure a different kind of men, who are the pests of all polite conversation, and murder time as much as either of the two former, though they do it more innocently; I mean, that dull generation of story-tellers. My friend got together about half a dozen of his acquaintance, who were infected with this strange malady. The first day one of them sitting down, entered upon the siege of Namur, which lasted till our o'clock, their time of parting. The second day a North Briton took possession of the discourse, which it was impossible to get out of his hands so long as the company stayed together. The third day was engrossed after the same manner by a story of the same length. They at last began to object upon this barbarous way of treating one another, and by this means awakened out of that ethargy with which each of them had been seized or several years.

'As you have somewhere declared, that extraordinary and uncommon characters of mankind are the game which you delight in, and as I look upon you to be the greatest sportsman, or, if you please, the Nimrod among this species of writers, I thought his discovery would not be unacceptable to you.

'I am, sir, &c.' I.

ADDISON*.

Nº 372. WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1712.

*Pudet hæc opprobria nobis
Et dici potuisse, et non potuisse refelli.*
OVID. Metam. l. ver. 758.

To hear an open slander, is a curse;
But not to find an answer, is a worse.
DRYDEN.

'MR. SPECTATOR, May 6, 1712.
I AM sexton of the parish of Covent-garden, and complained to you some time ago, that as I was going into prayers at eleven in the morning, crowds of people of quality hastened to assemble at a puppet-show on the other side of the garden. I said at the same time a very great disesteem for Mr. Powell and his little thoughtless commonwealth, as if they had enticed the gentry into those wanderings: but let that be as it will, I am now convinced of the honest intentions of the said Mr. Powell and company; and send this to acquaint you, that he has given all the profits which shall arise to-morrow night by his play to the use of the poor charity-children of this parish. I have been informed, sir, that in Holland all persons who set

up any show, or act any stage-play, be the actor^s either of wood and wire, or flesh and blood, are obliged to pay out of their gain such a proportion to the honest and industrious poor in the neighbourhood: by this means they make diversion and pleasure pay a tax to labour and industry. I have been told also, that all the time of Lent, in Roman catholic countries, the persons of condition administer to the necessities of the poor, and attend the beds of lazars and diseased persons. Our protestant ladies and gentlemen are so much to seek for proper ways of passing time, that they are obliged to Punchinello for knowing what to do with themselves. Since the case is so, I desire only you would intreat our people of quality, who are not to be interrupted in their pleasure to think of the practice of any moral duty, that they would at least fine for their sins, and give something to these poor children; a little out of their luxury and superfluity would atone, in some measure, for the wanton use of the rest of their fortunes. It would not, methinks, be amiss, if the ladies who haunt the cloysters and passages of the playhouse, were, upon every offence, obliged to pay to this excellent institution of schools of charity. This method would make offenders themselves do service to the public. But in the mean time I desire you would publish this voluntary reparation which Mr. Powell does our parish, for the noise he has made in it by the constant rattling of coaches, drums, trumpets, triumphs, and battles. The destruction of Troy, adorned with Highland dances, are to make up the entertainment of all who are so well disposed as not to forbear a light entertainment, for no other reason but that it is to do a good action.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble servant,
'RALPH BELLFRY.

'I am credibly informed that all the insinuations which a certain writer made against Mr. Powell* at the Bath, are false and groundless.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'My employment, which is that of a broker, leading me often into taverns about the Exchange, has given me occasion to observe a certain enormity, which I shall here submit to your animadversion. In three or four of these taverns, I have, at different times, taken notice of a precise set of people, with grave countenances, short wigs, black clothes, or dark camlet trimmed with black, and mourning gloves and hat-bands, who meet on certain days at each tavern successively, and keep a sort of moving club. Having often met with their faces, and observed a certain slinking way in their dropping in one after another, I had the curiosity to inquire into their characters, being the rather moved to it by their agreeing in the singularity of their dress; and I find, upon due examination, they are a knot of parish clerks, who have taken a fancy to one another, and perhaps settle the bills of mortality over their half pints. I have so great a value and veneration for any, who have but even an assenting amen in the service of religion, that I am afraid lest these persons should incur some scandal by this practice; and would therefore have them, without railery, advised to send the Florence and pullets home to their own houses, and not pretend to live as well as the overseers of the poor.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble servant,
'HUMPHRY TRANSFER.'

* It has been supposed, that the Letters of Addison, with the signature C. were written at Chelsea; those with L. at London; and those with L. at Islington.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I was last Wednesday night at a tavern in the city, among a set of men who call themselves "The Lawyers' Club." You must know, sir, this club consists only of attorneys; and at this meeting every one proposes the cause he has then in hand to the board, upon which each member gives his judgment according to the experience he has met with. If it happens that any one puts a case of which they have had no precedent, it is noted down by their clerk Will Goosequill (who registers all their proceedings), that one of them may go the next day with it to a counsel. This indeed is commendable, and ought to be the principal end of their meeting; but had you been there to have heard them relate their methods of managing a cause, their manner of drawing out their bills, and, in short, their arguments upon the several ways of abusing their clients, with the applause that is given to him who has done it most artfully, you would before now have given your remarks on them. They are so conscious that their discourses ought to be kept a secret, that they are very cautious of admitting any person who is not of their profession. When any who are not of the law are let in, the person who introduces him says, he is a very honest gentleman, and he is taken in, as their cant is, to pay costs. I am admitted, upon the recommendation of one of their principals, as a very honest, good-natured fellow, that will never be in a plot, and only desires to drink his bottle and smoke his pipe. You have formerly remarked upon several sorts of clubs; and as the tendency of this is only to increase fraud and deceit, I hope you will please to take notice of it.

'I am, with respect,
'Your humble servant,
'M. R.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 373. THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1712.

Fallit enim vitium specie virtutis et umbra.

JUV. Sat. xiv. ver. 109.

Vice oft is hid in Virtue's fair disguise,
And in her borrow'd form escapes inquiring eyes.

MR. LOCKE, in his treatise of Human Understanding, has spent two chapters upon the abuse of words. The first and most palpable abuse of words, he says, is when they are used without clear and distinct ideas; the second, when we are so inconstant and unsteady in the application of them, that we sometimes use them to signify one idea, sometimes another. He adds, that the result of our contemplations and reasonings, while we have no precise ideas fixed to our words, must needs be very confused and absurd. To avoid this inconvenience, more especially in moral discourses, where the same word should constantly be used in the same sense, he earnestly recommends the use of definitions. 'A definition,' says he, 'is the only way whereby the precise meaning of moral words can be known.' He therefore accuses those of great negligence, who discourse of moral things with the least obscurity in the terms they make use of, since upon the forementioned ground he does not scruple to say, that he thinks 'morality is capable of demonstration as well as the mathematics.'

I know no two words that have been more

abused by the different and wrong interpretations which are put upon them, than those two, modesty and assurance. To say, such a one is a modest man, sometimes indeed passes for a good character; but at present is very often used to signify a sheepish, awkward fellow, who has neither good breeding, politeness, nor any knowledge of the world.

Again, a man of assurance, though at first it only denoted a person of a free and open carriage, is now very usually applied to a profligate wretch, who can break through all the rules of decency and morality without a blush.

I shall endeavour therefore in this essay to restore these words to their true meaning, to prevent the idea of modesty from being confounded with that of sheepishness, and to hinder impudence from passing for assurance.

If I was put to define modesty, I would call it, 'the reflection of an ingenuous mind, either when a man has committed an action for which he censures himself, or fancies that he is exposed to the censure of others.'

For this reason a man truly modest is as much so when he is alone as in company, and as subject to a blush in his closet, as when the eyes of multitudes are upon him.

I do not remember to have met with any instance of modesty with which I am so well pleased, as that celebrated one of the young prince, whose father, being a tributary king to the Romans, had several complaints laid against him before the senate, as a tyrant and oppressor of his subjects. The prince went to Rome to defend his father; but coming into the senate, and hearing a multitude of crimes proved upon him, was so oppressed when it came to his turn to speak, that he was unable to utter a word. The story tells us, that the fathers were more moved at this instance of modesty and ingenuity, than they could have been by the most pathetic oration; and, in short, pardoned the guilty father for this early promise of virtue in the son.

I take 'assurance to be the faculty of possessing a man's self, or of saying and doing indifferent things without any uneasiness or emotion in the mind.' That which generally gives a man assurance is a moderate knowledge of the world, but above all a mind fixed and determined in itself to do nothing against the rules of honour and decency. An open and assured behaviour is the natural consequence of such a resolution. A man thus armed, if his words or actions are at any time misinterpreted, retires within himself, and, from a consciousness of his own integrity, assumes force enough to despise the little censures of ignorance and malice.

Every one ought to cherish and encourage in himself the modesty and assurance I have here mentioned.

A man without assurance is liable to be made uneasy by the folly or ill-nature of every one he converses with. A man without modesty is lost to all sense of honour and virtue.

It is more than probable, that the prince above-mentioned possessed both these qualifications in a very eminent degree. Without assurance he would never have undertaken to speak before the most august assembly in the world; without modesty, he would have pleaded the cause he had taken upon him though it had appeared ever so scandalous.

From what has been said it is plain, that modesty and assurance are both amiable, and may very well meet in the same person. When they

are thus mixed and blended together, they compose what we endeavour to express when we say, 'a modest assurance;' by which we understand the just mean between bashfulness and impudence.

I shall conclude with observing, that as the same man may be both modest and assured, so it is also possible for the same person to be both impudent and bashful.

We have frequent instances of this odd kind of mixture in people of depraved minds and mean education; who, though they are not able to meet a man's eyes, or pronounce a sentence without confusion, can voluntarily commit the greatest villainies, or most indecent actions.

Such a person seems to have made a resolution to do ill even in spite of himself, and in defiance of all those checks and restraints his temper and complexion seem to have laid in his way.

Upon the whole, I would endeavour to establish this maxim, that the practice of virtue is the most proper method to give a man a becoming assurance in his words and actions. Guilt always seeks to shelter itself in one of the extremes, and is sometimes attended with both.

BUDGELL.

I.

N^o 374. FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1712.

Nil actum reputans si quid superest agendum.
LUC. lib. ii. ver. 657.

He reckons not the past, while aught remain'd
Great to be done, or mighty to be gain'd.
ROWE.

THERE is a fault, which, though common, wants a name. It is the very contrary to procrastination. As we lose the present hour by delaying from day to day to execute what we ought to do immediately, so most of us take occasion to sit still, and throw away the time in our possession, by retrospect on what is past, imagining we have already acquitted ourselves, and established our characters in the sight of mankind. But when we thus put a value upon ourselves for what we have already done, any further than to explain ourselves in order to assist our future conduct, that will give us an over-weening opinion of our merit, to the prejudice of our present industry. The great rule, methinks, should be, to manage the instant in which we stand, with fortitude, equanimity, and moderation, according to men's respective circumstances. If our past actions reproach us, they cannot be atoned for by our own severe reflections so effectually as by a contrary behaviour. If they are praiseworthy, the memory of them is of no use but to act suitably to them. Thus a good present behaviour is an implicit repentance for any miscarriage in what is past; but present slackness will not make up for past activity. Time has swallowed up all that we contemporaries did yesterday, as irrevocably as it has the actions of the antediluvians. But we are again awake, and what shall we do to-day, to-day which passes while we are yet speaking? Shall we remember the folly of last night, or resolve upon the exercise of virtue to-morrow? Last night is certainly gone, and to-morrow may never arrive. This instant make use of. Can you oblige any man of honour and virtue? Do it immediately. Can you visit a sick friend? Will it revive him to see you enter, and suspend your own ease and pleasure to comfort his weakness, and hear the impertinences of a wretch in pain? Do not stay to take coach, but be gone.

Your mistress will bring sorrow, and your bottle madness. Go to neither.—Such virtues and diversions as these are mentioned, because they occur to all men. But every man is sufficiently convinced, that to suspend the use of the present moment, and resolve better for the future only, is an unpardonable folly. What I attempted to consider, was the mischief of setting such a value upon what is past, as to think we have done enough. Let a man have filled all the offices of life with the highest dignity till yesterday, and begin to live only to himself to-day, he must expect he will in the effects upon his reputation be considered as the man who died yesterday. The man who distinguishes himself from the rest, stands in a press of people; those before him intercept his progress, and those behind him, if he does not urge on, will tread him down. Cæsar, of whom it was said, that he thought nothing done while there was any thing left for him to do, went on in performing the greatest exploits, without assuming to himself a privilege of taking rest upon the foundation of the merit of his former actions. It was the manner of that glorious captain, to write down what scenes he had passed through; but it was rather to keep his affairs in method, and capable of a clear review, in case they should be examined by others, than that he built a renown upon any thing that was past. I shall produce two fragments of his, to demonstrate, that it was his rule of life to support himself rather by what he should perform, than what he had done already. In the tablet which he wore about him the same year in which he obtained the battle of Pharsalia, there were found these loose notes of his own conduct. It is supposed, by the circumstances they alluded to, that they might be read down the evening of the same night.

'My part is now but begun, and my glory must be sustained by the use I make of this victory; otherwise my loss will be greater than that of Pompey. Our personal reputation will rise or fall as we bear our respective fortunes. All my private enemies among the prisoners shall be spared. I will forget this, in order to obtain such another day. Trebatius is ashamed to see me: I will go to his tent, and be reconciled in private. Give all the men of honour, who take part with me, the terms I offered before the battle. Let them owe this to their friends who have been long in my interests. Power is weakened by the full use of it, but extended by moderation. Galbinus is proud, and will be servile in his present fortune: let him wait. Send for Stertinus: he is modest, and his virtue is worth gaining. I have cooled my heart with reflection, and am fit to rejoice with the army to-morrow. He is a popular general who can expose himself like a private man during a battle; but he is more popular who can rejoice but like a private man after a victory.'

What is particularly proper for the example of all who pretend to industry in the pursuit of honour and virtue is, that this hero was more than ordinarily solicitous about his reputation, when a common mind would have thought itself in security, and given itself a loose to joy and triumph. But though this is a very great instance of his temper, I must confess I am more taken with his reflections when he retired to his closet in some disturbance upon the repeated ill omens of Calphurnia's dream, the night before his death. The literal translation of that fragment shall conclude this paper.

'Be it so then. If I am to die to-morrow, that is what I am to do to-morrow. It will not be

then, because I am willing it should be then; nor shall I escape it, because I am unwilling. It is in the gods when, but in myself how I shall die. If Calphurnia's dreams are fumes of indigestion, how shall I behold the day after to-morrow? If they are from the gods, their admonition is not to prepare me to escape from their decree, but to meet it. I have lived to a fulness of days and of glory: what is there that Cæsar has not done with as much honour as ancient heroes? Cæsar has not yet died; Cæsar is prepared to die.

STEEL.

T.

N° 375. SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1712.

*Non possidentem multa vocaveris
Recte beatum: rectius occupat
Nomen beati, qui deorum
Muneribus sapienter uti,
Duramque callet pauperiem pati,
Pejusque letho fugitium timet.*

HOR. Od. ix. l. 4. ver. 45.

We barbarously call them bless'd,
Who are of largest tenements possess'd,
While swelling coffers break their owners' rest. }
More truly happy those, who can
Govern that little empire, man:
Who spend their treasure freely, as 'twas given
By the large bounty of indulgent heav'n:
Who, in a fix'd, unalterable state,
Smile at the doubtful tide of fate, }
And scorn alike her friendship and her hate:
Who poison less than falsehood fear,
Loth to purchase life so dear.

STEPNEY.

I HAVE more than once had occasion to mention a noble saying of Seneca the philosopher, that a virtuous person struggling with misfortunes, and rising above them, is an object on which the gods themselves may look down with delight. I shall therefore set before my reader a scene of this kind of distress in private life, for the speculation of this day.

An eminent citizen, who had lived in good fashion and credit, was by a train of accidents, and by an unavoidable perplexity in his affairs, reduced to a low condition. There is a modesty usually attending faultless poverty, which made him rather choose to reduce his manner of living to his present circumstances, than solicit his friends in order to support the show of an estate when the substance was gone. His wife, who was a woman of sense and virtue, behaved herself on this occasion with uncommon decency, and never appeared so amiable in his eyes as now. Instead of upbraiding him with the ample fortune she had brought, or the many great offers she had refused for his sake, she redoubled all the instances of her affection, while her husband was continually pouring out his heart to her in complaints that he had ruined the best woman in the world. He sometimes came home at a time when she did not expect him, and surprised her in tears, which she endeavoured to conceal, and always put on an air of cheerfulness to receive him. To lessen their expense, their eldest daughter (whom I shall call Amanda) was sent into the country, to the house of an honest farmer, who had married a servant of the family. This young woman was apprehensive of the ruin which was approaching, and had privately engaged a friend in the neighbourhood to give her an account of what passed from time to time in her father's affairs. Amanda was in the bloom of her youth and beauty; when the lord of the manor, who often called in at the the farmer's

house as he followed his country sports, fell passionately in love with her. He was a man of great generosity, but from a loose education had contracted a hearty aversion to marriage. He therefore entertained a design upon Amanda's virtue, which at present he thought fit to keep private. The innocent creature, who never suspected his intentions, was pleased with his person; and, having observed his growing passion for her, hoped by so advantageous a match she might quickly be in a capacity of supporting her impoverished relations. One day, as he called to see her, he found her in tears over a letter she had just received from her friend, which gave an account that her father had lately been stripped of every thing by an execution. The lover, who with some difficulty found out the cause of her grief, took this occasion to make her a proposal. It is impossible to express Amanda's confusion when she found his pretensions were not honourable. She was now deserted of all her hopes, and had no power to speak; but, rushing from him in the utmost disturbance, locked herself up in her chamber. He immediately dispatched a messenger to her father with the following letter:

'SIR,

'I HAVE heard of your misfortunes, and have offered your daughter, if she will live with me, to settle on her four hundred pounds a year, and to lay down the sum for which you are now distressed. I will be so ingenious as to tell you that I do not intend marriage: but if you are wise, you will use your authority with her not to be too nice, when she has an opportunity of saving you and your family, and of making herself happy.

'I am, &c.

This letter came to the hands of Amanda's mother; she opened and read it with great surprise and concern. She did not think it proper to explain herself to the messenger, but desiring him to call again the next morning, she wrote to her daughter as follows:

'DEAREST CHILD,

'YOUR father and I have just now received a letter from a gentleman who pretends love to you, with a proposal that insults our misfortune, and would throw us to a lower degree of misery than any thing which is come upon us. How could this barbarous man think that the tenderest of parents would be tempted to supply their want by giving up the best of children to infamy and ruin? It is a mean and cruel artifice to make this proposal at a time when he thinks our necessities must compel us to any thing: but we will not eat the bread of shame; and therefore we charge thee not to think of us, but to avoid the snare which is laid for thy virtue. Beware of pitying us: it is not so bad as you perhaps have been told. All things will yet be well, and I shall write my child better news.

'I have been interrupted; I know not how I was moved to say things would mend. As I was going on, I was startled by a noise of one that knocked at the door, and hath brought us an unexpected supply of a debt which has long been owing. Oh! I will now tell thee all. It is some days I have lived almost without support, having conveyed what little money I could raise to your poor father. Thou wilt weep to think where he is, yet be assured he will be soon at liberty. That cruel letter would have broke his heart, but I have concealed it from him. I have no companion at pre-

ent besides little Fanny, who stands watching my looks as I write, and is crying for her sister. She says she is sure you are not well, having discovered that my present trouble is about you. But do not think I would thus repeat my sorrows to grieve thee. No, it is to intreat thee not to make them insupportable, by adding what would be worse than all. Let us bear cheerfully an affliction, which we have not brought on ourselves, and remember there is a Power who can better deliver us out of it, than by the loss of thy innocence. Heaven preserve my dear child!

'Thy affectionate mother,
'_____,'

The messenger, notwithstanding he promised to deliver this letter to Amanda, carried it first to his master, who he imagined would be glad to have an opportunity of giving it into her hands himself. His master was impatient to know the success of his proposal, and therefore broke open the letter privately to see the contents. He was not a little moved at so true a picture of virtue in distress; but at the same time was infinitely surprised to find his offers rejected. However, he resolved not to suppress the letter, but carefully sealed it up again, and carried it to Amanda. All his endeavours to see her were in vain till she was assured he brought a letter from her mother. He would not part with it but upon condition that she should read it without leaving the room. While she was perusing it, he fixed his eyes on her face with the closest attention. Her concern gave a new softness to her beauty; and when she burst into tears, he could no longer refrain from bearing a part in her sorrow, and telling her, that he too had read the letter, and was resolved to make reparation on having been the occasion of it. My reader will not be displeased to see the second epistle which he now wrote to Amanda's mother.

'MADAM,
I am full of shame, and will never forgive myself I have not your pardon for what I lately wrote. It was far from my intention to add trouble to the afflicted; nor could any thing but my being a stranger to you, have betrayed me into a fault, for which, if I live, I shall endeavour to make you amends as a son. You cannot be unhappy while Amanda is your daughter; nor shall be, if any thing can prevent it, which is in the power of,

'MADAM,
'Your most obedient humble servant,
'_____,'

This letter he sent by his steward, and soon after went up to town himself to complete the generous act he had now resolved on. By his friendship and assistance Amanda's father was quickly in a condition of retrieving his perplexed affairs. To conclude, he married Amanda, and enjoyed the double satisfaction of having restored a worthy family to their former prosperity, and of making himself happy by an alliance to their virtues.

RUGES.

Nº 376. MONDAY, MAY 12, 1712.

— *Peacocks ex Pythagoræo.*
PERS. Sat. vi. ver. 11.

From the Pythagorean peacock.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I HAVE observed that the officer you some time ago appointed as inspector of signs, has not done his duty so well as to give you an account of very many strange occurrences in the public streets, which are worthy of, but have escaped your notice. Among all the oddnesses which I have ever met with, that which I am now telling you gave me most delight. You must have observed that all the criers in the street attract the attention of the passengers, and of the inhabitants in the several parts, by something very particular in their tone itself, in the dwelling upon a note, or else making themselves wholly unintelligible by a scream. The person I am so delighted with has nothing to sell, but very gravely receives the bounty of the people, for no other merit but the homage they pay to his manner of signifying to them that he wants a subsidy. You must sure have heard speak of an old man, who walks about the city, and that part of the suburbs which lies beyond the Tower, performing the office of a day-watchman, followed by a goose, which bears the bob of his ditty, and confirms what he says with a quack, quack. I gave little heed to the mention of this known circumstance, till, being the other day in those quarters, I passed by a decrepit old fellow with a pole in his hand, who just then was bawling out, "Half an hour after one o'clock;" and immediately a dirty goose behind him made her response, "Quack, quack." I could not forbear attending this grave procession for the length of half a street, with no small amazement to find the whole place so familiarly acquainted with a melancholy midnight voice at noon-day, giving them the hour, and exhorting them of the departure of time, with a bounce at their doors. While I was full of this novelty, I went into a friend's house, and told him how I was diverted with their whimsical monitor and his equipage. My friend gave me the history; and interrupted my commendation of the man, by telling me the livelihood of these two animals is purchased rather by the good parts of the goose than of the leader; for it seems, the peripatetic who walked before her was a watchman in that neighbourhood; and the goose of herself, by frequently hearing his tone, out of her natural vigilance, not only observed, but answered it very regularly from time to time. The watchman was so affected with it, that he bought her, and has taken her in partner, only altering their hours of duty from night to day. The town has come into it, and they live very comfortably. This is the matter of fact. Now I desire you, who are a profound philosopher, to consider this alliance of instinct and reason. Your speculation may turn very naturally upon the force the superior part of mankind may have upon the spirits of such as, like this watchman, may be very near the standard of geese. And you may add to this practical observation, how, in all ages and times, the world has been carried away by odd unaccountable things, which one would think would pass upon no creature which had reason; and, under the symbol of this goose, you may enter into the manner and method of leading creatures, with

their eyes open, through thick and thin, for they know not what, they know not why.

'All which is humbly submitted to your spectral wisdom, by,

'SIR,
'Your most humble servant,
'MICHAEL GANDER.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE for several years had under my care the government and education of young ladies; which trust I have endeavoured to discharge with due regard to their several capacities and fortunes. I have left nothing undone to imprint in every one of them an humble courteous mind, accompanied with a graceful becoming mien, and have made them pretty much acquainted with the household part of family affairs; but still I find there is something very much wanting in the air of my ladies, different from what I observe in those that are esteemed your fine-bred women. Now, sir, I must own to you, I never suffered my girls to learn to dance; but since I have read your discourse of dancing, where you have described the beauty and spirit there is in a regular motion, I own myself your convert, and resolve for the future to give my young ladies that accomplishment. But upon imparting my design to their parents, I have been made very uneasy for some time, because several of them have declared, that if I did not make use of the master they recommended, they would take away their children. There was Colonel Jumper's lady, a colouel of the train-bands, that has a great interest in her parish; she recommends Mr. Trotter for the prettiest master in town; that no man teaches a jig like him; that she has seen him rise six or seven capers together with the greatest ease imaginable; and that his scholars twist themselves more ways than the scholars of any master in town: besides, there is Madam Prim, an alderman's lady, recommends a master of her own name, but she declares he is not of their family, yet a very extraordinary man in his way; for besides a very soft air he has in dancing, he gives them a particular behaviour at a tea-table, and in presenting their snuff-box; teaches to twirl, slip, or flirt a fan, and how to place patches to the best advantage, either for fat or lean, long or oval faces: for my lady says, there is more in these things than the world imagines. But I must confess, the major part of those I am concerned with leave it to me. I desire, therefore, according to the inclosed direction, you would send your correspondent who has writ to you on that subject to my house. If proper application this way can give innocence new charms, and make virtue legible in the countenance, I shall spare no charge to make my scholars, in their very features and limbs, bear witness how careful I have been in the other parts of their education.

'I am, SIR,
'Your most humble servant,
'RACHEL WATCHFUL.'

STEEL.

T.

* See the concluding letters of N^o 206; N^o 308, let. 4; N^o 314, let. 2; and N^o 316, let. 1.

N^o 377. TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1712.

*Quid quisque vitet, nunquam homini satis
Cautum est in horis.*

HOR. Od. xiii. l. 2. ver. 18.

What each should fly, is seldom known;
We, unprovided, are undone.

CREECH.

LOVE was the mother of poetry, and still produces among the most ignorant and barbarous, a thousand imaginary distresses and poetical complaints. It makes a footman talk like Oroondates, and converts a brutal rustic into a gentle swain. The most ordinary plebeian or mechanic in love bleeds and pines away with a certain elegance and tenderness of sentiments, which this passion naturally inspires.

These inward languishings of a mind infected with softness, have given birth to a phrase which is made use of by all the melting tribe, from the highest to the lowest, I mean that of 'dying for love.'

Romances, which owe their very being to this passion, are full of these metaphorical deaths. Heroes and heroines, knights, squires, and damsels, are all of them in a dying condition. There is the same kind of mortality in our modern tragedies, where every one gasps, faints, bleeds, and dies. Many of the poets, to describe the execution which is done by this passion, represent the fair sex as basilisks that destroy with their eyes; but I think Mr. Cowley has, with great justness of thought, compared a beautiful woman to a porcupine, that sends an arrow from every part.

I have often thought, that there is no way so effectual for the cure of this general infirmity, as a man's reflecting upon the motives that produce it. When the passion proceeds from the sense of any virtue or perfection in the person beloved, I would by no means discourage it; but if a man considers that all his heavy complaints of wounds and death rise from some little affectations of coquetry, which are improved into charms by his own fond imagination, the very laying before himself the cause of his distemper, may be sufficient to effect the cure of it.

It is in this view that I have looked over the several bundles of letters which I have received from dying people, and composed out of them the following bill of mortality, which I shall lay before my reader without any farther preface, as hoping that it may be useful to him in discovering those several places where there is most danger, and those fatal arts which are made use of to destroy the heedless and unwary:

Lysander, slain at a puppet-show on the third of September.

Thyrsis, shot from a casement in Piccadilly.

T. S. wounded by Zelinda's scarlet stocking, as she was stepping out of a coach.

Will Simple, smitten at the opera by the glare of an eye that was aimed at one who stood by him.

Tho. Vainlove, lost his life at a ball.

Tim. Tattle, killed by the tap of a fan on his left shoulder by Coquetilla, as he was talking carlelessly with her in a bow-window.

Sir Simon Softly, murdered at the playhouse in Drury Lane by a frown.

Philander, mortally wounded by Cleora, as she was adjusting her tucker.

Ralph Gapley, Esq. hit by a random shot at the ring.

F. R. caught his death upon the water, April the 1st.

W. W. killed by an unknown hand, that was playing with the glove off upon the side of the front box in Drury Lane.

Sir Christopher Crazy, Bart. hurt by the brush of a whalebone petticoat.

Sylvius, shot through the sticks of a fan at St. James's church.

Damon, struck through the heart by a diamond necklace.

Thomas Trusty, Francis Goosequill, William Manwell, Edward Callow, Esqrs. standing in a row, fell all four at the same time, by an ogie of the Widow Trapland.

Tom Rattle, chancing to tread upon a lady's tail as he came out of the playhouse, she turned full upon him, and laid him dead upon the spot.

Dick Tastewell, slain by a blush from the queen's box in the third act of the Trip to the jubilee.

Samuel Felt, haberdasher, wounded in his walks on Islington, by Mrs. Susanna Cross-stitch, as she was clambering over a stile.

R. F., T. W., S. I., M. P., &c. put to death in the last birth-day massacre.

Roger Blinko, cut off in the twenty-first year of his age by a white-wash.

Muidorus, slain by an arrow that flew out of a limbe in Belinda's left cheek.

Ned Courtly, presenting Flavia with her glove which she had dropped on purpose, she received it, and took away his life with a cartsy.

John Goselin, having received a slight hurt from a pair of blue eyes, as he was making his escape, was dispatched by a smile.

Strephon, killed by Clarinda as she looked down into the pit.

Charles Careless shot flying by a girl of fifteen, who unexpectedly popped her head upon him out of a coach.

Josiah Withers, aged threescore-and-three, sent to his long home by Elizabeth Jetwell, spinster.

Jack Freelove, murdered by Melissa in her air.

William Wisacre, Gent. drowned in a flood of cars by Moll Common.

John Pleadwell, Esq. of the Middle Temple, barrister at law, assassinated in his chambers, the 14th instant, by Kitty Sly, who pretended to come to him for his advice.

ADDISON.

I.

N^o 378. WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1712.

Aggredere, O magnos, adert jam tempus, honores.
VIRG. Ecl. iv. ver. 48.

Mature in years, to ready honours move.
DRYDEN.

I WILL make no apology for entertaining the reader with the following poem, which is written by a great genius, a friend of mine* in the country, who is not ashamed to employ his wit in the praise of his Maker:

* Pope. See N^o 534.

MESSIAH:

A SACRED ECLOGUE,

Composed of several passages of Isaiah the prophet.

Written in imitation of Virgil's *Pollio*.

YE nymphs of Solyma! begin the song:
To heav'nly themes sublimer strains belong:
The mossy fountains, and the sylvan shades,
The dreams of Pindus, and th' Aonian maids,
Delight no more—O thou my voice inspire,
Who touch'd Isaiah's hallow'd lips with fire!
Rapt into future times, the bard begun,
A virgin shall conceive, a virgin bear a son!
From Jesse's root behold a branch arise, Isa. xli. 1.
Whose sacred flower with fragrance fills the skies:
Th' ethereal spirit o'er its leaves shall move,
And on its top descends the mystic Dove.
Ye heavens! from high the dewy nectar pour, xlv. 6.
And in soft silence shed the kindly shower!
The sick and weak the healing plant shall aid, xxv. 4.
From storms a shelter, and from heat a shade.
All crimes shall cease, and ancient fraud shall fail;
Returning justice lift aloft her scale; ix. 7.
Peace o'er the world her olive wand extend,
And white-rob'd Innocence from heav'n descend.
Swift fly the years, and rise th' expected morn!
Oh spring to light, auspicious Babe, be born!
See nature hastes her earliest wreaths to bring,
With all the incense of the breathing spring: xxxv. 2.
See lofty Lebanon his head advance,
See nodding forests on the mountains dance;
See spicy clouds from lowly Sharon rise,
And Carmel's flowery top perfumes the skies!
Hark! a glad voice the lonely desert cheers;
Prepare the way! a God, a God, appears: xl. 3, 4.
A God! a God! the vocal hills reply,
The rocks proclaim th' approaching Deity.
Lo earth receives him from the bending skies!
Sink down, ye mountains; and ye valleys, rise!
With heads declin'd, ye cedars, homage pay;
Be smooth, ye rocks; ye rapid floods, give way!
The Saviour comes! by ancient bards foretold!
Hear him, ye deaf! and all the blind, behold;
He from thick fumes shall purge the visual ray, xlii. 18.
On the sightless eye-ball pour the day, xxxv. 5, 6.
'Tis He th' obstructed paths of sound shall clear,
And bid new music charm th' unfolding ear:
The dumb shall sing, the lame his crutch forego,
And leap exulting like the bounding roe;
No sigh, no murmur, the wide world shall hear, xlv. 8.
From every face He wipes off every tear:
In adamant chains shall death be bound,
And hell's grim tyrant feel th' eternal wound.
As the good shepherd tends his fleecy care, xl. 11.
Seeks freshest pastures and the purest air,
Explores the lost, the wandering sheep directs,
By day o'ersees them, and by night protects;
The tender lambs he raises in his arms,
Feeds from his hand, and in his bosom warms;
Mankind shall thus his guardian care engage,
The promis'd father of the future age, ix. 6.
No more shall nation against nation rise, ii. 4.
Nor ardent warriors meet with hateful eyes;
Nor fields with gleaming steel be cover'd o'er,
The brazen trumpets kindle rage no more:
But useless lances into scythes shall bend,
And the broad falchion in a ploughshare end.
Then palaces shall rise; the joyful son lxxv. 21, 22.
Shall finish what his short-liv'd sire begun;
Their vines a shadow to their race shall yield,
And the same hand that sow'd, shall reap the field.
The swain in barren deserts with surprise xxxv. 1, 7.
Sees lilies spring, and sudden verdure rise,
And starts amidst the thirsty wilds to hear
New falls of water murmuring in his ear:
On rifted rocks, the dragon's late abodes,
The green reed trembles, and the bulrush nods.
Waste sandy valleys, once perplex'd with thorn, xli. 19,
The spiny fir and shapely box adorn: and lv. 13.
To leafless shrubs the flowering palms succeed,
And od'rous myrtle to the noisome weed.
The lambs with wolves shall grace the verdant xi. 6, 7, 8.
mead,
And boys in flowery bands the tiger lead;
The steer and lion at one crib shall meet,
And harmless serpents lick the pilgrim's feet:
The smiling infant in his hand shall take
The crested basilisk, and speckled snake;
Pleas'd the green lustre of the scales survey,
And with their forked tongue and pointless sting
shall play.

- Isa. lx. 1. Rise, crown'd with light, imperial Salem, rise!
Exalt thy tow'ry head, and lift thy eyes!
lx. 4. See a long race thy spacious courts adorn;
See future sons and daughters yet unborn
In crowding ranks on every side arise,
Demanding life, impatient for the skies!
lx. 3. See barb'rous nations at thy gates attend;
Walk in thy light, and in thy temple bend;
See thy bright altars throng'd with prostrate kings,
And heap'd with products of Sabæan springs!
lx. 6. For thee Idume's spicy forests blow,
And seeds of gold in Ophir's mountains glow.
See heaven its sparkling portals wide display,
And break upon thee with a flood of day!
xix. 20. No more the rising sun shall gild the morn,
Nor evening Cynthia fill her silver horn,
But lost, dissolv'd in thy superior rays,
One tide of glory, one unclouded blaze
O'erflow thy courts: The Light Himself shall shine
Reveal'd, and God's eternal day be thine!
ll. 6. and
liv. 10. The seas shall waste, the skies in smoke decay,
Rocks fall to dust, and mountains melt away;
But fix'd His word, His saving power remains;
Thy realm for ever lasts, thy own Messiah reigns.

STEELE.

T.

N° 379. THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1712.

Scire tuum nihil est, nisi te scire hoc sciat alter.

PERS. Sat. l. ver. 27.

— Science is not science till reveal'd.
DRYDEN.

I HAVE often wondered at that ill-natured position which has been sometimes maintained in the schools, and is comprised in an old Latin verse, namely, that 'A man's knowledge is worth nothing, if he communicates what he knows to any one besides.' There is certainly no more sensible pleasure to a good-natured man, than if he can by any means gratify or inform the mind of another. I might add, that this virtue naturally carries its own reward along with it, since it is almost impossible it should be exercised without the improvement of the person who practises it. The reading of books, and the daily occurrences of life, are continually furnishing us with matter for thought and reflection. It is extremely natural for us to desire to see such our thoughts put into the dress of words, without which indeed we can scarce have a clear and distinct idea of them ourselves. When they are thus clothed in expressions, nothing so truly shows us whether they are just or false, as those effects which they produce in the minds of others.

I am apt to flatter myself that, in the course of these my speculations, I have treated of several subjects, and laid down many such rules for the conduct of a man's life, which my readers were either wholly ignorant of before, or which at least those few who were acquainted with them, looked upon as so many secrets they have found out for the conduct of themselves, but were resolved never to have made public.

I am the more confirmed in this opinion from my having received several letters, wherein I am censured for having prostituted learning to the embraces of the vulgar, and made her, as one of my correspondents phrases it, a common strumpet. I am charged by another with laying open the arcana or secrets of prudence, to the eyes of every reader.

The narrow spirit which appears in the letters of these my correspondents is the less surprising, as it has shown itself in all ages: there is still extant an epistle written by Alexander the Great to his tutor Aristotle, upon that philosopher's publishing some part of his writings; in which the

prince complains of his having made known to all the world those secrets in learning which he had before communicated to him in private lectures: concluding, that he had rather excel the rest of mankind in knowledge than in power.

Louisa de Padilla, a lady of great learning, and Countess of Aranda, was in like manner angry with the famous Grætan, upon his publishing his treatise of the Discreto*, wherein she fancied that he had laid open those maxims to common readers, which ought only to have been reserved for the knowledge of the great.

These objections are thought by many of so much weight, that they often defend the above-mentioned authors, by affirming they have affected such an obscurity in their style and manner of writing, that, though every one may read their works, there will be but very few who can comprehend their meaning.

Persius, the Latin satirist, affected obscurity for another reason; with which, however, Mr. Cowley is so offended, that, writing to one of his friends, 'You,' says he, 'tell me, that you do not know whether Persius be a good poet or no, because you cannot understand him; for which very reason I affirm that he is not so.'

However, this art of writing unintelligibly has been very much improved, and followed by several of the moderns, who, observing the general inclination of mankind to dive into a secret, and the reputation many have acquired by concealing their meaning under obscure terms and phrases, resolve, that they may be still more abstruse, to write without any meaning at all. This art, as it is at present practised by many eminent authors, consists in throwing so many words at a venture into different periods, and leaving the curious reader to find the meaning of them.

The Egyptians, who made use of hieroglyphics to signify several things, expressed a man, who confined his knowledge and discoveries altogether within himself, by the figure of a dark lantern closed on all sides, which, though it was illuminated within, afforded no manner of light or advantage to such as stood by it. For my own part, as I shall from time to time communicate to the public whatever discoveries I happen to make, I should much rather be compared to an ordinary lamp, which consumes and wastes itself for the benefit of every passer-by.

I shall conclude this paper with the story of Rasciusius's sepulchre. I suppose I need not inform my readers that this man was the author of the Rasciusian sect, and that his disciples still pretend to new discoveries which they are never to communicate to the rest of mankind†.

A certain person having occasion to dig somewhat deep in the ground, where this philosopher lay interred, met with a small door, having a wall on each side of it. His curiosity, and the hope of finding some hidden treasure, soon prompted him to force open the door. He was immediately surprised by a sudden blaze of light, and discovered a very fair vault. At the upper end of it was a statue of a man in armour sitting by a table, and leaning on his left arm. He held a truncheon in his right hand, and had a lamp burning before him. The man had no sooner set one foot within the vault, than the statue erected itself from its kenn-

* See N° 293, note; and N° 409.

† See Pope's works, by Warburton, vol. i. Note on *; Rape of the Lock, canto 1.

ing posture, stood bolt up-right, and, upon the fellow's advancing another step, lifted up the truncheon in his right hand. The man still ventured a third step, when the statue with a furious blow broke the lamp into a thousand pieces, and left his guest in a sudden darkness.

'Upon the report of this adventure, the country people soon came with lights to the sepulchre, and discovered that the statue, which was made of brass, was nothing more than a piece of clock-work; that the floor of the vault was all loose, and underlaid with several springs, which upon any man's entering, naturally produced that which had happened.'

Rosicrusius, say his disciples, made use of this method, to show the world that he had re-invented the ever-burning lamps of the ancients, though he was resolved no one should reap any advantage from the discovery.

BUDGELL.

X.

Nº 380. FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1712.

Rivalem patienter habe.

OVID. *Art. Am.* l. ii. ver. 538.

With patience bear a rival in thy love.

'SIR,

'Thursday, May 8, 1712.

THE character you have in the world of being *le ladies' philosopher*, and the pretty advice I have seen you give to others in your papers, make me address myself to you in this abrupt manner, and to desire your opinion what in this age a woman may call a lover. I have had lately a gentleman that I thought made pretensions to me, inso-much that most of my friends took notice of it, and thought we were really married; which I did not take much pains to undeceive them, and especially a young gentlewoman of my particular acquaintance which was then in the country. She coming to town, and seeing our intimacy so great, she gave herself the liberty of taking me to task concerning it: I ingenuously told her we were not married, but I did not know what might be the vent. She soon got acquainted with the gentleman, and was pleased to take upon her to examine him about it. Now, whether a new face had made a greater conquest than the old, I will leave you to judge: but I am informed that he utterly denied all pretensions to courtship, but withal professed a sincere friendship for me: but, whether marriages are proposed by way of friendship or not, is what I desire to know, and what I may really call a lover. There are so many who talk in a language not only for that character, and yet guard themselves against speaking in direct terms to the point, that it is impossible to distinguish between courtship and conversation. I hope you will do me justice both upon my lover and my friend, if they provoke me further. In the meantime I carry it with so equal a behaviour, that the nymph and the wain too are mightily at a loss: each believes I, who know them both well, think myself revenged on their love to one another, which creates an irreconcilable jealousy. If all comes right again, you shall hear further from,

'SIR,

'Your most obedient servant,

'MYRTILLA.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'April 28, 1712.

'YOUR observations on persons that have behaved themselves irreverently at church*, I doubt not, have had a good effect on some that have read them; but there is another fault which has hitherto escaped your notice, I mean of such persons as are very zealous and punctual to perform an ejaculation that is only preparatory to the service of the church, and yet neglect to join in the service itself. There is an instance of this in a friend of Will Honeycomb's, who sits opposite to me. He seldom comes in till the prayers are about half over; and when he has entered his seat (instead of joining with the congregation) he devoutly holds his hat before his face for three or four moments, then bows to all his acquaintance, sits down, takes a pinch of snuff (if it be evening service, perhaps a nap), and spends the remaining time in surveying the congregation. Now, sir, what I would desire is, that you would animadvert a little on this gentleman's practice. In my opinion, this gentleman's devotion, cap in hand, is only a compliance to the custom of the place, and goes no further than a little ecclesiastical good-breeding. If you will not pretend to tell us the motives that bring such triflers to solemn assemblies, yet let me desire that you will give this letter a place in your paper, and I shall remain,

'SIR,

'Your obliged humble servant,

'J. S.†'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'May the 5th.

'THE conversation at a club, of which I am a member, last night falling upon vanity and the desire of being admired, put me in mind of relating how agreeably I was entertained at my own door last Thursday by a clean fresh-coloured girl, under the most elegant and the best-furnished milk-pail I had ever observed. I was glad of such an opportunity of seeing the behaviour of a coquette in low life, and how she received the extraordinary notice that was taken of her; which I found had affected every muscle of her face in the same manner as it does the feature of a first-rate toast at a play, or in an assembly. This hint of mine made the discourse turn upon the sense of pleasure; which ended in a general resolution, that the milk-maid enjoys her vanity as exquisitely as the woman of quality. I think it would not be an improper subject for you to examine this frailty, and trace it to all conditions of life; which is recommended to you as an occasion of obliging many of your readers, among the rest,

'Your most humble servant,

'T. B.†'

'SIR,

'May 12, 1712.

'COMING last week into a coffee-house not far from the Exchange with my basket under my arm, a Jew of considerable note, as I am informed, takes half a dozen oranges of me, and at the same time slides a guinea into my hand; I made him a curtsy, and went my way. He followed me, and, finding I was going about my business, he came up with me, and told me plainly, that he gave me the guinea with no other intent but to purchase my person for an hour. "Did you so, sir?" says I;

* See Nº 259.

† These may be the initials of Swift's name, in whose works there is a sermon expressly on the subject of Sleeping at Church. See vol. X. p. 124. 8vo. edit. 1801.

"you gave it me then to make me wicked; I will keep it to make me honest. However, not to be in the least ungrateful, I promise you I will lay it out in a couple of rings, and wear them for your sake." I am so just, sir, besides, as to give every body that asks how I came by my rings this account of my benefactor; but, to save me the trouble of telling my tale over and over again, I humbly beg the favour of you to tell it once for all, and you will extremely oblige,

'Your humble servant,

'BETTY LEMON.'

'SIR,

'St. Bride's, May 15, 1712.

'Tis a great deal of pleasure to me, and I dare say will be no less satisfaction to you, that I have an opportunity of informing you, that the gentlemen and others of the parish of St. Bride, have raised a charity-school of fifty girls, as before of fifty boys. You were so kind to recommend the boys to the charitable world, and the other sex hope you will do them the same favour in Friday's Spectator, for Sunday next, when they are to appear with their humble airs at the parish church of St. Bride. Sir, the mention of this may possibly be serviceable to the children; and sure no one will omit a good action attended with no expence.

'I am, sir,

'Your very humble servant,

'THE SEXTON.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 381. SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1712.

*Equam memento rebus in arduis
Servare mentem, non secus in bonis
Ab insolenti temperatam
Letitia morture Deli.*

HOR. Od. III. l. 2. ver. 1.

Be calm, my Delius, and serene,
However fortune change the scene.
In thy most dejected state,
Sink not underneath the weight;
Nor yet, when happy days begin,
And the full tide comes rolling in,
Let a fierce, unruly joy,
The settled quiet of thy mind destroy.

ANON.

I HAVE always preferred cheerfulness to mirth. The latter I consider as an act, the former as an habit of the mind. Mirth is short and transient, cheerfulness fixed and permanent. Those are often raised into the greatest transports of mirth who are subject to the greatest depressions of melancholy. On the contrary, cheerfulness, though it does not give the mind such an exquisite gladness, prevents us from falling into any depths of sorrow. Mirth is like a flash of lightning, that breaks through a gloom of clouds, and glitters for a moment; cheerfulness keeps up a kind of daylight in the mind, and fills it with a steady and perpetual serenity.

Men of austere principles look upon mirth as too wanton and dissolute for a state of probation, and as filled with a certain triumph and insolence of heart that is inconsistent with a life which is every moment obnoxious to the greatest dangers. Writers of this complexion have observed, that the Sacred Person who was the great pattern of perfection, was never seen to laugh.

Cheerfulness of mind is not liable to any of these exceptions; it is of a serious and composed nature; it does not throw the mind into a condition improper for the present state of humanity, and is very conspicuous in the characters of those who

are looked upon as the greatest philosophers among the heathens, as well as among those who have been deservedly esteemed as saints and holy men among Christians.

If we consider cheerfulness in three lights, with regard to ourselves, to those we converse with, and to the great Author of our being, it will not a little recommend itself on each of these accounts. The man who is possessed of this excellent frame of mind, is not only easy in his thoughts, but a perfect master of all the powers and faculties of his soul. His imagination is always clear, and his judgment undisturbed; his temper is even and unruffled, whether in action or in solitude. He comes with a relish to all those goods which nature has provided for him, tastes all the pleasures of the creation which are poured about him, and does not feel the full weight of those accidental evils which may befall him.

If we consider him in relation to the persons whom he converses with, it naturally produces love and good-will towards him. A cheerful mind is not only disposed to be affable and obliging, but raises the same good-humour in those who come within its influence. A man finds himself pleased, he does not know why, with the cheerfulness of his companion. It is like a sudden sunshine that awakens a secret delight in the mind, without her attending to it. The heart rejoices of its own accord, and naturally flows out into friendship and benevolence towards the person who has so kindly an effect upon it.

When I consider this cheerful state of mind is its third relation, I cannot but look upon it as a constant habitual gratitude to the great Author of nature. An inward cheerfulness is an implicit praise and thanksgiving to Providence under all its dispensations. It is a kind of acquiescence in the state wherein we are placed, and a secret approbation of the Divine Will in his conduct towards man.

There are but two things which, in my opinion, can reasonably deprive us of this cheerfulness of heart. The first of these is the sense of guilt. A man who lives in a state of vice and impenitence, can have no title to that evenness and tranquillity of mind which is the health of the soul, and the natural effect of virtue and innocence. Cheerfulness in an ill man deserves a harder name than language can furnish us with, and is many degrees beyond what we commonly call folly or madness.

Atheism, by which I mean a disbelief of a Supreme Being, and consequently of a future state, under whatsoever titles it shelters itself, may likewise very reasonably deprive a man of this cheerfulness of temper. There is something so particularly gloomy and offensive to human nature in the prospect of non-existence, that I cannot but wonder, with many excellent writers, how it is possible for a man to outlive the expectation of it. For my own part, I think the being of a God is so little to be doubted, that it is almost the only truth we are sure of, and such a truth as we meet with in every object, in every occurrence, and in every thought. If we look into the characters of this tribe of infidels, we generally find they are made up of pride, spleen, and cavil. It is indeed no wonder, that men who are uneasy to themselves, should be so to the rest of the world; and how is it possible for a man to be otherwise than uneasy in himself, who is in danger every moment of losing his entire existence, and dropping into nothing?

The vicious man and atheist have therefore no pretence to cheerfulness, and would act very un-

reasonably should they endeavour after it. It is impossible for any one to live in good humour, and enjoy his present existence, who is apprehensive either of torment or of annihilation; of being miserable, or of not being at all.

After having mentioned these two great principles which are destructive of cheerfulness in their own nature, as well as in right reason, I cannot think of any other that ought to banish this happy temper from a virtuous mind. Pain and sickness, shame and reproach, poverty and old age, nay death itself, considering the shortness of their duration, and the advantages we may reap from them, do not deserve the name of evils. A good mind may bear up under them with fortitude, with indolence, and with cheerfulness of heart. The tossing of a tempest does not discompose him, which he is sure will bring him to a joyful harbour.

A man who uses his best endeavours to live according to the dictates of virtue and right reason, has two perpetual sources of cheerfulness, in the consideration of his own nature, and of that Being on whom he has a dependence. If he looks into himself, he cannot but rejoice in that existence which is so lately bestowed upon him, and which, after millions of ages, will be still new, and still in its beginning. How many self-congratulations naturally rise in the mind, when it reflects on this its entrance into eternity, when it takes a view of those improveable faculties which in a few years, and even at its first setting out, have made so considerable a progress, and which will be still receiving an increase of perfection, and consequently an increase of happiness! The consciousness of such a being spreads a perpetual diffusion of joy through the soul of a virtuous man, and makes him look upon himself every moment as more happy than he knows how to conceive.

The second source of cheerfulness to a good mind, is the consideration of that Being on whom we have our dependence, and in whom, though we behold him as yet but in the first faint discoveries of his perfections, we see every thing that we can imagine as great, glorious, or amiable. We find ourselves every where upheld by his goodness, and surrounded with an immensity of love and mercy. In short, we depend upon a Being, whose power qualifies him to make us happy by an infinity of means, whose goodness and truth engage him to make those happy who desire it of him, and whose changeableness will secure us in this happiness to all eternity.

Such considerations, which every one should perpetually cherish in his thoughts, will banish from us all that secret heaviness of heart which thinking men are subject to when they lie under a real affliction; all that anguish which we may feel from any evil that actually oppresses us, to which I may likewise add those little cracklings of mirth and folly that are apter to betray virtue than support it; and establish in us such an even and cheerful temper, as makes us pleasing to ourselves, to those with whom we converse, and to him whom we were made to please.

ADDISON *.

L

* See the subject resumed N° 397, and concluded N° 398.

N° 392. MONDAY, MAY 19, 1712.

Habes confitentem reum.

TULL.

The accused confesses his guilt.

I OUGHT not to have neglected a request of one of my correspondents so long as I have; but I dare say I have given him time to add practice to profession. He sent me some time ago a bottle or two of excellent wine, to drink the health of a gentleman who had by the penny post advertised him of an egregious error in his conduct. My correspondent received the obligation from an unknown hand, with the candour which is natural to an ingenuous mind; and promises a contrary behaviour in that point for the future. He will offend his monitor with no more errors of that kind, but thanks him for his benevolence. This frank carriage makes me reflect upon the amiable atonement a man makes in an ingenuous acknowledgment of a fault. All such miscarriages as flow from inadvertency are more than repaid by it; for reason, though not concerned in the injury, employs all its force in the atonement. He that says, he did not design to disoblige you in such an action, does as much as if he should tell you, that though the circumstance which displeased was never in his thoughts, he has that respect for you, that he is unsatisfied till it is wholly out of yours. It must be confessed, that when an acknowledgment of an offence is made out of poorness of spirit, and not conviction of heart, the circumstance is quite different. But in the case of my correspondent, where both the notice is taken, and the return made in private, the affair begins and ends with the highest grace on each side. To make the acknowledgment of a fault in the highest manner graceful, it is lucky when the circumstances of the offender place him above any ill consequences from the resentment of the person offended. A dauphin of France, upon a review of the army, and a command of the king to alter the posture of it by a march of one of the wings, gave an improper order to an officer at the head of a brigade, who told his highness, he presumed he had not received the last orders, which were to move a contrary way. The prince, instead of taking the admonition, which was delivered in a manner that accounted for his error with safety to his understanding, shook a cane at the officer, and, with the return of opprobrious language, persisted in his own orders. The whole matter came necessarily before the king, who commanded his son, on foot, to lay his right hand on the gentleman's stirrup as he sat on horseback in sight of the whole army, and ask his pardon. When the prince touched his stirrup, and was going to speak, the officer, with an incredible agility, threw himself on the earth, and kissed his feet.

The body is very little concerned in the pleasure or sufferings of souls truly great; and the reparation, when an honour was designed this soldier, appeared as much too great to be borne by his gratitude, as the injury was intolerable to his resentment.

When we turn our thoughts from these extraordinary occurrences into common life, we see an ingenuous kind of behaviour not only make up for faults committed, but in a manner expiate them in the very commission. Thus many things wherein a man has pressed too far, he implicitly excuses, by

owning, 'This is a trespass; you'll pardon my confidence; I am sensible I have no pretension to this favour; and the like. But commend me to those gay fellows about town who are directly impudent, and make up for it no otherwise than by calling themselves such, and exulting in it. But this sort of carriage, which prompts a man against rules to urge what he has a mind to, is pardonable only when you use for another. When you are confident in preference of yourself to others of equal merit, every man that loves virtue and modesty ought, in defence of those qualities, to oppose you. But, without considering the morality of the thing, let us at this time behold only the natural consequence of candour when we speak of ourselves.

The Spectator writes often in an elegant, often in an argumentative, and often in a sublime style, with equal success; but how would it hurt the reputed author of that paper to own, that of the most beautiful pieces under his title he is barely the publisher? There is nothing but what a man really performs can be an honour to him; what he takes more than he ought in the eye of the world, he loses in the conviction of his own heart; and a man must love his consciousness, that is, his very self, before he can rejoice in any falsehood without inward mortification.

Who has not seen a very criminal at the bar, when his counsel and friends have done all that they could for him in vain, prevail on the whole assembly to pity him, and his judge to recommend his case to the mercy of the throne, without offering any thing new in his defence, but that he, whom before we wished convicted, became so out of his own mouth, and took upon himself all the shame and sorrow we were just before preparing for him? The great opposition to this kind of candour arises from the unjust idea people ordinarily have of what we call a high spirit. It is far from greatness of spirit to persist in the wrong in any thing; nor is it a diminution of greatness of spirit to have been in the wrong. Perfection is not the attribute of man, therefore he is not degraded by the acknowledgment of an imperfection: but it is the work of little minds to imitate the fortitude of great spirits on worthy occasions, by obstinacy in the wrong. This obstinacy prevails so far upon them, that they make it extend to the defence of faults in their very servants. It would swell this paper to too great a length, should I insert all the quarrels and debates which are now on foot in this town; where one party, and in some cases both, are sensible of being on the faulty side, and have not spirit enough to acknowledge it. Among the ladies the case is very common; for there are very few of them who know that it is to maintain a true and high spirit, to throw away from it all which itself disapproves, and to scorn so pitiful a shame, as that which disables the heart from acquiring a liberality of affections and sentiments. The candid mind, by acknowledging and discarding its faults, has reason and truth for the foundation of all its passions and desires, and consequently is happy and simple; the disingenuous spirit, by indulgence of one unacknowledged error, is entangled with an after-life of guilt, sorrow, and perplexity.

STABLE.

T.

N^o 383. TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1712.*Criminibus debent hortos*

JUV. Sat. l. ver. 75.

A beauteous garden, but by vice maintain'd.

As I was sitting in my chamber, and thinking on a subject for my next Spectator, I heard two or three irregular bouncers at my landlady's door, and, upon the opening of it, a loud cheerful voice inquiring whether the philosopher was at home. The child who went to the door answered very innocently that he did not lodge there. I immediately recollected that it was my good friend Sir Roger's voice; and that I had promised to go with him on the water to Spring-garden*, in case it proved a good evening. The knight put me in mind of my promise from the bottom of the staircase, but told me that if I was speculating, he would stay below till I had done. Upon my coming down, I found all the children of the family got about my old friend; and my landlady herself, who is a notable prating gossip, engaged in a conference with him; being mightily pleased with his stroking her little boy on the head, and bidding him be a good child and mind his book.

We were no sooner come to the Temple-stairs, but we were surrounded with a crowd of watermen, offering us their respective services. Sir Roger, after having looked about him very attentively, spied one with a wooden leg, and immediately gave him orders to get his boat ready. As we were walking towards it, 'You must know,' says Sir Roger, 'I never make use of any body to row me, that has not either lost a leg or an arm. I would rather bate him a few strokes of his oar than not employ an honest man that has been wounded in the queen's service. If I was a lord or a bishop, and kept a barge, I would not put a fellow in my livery that had not a wooden leg.'

My old friend, after having seated himself, and trimmed the boat with his coachman, who, being a very sober man, always serves for ballast on these occasions, we made the best of our way for Vauxhall†. Sir Roger obliged the waterman to give us the history of his right leg; and, hearing that he had left it at La Hogue, with many particulars which passed in that glorious action, the knight, in the triumph of his heart, made several reflections on the greatness of the British nation; as, that one Englishman could beat three Frenchmen; that we could never be in danger of popery so long as we took care of our fleet; that the Thames was the noblest river in Europe; that London-bridge was a greater piece of work than any of the seven wonders of the world; with many other honest prejudices which naturally cleave to the heart of a true Englishman.

After some short pause, the old knight, turning about his head twice or thrice, to take a survey of this great metropolis, bid me observe how thick the city was set with churches, and that there was scarce a single steeple on this side Temple-bar. 'A most heathenish sight!' says Sir Roger: 'there is no religion at this end of the town. The fifty new churches will very much mend the prospect; but church-work is slow, church-work is slow.'

I do not remember I have any where mentioned in Sir Roger's character, his custom of saluting

* Now known by the name of Vauxhall.

† In the original folio edition, it is Fox-hall.

every body that passes by him with a good-morrow, or a good-night. This the old man does out of the overflowings of his humanity, though at the same time it renders him so popular among all his country neighbours, that it is thought to have gone a good way in making him once or twice knight of the shire. He cannot forbear this exercise of benevolence even in town, when he meets with any one in his morning or evening walk. It broke from him to several boats that passed by us on the water; but, to the knight's great surprise, as he gave the good night to two or three young fellows a little before our landing, one of them, instead of returning the civility, asked us, what queer old man we had in the boat, and whether he was not ashamed to go a wenching at his years? with a great deal of the like Thames-ribaldry. Sir Roger seemed a little shocked at first, but at length assuming a face of magistracy, told us, that if he were Middlesex justice, he would make such vagrants now that her majesty's subjects were no more to be abused by water than by land.

We were now arrived at Spring-garden, which is exquisitely pleasant at this time of the year. When I consider the fragrancy of the walks and lawns, with the choirs of birds that sung upon the trees, and the loose tribe of people that walked under their shades, I could not but look upon the place as a kind of Mahometan paradise. Sir Roger told me, it put him in mind of a little coppice by his house in the country, which his chaplain used to call an aviary of nightingales. 'You must understand,' says the knight, 'there is nothing in the world that pleases a man in love so much as our nightingale. Ah, Mr. Spectator, the many moonlight nights that I have walked by myself, and sought on the widow by the music of the nightingale!' He here fetched a deep sigh, and was falling into a fit of musing, when a mask, who came behind him, gave him a gentle tap upon the shoulder, and asked him, if he would drink a bottle of lead with her? But the knight, being startled at an unexpected familiarity, and displeased to be interrupted in his thoughts of the widow, told her he was a wanton baggage; and bid her go about her business.

We concluded our walk with a glass of Burton Ale, and a slice of hung beef. When we had done eating ourselves, the knight calls a waiter to him, and bid him carry the remainder to the waterman that had but one leg. I perceived the fellow stared upon him at the oddness of the message, and as going to be saucy; upon which I ratified the knight's commands with a peremptory look.

As we were going out of the garden, my old friend thinking himself obliged, as a member of the quorum, to animadvert upon the morals of the place, told the mistress of the house, who sat at the door, that he should be a better customer to her garden, if there were more nightingales, and fewer rumpets.

ADDISON.

I.

Nº 381. WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1712.

Hague, May 24, N. S. The same republican hands, who have so often since the Chevalier de St. George's recovery killed him in our public prints, have now reduced the young Dauphin of France to that desperate condition of weakness, and death itself, that it is hard to conjecture what method they will take to bring him to life again. Meantime we are assured by a very good hand from Paris, that on the 30th instant this young prince was as well as ever he was known to be since the day of his birth. As for the other, they are now sending his ghost, we suppose, (for they never had the modesty to contradict their assertions of his death) to Commerci in Lorrain, attended only by four gentlemen, and a few domestics of little consideration. The Baron de Bothmar* having delivered in his credentials to qualify him as an ambassador to this state (an office to which his greatest enemies will acknowledge him to be equal), is gone to Utrecht, whence he will proceed to Hanover, but not stay long at that court, for fear the peace should be made during his lamented absence.

POST-BOY, May 20.

I SHOULD be thought not able to read, should I overlook some excellent pieces lately come out. My Lord Bishop of St. Asaph has just now published some sermons, the preface to which seems to me to determine a great point. He has, like a good man, and a good Christian, in opposition to all the flattery and base submission of false friends to princes, asserted, that Christianity left us where it found us as to our civil rights. The present entertainment shall consist only of a sentence out of the Post-boy, and the said preface of the Lord of St. Asaph†. I should think it a little odd if the author of the Post-Boy should with impunity call men republicans for a gladness on the report of the death of the Pretender; and treat Baron Bothmar, the minister of Hanover, in such a manner as you see in my motto. I must own, I think every man in England concerned to support the succession of that family.

The publishing a few sermons, whilst I live, the latest of which was preached about eight years since, and the first above seventeen, will make it very natural for people to inquire into the occasion of doing so; and to such I do very willingly assign these following reasons:

'First, from the observations I have been able to make for these many years last past upon our public affairs, and from the natural tendency of several principles and practices, that have of late been studiously revived, and from what has followed thereupon, I could not help both fearing and presaging, that these nations would some time or other, if ever we should have an enterprising prince upon the throne, of more ambition than virtue, justice, and true honour, fall into the way of all other nations, and lose their liberty.

'Nor could I help foreseeing to whose charge a great deal of this dreadful mischief, whenever it should happen, would be laid, whether justly or

* Then Ambassador from Hanover.

† Dr. William Fleetwood. 'Four Sermons. 1. On the death of Queen Mary, 1693. 2. On the death of the Duke of Gloucester, 1700. 3. On the death of King William, 1701. 4. On the queen's accession to the throne, in 1702. With a Preface. Lond. 1712. 8vo.' This preface, which overflowed, says Dr. Johnson, with whiggish principles, was ordered to be burnt by the house of commons; which made the preface and the sermons more generally read, and more generally admired. This Nº of the Spectator, as the Bishop of St. Asaph says, in a letter to Dr. Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, 'conveyed about fourteen thousand copies of the condemned preface into people's hands that would otherwise have never seen or heard of it.'

unjustly, was not my business to determine; but I resolved, for my own particular part, to deliver myself, as well as I could, from the reproaches and the curses of posterity, by publicly declaring to all the world, that, although in the constant course of my ministry I have never failed, on proper occasions, to recommend, urge, and insist upon the loving, honouring, and reverencing the prince's person, and holding it, according to the laws, inviolable and sacred; and paying all obedience and submission to the laws, though never so hard and inconvenient to private people: yet did I never think myself at liberty, or authorized to tell the people, that either Christ, St. Peter, or St. Paul, or any other holy writer, had, by any doctrine delivered by them, subverted the laws and constitutions of the country in which they lived, or put them in a worse condition with respect to their civil liberties than they would have been had they not been Christians. I ever thought it a most impious blasphemy against that holy religion, to father any thing upon it that might encourage tyranny, oppression, or injustice, in a prince, or that easily tended to make a free and happy people slaves and miserable. No. People may make themselves as wretched as they will, but let not God be called into that wicked party. When force and violence, and hard necessity, have brought the yoke of servitude upon a people's neck, religion will supply them with a patient and submissive spirit under it till they can innocently shake it off: but certainly religion never puts it on. This always was, and this at present is, my judgment of these matters; and I would be transmitted to posterity (for the little share of time such names as mine can live) under the character of one who loved his country, and would be thought a good Englishman, as well as a good clergyman.

'This character I thought would be transmitted by the following sermons, which were made for and preached in a private audience, when I could think of nothing else but doing my duty on the occasions that were then offered by God's providence, without any manner of design of making them public; and for that reason I give them now as they were then delivered; by which I hope to satisfy those people who have objected a change of principles to me, as if I were not now the same man I formerly was. I never had but one opinion of these matters; and that I think is so reasonable and well-grounded, that I believe I can never have any other.

'Another reason of my publishing these sermons at this time is, that I have a mind to do myself some honour by doing what honour I could to the memory of two most excellent princes, and who have very highly deserved at the hands of all the people of these dominions, who have any true value for the Protestant religion, and the constitution of the English government, of which they were the great deliverers and defenders. I have lived to see their illustrious names very rudely handled, and the great benefits they did this nation treated slightly and contemptuously. I have lived to see our deliverance from arbitrary power and popery traduced and vilified by some who formerly thought it was their greatest merit, and made it part of their boast and glory, to have had a little hand and share in bringing it about; and others who, without it, must have lived in exile, poverty, and misery, meanly disclaiming it, and using ill the glorious instruments thereof. Who could expect such a requital of such merit? I have, I own it, an am-

bition of exempting myself from the number of unthankful people: and as I loved and honoured those great princes living, and lamented over them when dead, so I would gladly raise them up a monument of praise as lasting as any thing of mine can be; and I choose to do it at this time, when it is so unfashionable a thing to speak honourably of them.

'The sermon that was preached upon the Date of Gloucester's death was printed quickly after, and is now, because the subject was so suitable, joined to the others. The loss of that most promising and hopeful prince was at that time, I say, unspeakably great; and many accidents since have convinced us that it could not have been overvalued. That precious life, had it pleased God to have prolonged it the usual space, had saved us many fear and jealousies, and dark distrusts, and prevented many alarms, that have long kept us, and will keep us still, waking and uneasy. Nothing remained to comfort and support us under this heavy stroke, but the necessity it brought the king and nation under of settling the succession in the house of Hanover, and giving it an hereditary right by act of parliament, as long as it continues Protestant. So much good did God, in his merciful providence, produce from a misfortune, which we could never otherwise have sufficiently deplored!

'The fourth sermon was preached upon the queen's accession to the throne, and the first year in which that day was solemnly observed (for by some accident or other it had been overlooked the year before); and every one will see, without the date of it, that it was preached very early in this reign, since I was able only to promise and presage a future glories and successes, from the good appearances of things, and the happy turn our affairs began to take; and could not then count up the victories and triumphs that, for seven years after, made it, in the prophet's language, "a name and praise among all the people of the earth." Never did seven such years together pass over the head of any English monarch, nor cover it with so much honour. The crown and sceptre seemed to be the queen's least ornaments; those, other princes were in common with her, and her great personal virtue were the same before and since; but such was the fame of her administration of affairs at home, and was the reputation of her wisdom and felicity in choosing ministers, and such was then extolled their faithfulness and zeal, their diligence and great abilities in executing her commands; to such a height of military glory did her great general and her armies carry the British name abroad; and was the harmony and concord betwixt her and her allies; and such was the blessing of God upon all her counsels and undertakings; that I am as sure as history can make me, no prince of our country was so prosperous and successful, so beloved, esteemed, and honoured by their subjects and their friends, nor near so formidable to their enemies. We were, as all the world imagined then, just entering on the ways that promised to lead to such a peace as would have answered all the prayers of our religious queen, the care and vigilance of a most able ministry, the payments of a willing and obedient people, as well as all the glorious toils and hazards of the soldiery; when God, for our sin, permitted the spirit of discord to go forth, and by troubling sore the camp, the city, and the country, (and so that it had altogether spared the places sacred to his worship!) to spoil, for a time, this beautiful and pleasing prospect, and give us in its stead, a

know not what —. Our enemies will tell the rest with pleasure. It will become me better to pray to God to restore us to the power of obtaining such a peace as will be to his glory, the safety, honour, and the welfare of the queen and her dominions, and the general satisfaction of all her high and mighty allies.'

'May 2, 1712.'

STERLE.

T.

N^o 385. THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1712.

— *Thesea pectora juncta fide.*

OVID. Trist. El. iii. l. 1. ver. 66.

Breasts that with sympathizing ardour glow'd,
And holy friendship, such as Theseus vow'd.

I INTEND the paper for this day as a loose essay upon friendship, in which I shall throw my observations together without any set form, that I may avoid repeating what has been often said on this subject.

Friendship is a strong and habitual inclination in two persons to promote the good and happiness of one another. Though the pleasures and advantages of friendship have been largely celebrated by the best moral writers, and are considered by all as great ingredients of human happiness, we very rarely meet with the practice of this virtue in the world.

Every man is ready to give in a long catalogue of those virtues and good qualities he expects to find in the person of a friend, but very few of us are careful to cultivate them in ourselves.

Love and esteem are the first principles of friendship, which always is imperfect where either of these two is wanting.

As, on the one hand, we are soon ashamed of loving a man whom we cannot esteem; so, on the other, though we are truly sensible of a man's abilities, we can never raise ourselves to the warmth of friendship, without an affectionate good-will towards his person.

Friendship immediately banishes envy under all its disguises. A man who can once doubt whether he should rejoice in his friend's being happier than himself, may depend upon it that he is an utter stranger to this virtue.

There is something in friendship so very great and noble, that in those fictitious stories which are invented to the honour of any particular person, the authors have thought it as necessary to make their hero a friend as a lover. Achilles has his Patroclus, and Æneas his Achates. In the first of these instances we may observe, for the reputation of the subject I am treating of, that Greece was almost ruined by the hero's love, but was preserved by his friendship.

The character of Achates suggests to us an observation we may often make on the intimacies of great men, who frequently choose their companions rather for the qualities of the heart than those of the head, and prefer fidelity in an easy, inoffensive, complying temper, to those endowments which make a much greater figure among mankind. I do not remember that Achates, who is represented as the first favourite, either gives his advice, or strikes a blow, through the whole Æneid.

A friendship which makes the least noise, is very often most useful: for which reason I should prefer a prudent friend to a zealous one.

Atticus, one of the best men of ancient Rome, was a very remarkable instance of what I am here

speaking. This extraordinary person, amidst the civil wars of his country, when he saw the designs of all parties equally tended to the subversion of liberty, by constantly preserving the esteem and affection of both the competitors, found means to serve his friends on either side: and, while he sent money to young Marius, whose father was declared an enemy of the commonwealth, he was himself one of Sylla's chief favourites, and always near that general.

During the war between Cæsar and Pompey, he still maintained the same conduct. After the death of Cæsar, he sent money to Brutus in his troubles, and did a thousand good offices to Antony's wife and friends when that party seemed ruined. Lastly, even in that bloody war between Antony and Augustus, Atticus still kept his place in both their friendships: insomuch that the first, says Cornelius Nepos, whenever he was absent from Rome in any part of the empire, writ punctually to him what he was doing; what he read, and whither he intended to go; and the latter gave him constantly an exact account of all his affairs.

A likeness of inclinations in every particular is so far from being requisite to form a benevolence in two minds towards each other, as it is generally imagined, that I believe we shall find some of the firmest friendships to have been contracted between persons of different humours; the mind being often pleased with those perfections which are new to it, and which it does not find among its own accomplishments. Besides that a man in some measure supplies his own defects, and fancies himself at second hand possessed of those good qualities and endowments, which are in the possession of him who, in the eye of the world, is looked upon as his other self.

The most difficult province in friendship is, the letting a man see his faults and errors, which should, if possible, be so contrived, that he may perceive our advice is given him not so much to please ourselves as for his own advantage. The reproaches therefore of a friend should always be strictly just, and not too frequent.

The violent desire of pleasing in the person reprov'd, may otherwise change into a despair of doing it, while he finds himself censured for faults he is not conscious of. A mind that is softened and humanized by friendship cannot bear frequent reproaches; either it must quite sink under the oppression, or abate considerably of the value and esteem it had for him who bestows them.

The proper business of friendship is to inspire life and courage; and a soul thus supported, outdoes itself; whereas, if it be unexpectedly deprived of these succours, it droops and languishes.

We are in some measure more inexcusable if we violate our duties to a friend than to a relation; since the former arise from a voluntary choice, the latter from a necessity to which we could not give our own consent.

As it has been said on one side, that a man ought not to break with a faulty friend, that he may not expose the weakness of his choice; it will doubtless hold much stronger with respect to a worthy one, that he may never be upbraided for having lost so valuable a treasure which was once in his possession *.

BUDGE.

X,

* See N^o 68.

N° 386. FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1712.

Cum tridibus severe, cum remisais jucunde, cum senibus graviter, cum juvenute comiter vivere.

TULL.

THE piece of Latin on the head of this paper is part of a character extremely vicious; but I have set down no more than may fall in with the rules of justice and honour. Cicero spoke it of Catiline, who, he said, 'lived with the sad severely, with the cheerful agreeably, with the old gravely, with the young pleasantly;' he added, 'with the wicked boldly, with the wanton lasciviously.' The two last instances of his complaisance I forbear to consider, having it in my thoughts at present only to speak of obsequious behaviour as it sits upon a companion in pleasure, not a man of design and intrigue. To vary with every humour in this manner, cannot be agreeable, except it comes from a man's own temper and natural complexion; to do it out of an ambition to excel that way, is the most fruitless and unbecoming prostitution imaginable. To put on an artful part to obtain no other end but an unjust praise from the undiscerning, is of all endeavours the most despicable. A man must be sincerely pleased to become pleasure, or not to interrupt that of others: for this reason it is a most calamitous circumstance, that many people who want to be alone, or should be so, will come into conversation. It is certain that all men, who are the least given to reflection, are seized with an inclination that way, when, perhaps, they had rather be inclined to company; but indeed they had better go home and be tired with themselves, than force themselves upon others to recover their good-humour. In all this the case of communicating to a friend a sad thought or difficulty, in order to relieve a heavy heart, stands excepted; but what is here meant is, that a man should always go with inclination to the turn of the company he is going into, or not pretend to be of the party. It is certainly a very happy temper to be able to live with all kinds of dispositions, because it argues a mind that lies open to receive what is pleasing to others, and not obstinately bent on any particularity of his own.

This it is which makes me pleased with the character of my good acquaintance Acasto. You meet him at the tables and conversations of the wise, the impertinent, the grave, the frolic, and the witty; and yet his own character has nothing in it that can make him particularly agreeable to any one sect of men; but Acasto has natural good sense, good-nature, and discretion, so that every man enjoys himself in his company; and though Acasto contributes nothing to the entertainment, he never was at a place where he was not welcome a second time. Without these subordinate good qualities of Acasto, a man of wit and learning would be painful to the generality of mankind, instead of being pleasing. Witty men are apt to imagine they are agreeable as such, and by that means grow the worst companions imaginable; they deride the absent or rally the present in a wrong manner, not knowing that if you pinch or tickle a man till he is uneasy in his seat, or ungracefully distinguished from the rest of the company, you equally hurt him.

I was going to say, the true art of being agreeable in company (but there can be no such thing as art in it) is to appear well pleased with those you

are engaged with, and rather to seem well entertained, than to bring entertainment to others. A man thus disposed is not indeed what we ordinarily call a good companion, but essentially is such, and in all the parts of his conversation has something friendly in his behaviour, which conciliates men's minds more than the highest sallies of wit or start of humour can possibly do. The feebleness of age in a man of this turn, has something which should be treated with respect even in a man no otherwise venerable. The forwardness of youth, when it proceeds from alacrity, and not insolence, has also its allowances. The companion who is formed for such by nature, gives to every character of life its due regards, and is ready to account for their imperfections, and receive their accomplishments as if they were his own. It must appear that you receive law from, and not give it to your company, to make you agreeable.

I remember Tully, speaking, I think, of Antony, says, that *in eo facilius erant, quæ nulla arte trahi possunt*: 'He had a witty mirth, which could be acquired by no art.' This quality must be of the kind of which I am now speaking; for all sort of behaviour which depend upon observation and knowledge of life, are to be acquired; but that which no one can describe, and is apparently the act of nature, must be every where prevalent. Because every thing it meets is a fit occasion to exert it; for he who follows nature, can never be improper or unaccountable.

How unaccountable then must their behavior be, who, without any manner of consideration of what the company they have just now entered are upon, give themselves the air of a messenger, and make as distinct relations of the occurrences, they last met with, as if they had been dispatched from those they talk to, to be punctually exact in a report of those circumstances. It is unpardonable to those who are met to enjoy one another, that a fresh man shall pop in, and give us only the last part of his own life, and put a stop to ours during the history. If such a man comes from 'Change, whether you will or not, you must hear how the stocks go; and, though you are ever so intently employed on a graver subject, a young fellow of the other end of the town will take his place, and tell you, Mrs. Such-a-one is charmingly handsome, because he just now saw her. But I think I need not dwell on this subject, since I have acknowledged there can be no rules made for excelling this way; and precepts of this kind fare like rules for writing poetry, which, it is said, may have prevented ill poets, but never made good ones.

STEEL.

T.

N° 387. SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1712.

Quid pure tranquillet

HOR. Ep. xviii. l. 1. ver. 102.

What calms the breast, and makes the mind serene.

In my last Saturday's paper* I spoke of cheerfulness as it is a moral habit of the mind, and accordingly mentioned such moral motives as are apt to cherish and keep alive this happy temper in the soul of man: I shall now consider cheerfulness in its natural state, and reflect on those motives to it, which are indifferent either as to virtue or vice.

Cheerfulness is, in the first place, the best pro-

* N° 381. See also N° 308.

motor of health. Repinings, and secret murmurs of heart, give imperceptible strokes to those delicate fibres of which the vital parts are composed, and wear out the machine insensibly; not to mention those violent ferments which they stir up in the blood, and those irregular disturbed motions which they raise in the animal spirits. I scarce remember, in my own observation, to have met with many old men, or with such, who (to use our English phrase) wear well, that had not at least a certain indolence in their humour, if not a more than ordinary gaiety and cheerfulness of heart. The truth of it is, health and cheerfulness mutually beget each other; with this difference, that we seldom meet with a great degree of health which is not attended with a certain cheerfulness, but very often see cheerfulness where there is no great degree of health.

Cheerfulness bears the same friendly regard to the mind as to the body. It banishes all anxious care and discontent, soothes and composes the passions, and keeps the soul in a perpetual calm. But having already touched on this last consideration, I shall here take notice, that the world in which we are placed, is filled with innumerable objects that are proper to raise and keep alive this happy temper of mind.

If we consider the world in its subserviency to man, one would think it was made for our use; but if we consider it in its natural beauty and harmony, one would be apt to conclude it was made for our pleasure. The sun, which is as the great soul of the universe, and produces all the necessities of life, has a particular influence in cheering the mind of man, and making the heart glad.

Those several living creatures which are made for our service or sustenance, at the same time either fill the woods with their music, furnish us with game, or raise pleasing ideas in us by the delightfulness of their appearance. Fountains, lakes, and rivers, are as refreshing to the imagination, as to the soil through which they pass.

There are writers of great distinction, who have made it an argument for Providence, that the whole earth is covered with green rather than with any other colour, as being such a right mixture of light and shade, that it comforts and strengthens the eye, instead of weakening or grieving it. For this reason several painters have a green cloth hanging near them, to ease the eye upon, after too great an application to their colouring. A famous modern philosopher* accounts for it in the following manner: All colours that are more luminous, overpower and dissipate the animal spirits which are employed in sight: on the contrary, those that are more obscure do not give the animal spirits a sufficient exercise; whereas the rays that produce in the idea of green, fall upon the eye in such a due proportion, that they give the animal spirits their proper play, and by keeping up the struggle in a just balance, excite a very pleasing and agreeable sensation. Let the cause be what it will, the effect is certain; for which reason the poets ascribe to this particular colour the epithet of cheerful.

To consider further this double end in the works of nature, and how they are at the same time both useful and entertaining, we find that the most important parts in the vegetable world are those which are the most beautiful. These are the seeds by which the several races of plants are propagated and continued, and which are always lodged in flowers or blossoms. Nature seems to hide her

principal design, and to be industrious in making the earth gay and delightful, while she is carrying on her great work, and intent upon her own preservation. The husbandman after the same manner is employed in laying out the whole country into a kind of garden or landscape, and making every thing smile about him, whilst in reality he thinks of nothing but of the harvest, and the increase which is to arise from it.

We may further observe how Providence has taken care to keep up this cheerfulness in the mind of man, by having formed it after such a manner, as to make it capable of conceiving delight from several objects which seem to have very little use in them; as from the wildness of rocks and deserts, and the like grotesque parts of nature. Those who are versed in philosophy may still carry this consideration higher, by observing that if matter had appeared to us endowed only with those real qualities which it actually possesses, it would have made but a very joyless and uncomfortable figure; and why has Providence given it a power of producing in us such imaginary qualities, as tastes and colours, sounds and smells, heat and cold, but that man, while he is conversant in the lower stations of nature, might have his mind cheered and delighted with agreeable sensations? In short, the whole universe is a kind of theatre filled with objects that either raise in us pleasure, amusement, or admiration.

The reader's own thoughts will suggest to him the vicissitude of day and night, the change of seasons, with all that variety of scenes which diversify the face of nature, and fill the mind with a perpetual succession of beautiful and pleasing images.

I shall not here mention the several entertainments of art, with the pleasures of friendship, books, conversation, and other accidental diversions of life, because I would only take notice of such incitements to a cheerful temper as offer themselves to persons of all ranks and conditions, and which may sufficiently show us that Providence did not design this world should be filled with murmurs and repinings, or that the heart of man should be involved in gloom and melancholy.

I the more inculcate this cheerfulness of temper, as it is a virtue in which our countrymen are observed to be more deficient than any other nation. Melancholy is a kind of demon that haunts our island, and often conveys herself to us in an easterly wind. A celebrated French novelist, in opposition to those who begin their romances with the flowery season of the year, enters on his story thus: 'In the gloomy month of November, when the people of England hang and drown themselves, a disconsolate lover walked out into the fields,' &c.

Every one ought to fence against the temper of his climate or constitution, and frequently to indulge in himself those considerations which may give him a serenity of mind, and enable him to bear up cheerfully against those little evils and misfortunes which are common to human nature, and which by a right improvement of them will produce a satiety of joy, and an uninterrupted happiness.

At the same time that I would engage my reader to consider the world in its most agreeable lights, I must own there are many evils which naturally spring up amidst the entertainments that are provided for us; but these, if rightly considered, should be far from overcasting the mind with sorrow, or destroying that cheerfulness of temper which I have been recommending. This interposition of

* Sir Isaac Newton.

evil with good, and pain with pleasure, in the works of nature, is very truly ascribed by Mr. Locke, in his Essay on Human Understanding, to a moral reason, in the following words:

‘Beyond all this we may find another reason why God hath scattered up and down several degrees of pleasure and pain, in all the things that environ and affect us, and blended them together, in almost all that our thoughts and senses have to do with; that we, finding imperfection, dissatisfaction, and want of complete happiness in all the enjoyments which the creatures can afford us, might be led to seek it in the enjoyment of Him with whom “there is fulness of joy, and at whose right hand are pleasures for evermore.”’

ADDISON.

L.

N° 388. MONDAY, MAY 26, 1712.

—*Tibi res antiqua laudis et artis
Ingreddior: sanctos ausus recludere fontes.*

VIRG. Georg. II. ver. 174.

For thee I dare unlock the sacred spring,
And arts disclos’d by ancient pages sing.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘It is my custom, when I read your papers, to read over the quotations in the authors from whence you take them. As you mentioned a passage lately out of the second chapter of Solomon’s Song *, it occasioned my looking into it; and upon reading it, I thought the ideas so exquisitely soft and tender, that I could not help making this paraphrase of it; which, now it is done, I can as little forbear sending to you. Some marks of your approbation, which I have already received, have given me so sensible a taste of them, that I cannot forbear endeavouring after them as often as I can with any appearance of success.

‘I am, SIR,

‘Your most obedient humble servant’.

THE SECOND CHAPTER OF SOLOMON’S SONG.

“As when in Sharon’s field the blushing rose
Does its chaste bosom to the morn disclose,
Whilst all around the Zephyrs bear;
The fragrant odours through the air;
Or as the lily in the shady vale,
Does o’er each flow’r with beauteous pride prevail,
And stands with dews and kindest sunshine bless’d,
In fair pre-eminence, superior to the rest:
So if my love, with happy influence, shed
His eyes’ bright sunshine on his lover’s head,
Then shall the rose of Sharon’s field
And whitest lilies, to my beauties yield.
Then fairest flow’rs with studious art combine,
The roses with the lilies join,
And their united charms are less than mine.

“As much as fairest lilies can surpass
A thorn in beauty, or in height the grass;
So does my love, among the virgins, shine,
Adorn’d with graces more than half divine;
Or as a tree, that, glorious to behold,
Is hung with apples all of ruddy gold,
Hesperian fruit, and beautifully high,
Extends its branches to the sky;
So does my love the virgin’s eyes invite:
’Tis he alone can fix their wand’ring sight,
Among ten thousand eminently bright.

“Beneath his pleasing shade
My wearied limbs at ease I laid,
And on his fragrant boughs reclin’d my head.
I pull’d the golden fruit with eager haste;
Sweet was the fruit, and pleasing to the taste:

With sparkling wine he crown’d the bowl,
With gentle ecstasies he fill’d my soul;
Joyous we sat beneath the shady grove,
And o’er my head he hung the banners of his love.

“I faint! I die! my lab’ring breast
Is with the mighty weight of love oppress’d!
I feel the fire possess my heart,
And pain convey’d to ev’ry part.
Thro’ all my veins the passion flies,
My feeble soul forsakes its place,
A trembling faintness seals my eyes,
And paleness dwells upon my face:
Oh! let my love with pow’ful odours stay
My fainting lovesick soul, that dies away;
One hand beneath me let him place,
With t’other press me in a chaste embrace.

“I charge you, nymphs of Sion, as you go
Arm’d with the sounding quiver and the bow,
Whilst thro’ the lonesome woods you rove,
You ne’er disturb my sleeping love.
Be only gentle Zephyrs there,
With downy wings to fan the air;
Let sacred silence dwell around,
To keep off each intruding sound:
And when the balmy slumber leaves his eyes,
May he to joys, unknown till then, arise.

“But see! he comes! with what majestic gait
He onward bears his lovely state!
Now through the lattice he appears,
With softest words dispels my fears.
Arise, my fair one, and receive
All the pleasures love can give,
For now the sullen winter’s past,
No more we fear the northern blast:
No storms nor threatening clouds appear,
No falling rains deform the year.
My love admits of no delay,
Arise, my fair, and come away.

“Already, see! the teeming earth
Brings forth the flow’rs, her beauteous birth.
The dews, and soft-descending show’rs,
Nurse the new-born tender flow’rs.
Hark! the birds melodious sing,
And sweetly usher in the spring.
Close by his fellow sits the dove,
And billing whispers her his love.
The spreading vines with blossoms swell,
Diffusing round a grateful smell.
Arise, my fair one, and receive
All the blessings love can give:
For love admits of no delay,
Arise, my fair, and come away.

“As to its mate the constant dove
Flies thro’ the covert of the spicy grove,
So let us hasten to some lonely shade,
There let me safe in thy lov’d arms be laid,
Where no intruding hateful noise
Shall damp the sound of thy melodious voice;
Where I may gaze, and mark each beauteous grace.
For sweet thy voice, and lovely is thy face.

“As all of me, my Love, is thine,
Let all of thee be ever mine.
Among the lilies we will play,
Fairer, my Love, thou art than they;
Till the purple morn arise,
And balmy sleep forsake thine eyes;
Till the glad beams of day
Remove the shades of night away;
Then when soft sleep shall from thy eyes depart,
Rise like the bounding roe, or lusty hart,
Glad to behold the light again
From Beth’r’s mountains darting o’er the plain.”

STEEL,

I.

* See N° 372.

N° 399. TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1712.

Mellora pii docuere parentes.

HOR.

Their pious sires a better lesson taught.

Nothing has more surprised the learned in England, than the price of which a small book, entitled, 'Spaccio della Bestia trionfante,' bore in a late auction*. This book was sold for thirty pounds. As it was written by one Jordanus Bruno, a professed atheist, with a design to depreciate religion, every one was apt to fancy, from the extravagant price it bore, that there must be something in it very formidable.

I must confess that, happening to get a sight of one of them myself, I could not forbear perusing it with this apprehension; but found there was so very little danger in it, that I shall venture to give my readers a fair account of the whole plan upon which this wonderful treatise is built.

The author pretends that Jupiter, once upon a time, resolved upon a reformation of the constellations: for which purpose, having summoned the stars together, he complains to them of the great decay of the worship of the gods, which he thought so much the harder, having called several of those celestial bodies by the names of the heathen deities, and by that means made the heavens as it were a book of the pagan theology. Momus tells him, that this is not to be wondered at, since there were so many scandalous stories of the deities. Upon which the author takes occasion to cast reflections upon all other religions, concluding that Jupiter, after a full hearing, discarded the deities out of heaven, and called the stars by the names of the moral virtues.

This short fable, which has no pretence in it to reason or argument, and but a very small share of wit, has however recommended itself wholly by its impiety, to those weak men who would distinguish themselves by the singularity of their opinions.

* Of the library of Charles Barnard, Esq. in 1711, for 28*l*. It is now very scarce, and has fetched the exorbitant price of 50*l*. The author of this book, Giordano Bruno, was a native of Nola, in the kingdom of Naples, and published his *Spaccio, &c.* at Sir Philip Sidney's request, at London, whither he came after being expelled Geneva, and continued about two years in the house of Mr. Castlenau, King Henry III.'s ambassador to Queen Elizabeth. He was very well known to her majesty, and beloved by the most polite part of the court; but his best friends were Sir Philip Sidney and Foulkes Greville, who were very intimate together, and then the most learned and witty gentlemen in England. With these, and some others of their club, Bruno held assemblies; but as they treated of subjects of a very delicate nature, which could not suit the taste or capacity of every body, they kept the door always shut, and none but select persons were admitted into the company. There were but twenty copies printed of his book, which is an odd composition; for he treats all kinds of miracles as fables, and maintains that the heathen theology is not by far so unintelligible, absurd, and monstrous, as the Jewish and Christian theology. He wishes that men, laying aside all prejudices, would admit of no other rule of their conduct but the law of nature, which he divides into forty-eight articles, according to the number of the constellations in heaven, to each of which he gives the name of one of these virtues. Morhof, Polyhist. i. 1, §. 22. speaking of atheists, says, '*Jordanum tamen Brunum huic clausi non annumerarem.*—manifesto in illo atheismi vestigia non deprehendo.' Bruno published many other writings said to be atheistical. The book spoken of here, was printed, not at Paris, as is said in the title-page, near in 1544; but at London, and in 1584, 12mo. and dedicated to Sir Philip Sidney. There was an edition of it in English, 1713.—Bruno at length fell into the hands of the Inquisition at Venice; and, refusing to retract, was burnt at the stake, Feb. 17, 1600.

There are two considerations which have been often urged against atheists, and which they never yet could get over. The first is, that the greatest and most eminent persons of all ages have been against them, and always complied with the public forms of worship established in their respective countries, when there was nothing in them either derogatory to the honour of the Supreme Being, or prejudicial to the good of mankind.

The Platos and Ciceros among the ancients; the Bacons, the Boyles, and the Lockes, among our own countrymen, are all instances of what I have been saying; not to mention any of the divines however celebrated, since our adversaries challenge all those, as men who have too much interest in this case to be impartial evidences.

But what has been often urged as a consideration of much more weight, is not only the opinion of the better sort, but the general consent of mankind to this great truth; which I think could not possibly have come to pass, but from one of the three following reasons: either that the idea of a God is innate and coexistent with the mind itself; or, that this truth is so very obvious, that it is discovered by the first exertion of reason in persons of the most ordinary capacities; or lastly, that it has been delivered down to us through all ages by a tradition from the first man.

The atheists are equally confounded, to whichever of these three causes we assign it; they have been so pressed by this last argument from the general consent of mankind, that after great search and pains they pretend to have found out a nation of atheists, I mean that polite people the Hottentots.

I dare not shock my readers with the description of the customs and manners of these barbarians, who are in every respect scarce one degree above brutes, having no language among them but a confused gabble, which is neither well understood by themselves nor others.

It is not however to be imagined how much the atheists have gloried in these their good friends and allies.

If we boast of a Socrates or a Seneca, they may now confront them with these great philosophers the Hottentots.

Though even this point has, not without reason, been several times controverted, I see no manner of harm it could do to religion, if we should entirely give them up this elegant part of mankind.

Metinks nothing more shows the weakness of their cause, than that no division of their fellow-creatures join with them, but those among whom they themselves own reason is almost defaced, and who have little else but their shape which can entitle them to any place in the species.

Besides these poor creatures, there have now and then been instances of a few crazed people in several nations, who have denied the existence of a deity.

The catalogue of these is however very short: even Vanini*, the most celebrated champion for

* Lucilio Vanini was born at Taurisano, in the kingdom of Naples, in 1585. He was a great lover of learning from his infancy, and applied himself to the study of philosophy, physic, and astronomy, which insensibly led him into the whims of astrology. But the greatest part of his time he bestowed upon divinity: he also understood the civil and canon law. When he had finished his studies at Padua, he was ordained priest, and soon became a preacher. He nevertheless devoted part of his time to the reading of Aristotle, Averroes, Cardan, and Pomponatius, which were his favourite authors. It is said, that he received from them the seeds of atheism, and drew thence those monstrous doctrines which he afterwards taught others. After he had travelled through

the cause, professed before his judges that he believed the existence of a God; and, taking up a straw which lay before him on the ground, assured them, that alone was sufficient to convince him of it; alleging several arguments to prove that it was impossible nature alone could create any thing.

I was the other day reading an account of Casimir Lyszynski, a gentleman of Poland, who was convicted and executed for this crime*. The manner of his punishment was very particular. As soon as his body was burnt, his ashes were put into a cannon, and shot into the air towards Tartary.

I am apt to believe, that if something like this method of punishment should prevail in England (such is the natural good sense of the British nation), that whether we rammed an atheist whole into a great gun, or pulverised our infidels, as they do in Poland, we should not have many charges.

I should however premise, while our ammunition lasted, that instead of Tartary, we should always keep two or three cannons ready pointed towards the Cape of Good Hope, in order to shoot our unbelievers into the country of the Hottentots.

In my opinion, a solemn judicial death is too great an honour for an atheist, though I must allow the method of exploding him, as it is practised in this ludicrous kind of martyrdom, has something in it proper enough to the nature of his offence.

There is indeed a great objection against this manner of treating them. Zeal for religion is of so active a nature, that it seldom knows where to rest; for which reason I am afraid, after having discharged our atheists, we might possibly think of shooting off our sectaries; and as one does not foresee the vicissitudes of human affairs, it might one time or other come to a man's own turn to fly out of the mouth of a demi-culverin.

If any of my readers imagine that I have treated these gentlemen in too ludicrous a manner, I must confess, for my own part, I think reasoning against such unbelievers upon a point that shocks the common sense of mankind, is doing them too great an honour, giving them a figure in the eye of the world, and making people fancy that they have more in them than they really have.

As for those persons who have any scheme of religious worship, I am for treating such with the utmost tenderness, and should endeavour to show them their errors with the greatest temper and hu-

manity: but as these miscreants are for throwing down religion in general, for stripping mankind of what themselves own is of excellent use in all great societies, without once offering to establish any thing in the room of it; I think the best way of dealing with them, is to retort their own weapons upon them, which are those of scorn and mockery.

BUDGELL.

X.

Nº 390. WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1712.

Non pudendo, sed non faciendo id quod non docet, impudentia nomen effugere debemus.

TULL.

The way to avoid the reputation of impudence, is, not to be ashamed of what we do, but never to do what we ought to be ashamed of.

MANY are the epistles I receive from ladies extremely afflicted that they lie under the observation of scandalous people, who love to defame their neighbours, and make the unjust interpretation of innocent and indifferent actions. They describe their own behaviour so unhappily, that there indeed lies some cause of suspicion upon them. It is certain that there is no authority for persons who have nothing else to do, to pass away hours of conversation upon the miscarriages of other people; but since they will do so, they who value their reputation should be cautious of appearances to their disadvantage; but very often our young women, as well as the middle-aged, and the gay part of those growing old, without entering into a formal league for that purpose, to a woman agree upon a short way to preserve their characters, and go on in a way that at best is only malicious. The method is, when an ill-natured or talkative girl has said any thing that bears hard upon some part of another's carriage, this creature, if not in any of their little cabals, is run down for the most censorious dangerous body in the world. Thus they guard their reputation rather than their modesty; as if guilt lay in being under the imputation of a fault, and not in a commission of it. Orbicilla is the kindest poor thing in town, but the most blushing creature living. It is true she has not lost the sense of shame, but she has lost the sense of innocence. If she had more confidence, and never did anything which ought to stain her cheeks, would she not be much more modest without that ambiguous suffusion, which is the livery both of guilt and innocence? Modesty consists in being conscious of no ill, and not in being ashamed of having done it. When people go upon any other foundation than the truth of their own hearts for the conduct of their actions, it lies in the power of scandalous tongues to carry the world before them, and make the rest of mankind fall in with the ill for fear of reproach. On the other hand, to do what you ought, is the ready way to make calumny either silent, or ineffectually malicious. Spenser, in his Fairy Queen, says admirably to young ladies under the distemper of being defamed:

'The best,' said he, 'that I can you advise,
Is to avoid th' occasion of the ill;
For when the cause, whence evil doth arise,
Removed is, th' effect surceaseth still.
Abstain from pleasure, and restrain your will,
Subdue desire, and bridle loose delight:
Use scanty diet, and forbear your ill;
Shun secrecy, and talk in open sight:
So shall you soon repair your present evil plight.'

part of Germany and the Bow Countries, he went to Geneva, and thence to Lyons; where having taken upon him to vent his irreligious notions, under the pretext of teaching philosophy, he found himself in danger of being seized, and was obliged to fly to England, where, in 1614, he was imprisoned for forty-nine days. Being set at liberty, he crossed the sea, and took the road for Italy. He stopped at Genoa, and there undertook to teach the youth. But he was soon forced to abandon that city, and returned to Lyons, where he endeavoured to screen himself from the persecution of the clergy, by writing a book against Cardan, and other atheistical writers; in which, under pretence of confuting them, he gives them in some measure the victory, by the weakness of his answers. He afterwards became a monk in a convent at Guenece; but being banished thence, he retired to Paris, where, to ingratiate himself with the clergy, he undertook to write "An Apology for the Council of Trent." His books grew daily more suspected; and we are told, that Vanini, finding himself shunned by every body, and reduced to the lowest poverty, wrote to the pope, that "if he had not a good benefice soon bestowed upon him, he would in three months time overturn the whole Christian religion." Vanini might possibly write such a letter, but it is scarcely credible that he should send it to Rome. He left Paris in 1617, and returned to Toulouse, where he infused his impious opinions into the minds of his scholars. This being discovered, he was prosecuted, and condemned to have his tongue cut out, and be burnt alive; which was accordingly executed, Feb. 19, 1619.

* At Warsaw, 1680. See Mosheim, Eccl. Hist.

Instead of this care over their words and actions, recommended by a poet in old Queen Bess's days, the modern way is to say and do what you please, and yet be the prettiest sort of woman in the world. If fathers and brothers will defend a lady's honour, she is quite as safe as in her own innocence. Many of the distressed, who suffer under the malice of evil tongues, are so harmless that they are every day they live asleep till twelve at noon; concern themselves with nothing but their own persons till two; take their necessary food between that time and four; visit, go to the play, and sit up at cards till towards the ensuing morn; and the malicious world shall draw conclusions from innocent glances, short whispers, or pretty familiar raileries with fashionable men, that these fair ones are not as rigid as vestals. It is certain, say these 'goodest' creatures, very well, that virtue does not consist in constrained behaviour and wry faces: that must be allowed; but there is a decency in the aspect and manner of ladies, contracted from a habit of virtue, and from general reflections that regard a modest conduct, all which may be understood, though they cannot be described. A young woman of this sort claims an esteem mixed with affection and honour, and meets with no defamation: or, if she does, the wild malice is overcome with an undisturbed perseverance in her innocence. To speak freely, there are such coveys of coquettes about this town, that if the peace were not kept by some impertinent tongues of their own sex, which keep them under some restraint, we should have no manner of engagement upon them to keep them in any tolerable order.

As I am a Spectator, and behold how plainly the part of womankind balance the behaviour of the other, whatever I may think of tale-bearers or slanderers, I cannot wholly suppress them, no more than a general would discourage spies. The enemy would easily surprise him who they knew had no intelligence of their motions. It is so far otherwise with me, that I acknowledge I permit a slanderer or two in every quarter of the town, to live in the characters of coquettes, and take all the innocent freedoms of the rest, in order to send me information of the behaviour of their respective sisterhoods.

But as the matter of respect to the world which looks on, is carried on, methinks it is so very easy to be what is in the general called virtuous, that it need not cost one hour's reflection in a month to reserve that appellation. It is pleasant to hear the pretty rogues talk of virtue and vice among each other. 'She is the laziest creature in the world; but, I must confess, strictly virtuous: the easiest bussy breathing; but as to her virtue, she is without blemish. She has not the least charity for any of her acquaintance; but I must allow her rigidly virtuous.' As the unthinking part of the male world call every man a man of honour who is not a coward; so the crowd of the other terms every woman who will not be a wench, virtuous.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 391. THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1712.

Non tu prece poscis emaci,
Que nisi seductis nequeas committere divi:
At bona pars procerum tacita libabit acerra.
Haud cuius promptum est, murmurque humilisque su-
surros

Tollere de templis; et aperto vivere voto.
Mens bona, fama, fides; hæc clare, et ut audiat hospes,
Illa sibi introrsum, et sub lingua immurmurat: O si
Ebullit patris præclarum funus! Et O si
Sub rastro crepet argenti mihi seria dextro
Hercule! pupillumve utinam, quem proximus hæres
Impello, expungam! —

PERS. Sat. ii. ver. 3.

Thy pray'r the test of heav'n will bear;
Nor need'st thou take the gods aside, to hear:
While others, e'en the mighty men of Rome,
Big swell'd with mischief, to the temples come:
And in low murmurs, and with costly smoke,
Heav'n's help, to prosper their black vows, invoke.
So boldly to the gods mankind reveal
What from each other they, for shame, conceal.
'Give me good fame, ye pow'rs, and make me just:'
Thus much the rogue to public ears will trust.
In private then, 'When wilt thou, mighty Jove,
My wealthy uncle from this world remove?'
Or — 'O thou thund'ring son, great Hercules,
That once thy bounteous deity would please
To guide my rake upon the chinking sound
Of some vast treasure, hidden under ground?'
'O were my pupil fairly knock'd o'th' head!
I should possess th' estate if he were dead.'

DRYDEN.

WHERE Homer represents Phoenix, the tutor of Achilles, as persuading his pupil to lay aside his resentment, and give himself up to the entreaties of his countrymen, the poet, in order to make him speak in character, ascribes to him a speech full of those fables and allegories which old men take delight in relating, and which are very proper for instruction. 'The gods,' says he, 'suffer themselves to be prevailed upon by entreaties. When mortals have offended them by their transgressions, they appease them by vows and sacrifices. You must know, Achilles, that Prayers are the daughters of Jupiter. They are crippled by kneeling, have their faces full of scars and wrinkles, and their eyes always cast towards heaven. They are constant attendants on the goddess Atë, and march behind her. This goddess walks forward with a bold and haughty air, and, being very light of foot, runs through the whole earth, grieving and afflicting the sons of men. She gets the start of Prayers, who always follow her, in order to heal those persons whom she wounds. He who honours these daughters of Jupiter, when they draw near to him, receives great benefits from them; but as for him who rejects them, they entreat their father to give his orders to the goddess Atë, to punish him for his hardness of heart.' This noble allegory needs but little explanation; for whether the goddess Atë signifies injury, as some have explained it; or guilt in general, as others; or divine justice, as I am the more apt to think; the interpretation is obvious enough.

I shall produce another heathen fable relating to prayers, which is of a more diverting kind. One would think by some passages in it, that it was composed by Lucian, or at least by some author who has endeavoured to imitate his way of writing; but as dissertations of this nature are more curious than useful, I shall give my reader the fable, without any further inquiries after the author.

'Menippus the philosopher was a second time taken up into heaven by Jupiter, when for his entertainment he lifted up a trap-door that was placed by his foot-stool. At its rising, there issued through

it such a din of cries as astonished the philosopher. Upon his asking what they meant, Jupiter told him they were the prayers that were sent up to him from the earth. Menippus, amidst the confusion of voices, which was so great that nothing less than the ear of Jove could distinguish them, heard the words "riches, honour," and "long life," repeated to several different tones and languages. When the first hubbub of sounds was over, the trap-door being left open, the voices came up more separate and distinct. The first prayer was a very odd one; it came from Athens, and desired Jupiter to increase the wisdom and the beard of his humble suppliant. Menippus knew it by the voice to be the prayer of his friend Licander the philosopher. This was succeeded by the petition of one who had just laden a ship, and promised Jupiter, if he took care of it, and returned it home again, full of riches, he would make him an offering of a silver cup. Jupiter thanked him for nothing; and bending down his ear more attentively than ordinary, heard a voice complaining to him of the cruelty of an Ephesian widow, and begging him to breed compassion in her heart. "This," says Jupiter, "is a very honest fellow. I have received a great deal of incense from him; I will not be so cruel to him as not to hear his prayers." He was then interrupted with a whole volley of vows, which were made for the health of a tyrannical prince by his subjects who prayed for him in his presence. Menippus was surprised, after having listened to prayers offered up with so much ardour and devotion, to hear low whispers from the same assembly, expostulating with Jove for suffering such a tyrant to live, and asking him how his thunder could lie idle? Jupiter was so offended at these prevaricating rasbals, that he took down the first vows, and puffed away the last. The philosopher seeing a great cloud mounting upwards, and making its way directly to the trap-door, inquired of Jupiter what it meant. "This," says Jupiter, "is the smoke of a whole hecatomb that is offered me by the general of an army, who is very importunate with me to let him cut off an hundred thousand men that are drawn up in array against him. What does the impudent wretch think I see in him, to believe that I will make a sacrifice of so many mortals as good as himself, and all this to his glory forsooth? But hark," says Jupiter, "there is a voice I never heard but in time of danger: 'tis a rogue that is shipwrecked in the Ionian sea. I saved him on a plank but three days ago, upon his promise to mend his manners; the scoundrel is not worth a groat, and yet has the impudence to offer me a temple if I will keep him from sinking.—But yonder," says he, "is a special youth for you; he desires me to take his father, who keeps a great estate from him, out of the miseries of human life. The old fellow shall live till he makes his heart ache, I can tell him that for his pains." This was followed up by the soft voice of a pious lady, desiring Jupiter that she might appear amiable and charming in the sight of her emperor. As the philosopher was reflecting on this extraordinary petition, there blew a gentle wind through the trap-door, which he at first mistook for a gentle gale of Zephyrs, but afterwards found it to be a breeze of sighs. They smelt strong of flowers and incense, and were succeeded by most passionate complaints of wounds and torments, fire and arrows, cruelty, despair, and death. Menippus fancied that such lamentable cries arose from some general execution, or from wretches lying under the torture; but Jupiter told him that they came up to him from the isle of Paphos,

and that he every day received complaints of the same nature from that whimsical tribe of mortals who are called lovers. "I amso trifled with," says he, "by this generation of both sexes, and find it so impossible to please them, whether I grant or refuse their petitions, that I shall order a western wind for the future to intercept them in their passage, and blow them at random upon the earth." The last petition I heard was from a very aged man of near an hundred years old, begging but for one year more of life, and then promising to die contented. "This is the rarest old fellow!" says Jupiter; "he has made this prayer to me for above twenty years together. When he was but fifty years old, he desired only that he might live to see his son settled in the world. I granted it. He then begged the same favour for his daughter, and afterwards that he might see the education of a grandson. When all this was brought about, he puts up a petition that he might live to finish a house he was building. In short, he is an unreasonable old cur, and never wants an excuse; I will hear no more of him." Upon which he flung down the trap-door in a passion, and was resolved to give no more audiences that day.

Notwithstanding the levity of this fable, the moral of it very well deserves our attention, and is the same with that which has been inculcated by Socrates and Plato, not to mention Juvenal and Persius*, who have each of them made the same satire in their whole works upon this subject. The vanity of men's wishes, which are the natural prayers of the mind, as well as many of those secret devotions which they offer to the Supreme Being, are sufficiently exposed by it. Among other reasons for set forms of prayer, I have often thought it a very good one, that by this means the folly and extravagance of men's desires may be kept within due bounds, and not break out in absurd ridiculous petitions on so great and solemn an occasion.

ADDISON.

L

N° 392. FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1712.

*Per ambages et ministeria deorum
Præcipitandum est liber spiritus.*
PETRON.

By fable's aid ungovern'd fancy soars,
And claims the ministry of heavenly powers.

The Transformation of Fidelity into a Looking-glass.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I WAS lately at a tea-table, where some young ladies entertained the company with a relation of a coquette in the neighbourhood, who had been discovered practising before her glass. To turn the discourse, which from being witty grew to be malicious, the matron of the family took occasion from the subject to wish that there were to be found amongst men such faithful monitors to dress the mind by, as we consult to adorn the body. She added, that if a sincere friend were miraculously changed into a looking-glass, she should not be ashamed to ask its advice very often. The whimsical thought worked so much upon my fancy the whole evening, that it produced a very odd dream.

'Methought that, as I stood before my glass, the image of a youth of an open ingenuous aspect appeared in it, who with a small shrill voice spoke in the following manner.

"The looking-glass you see, was heretofore a man, even I the unfortunate Fidelio. I had two brothers, whose deformity in shape was made up by the clearness of their understandings. It must be owned, however, that (as it generally happens) they had each a perverseness of humour suitable to their distortion of body. The eldest, whose belly sunk in monstrously, was a great coward; and, though his splenetic contracted temper made him take fire immediately, he made objects that beset him appear greater than they were. The second, whose breasts swelled into a bold relieve, on the contrary, took great pleasure in lessening every thing, and was perfectly the reverse of his brother. These oddnemes pleased company once or twice, but disgusted when often seen; for which reason the young gentlemen were sent from court to study mathematics at the university.

"I need not acquaint you, that I was very well made, and reckoned a bright polite gentleman. I was the confidant and darling of all the fair; and if the old and ugly spoke ill of me, all the world knew it was because I scorned to flatter them. No ball, no assembly was attended till I had been consulted. Flavia coloured her hair before me, Celia showed me her teeth, Panthea heaved her bosom, Cleora brandished her diamond; I have seen Cleo's foot, and tied artificially the garters of Rhodope.

"It is a general maxim, that those who doat upon themselves can have no violent affection for another: but, on the contrary, I found that the women's passion rose for me in proportion to the love they bore to themselves. This was verified in my amour with Narcissa, who was so constant to me, that it was pleasantly said, had I been little enough, she would have hung me at her girdle. The most dangerous rival I had was a gay empty fellow, who, by the strength of a long intercourse with Narcissa, joined to his natural endowments, had formed himself into a perfect resemblance with her. I had been discarded, had she not observed that he frequently asked my opinion about matters of the last consequence. This made me still more considerable in her eye.

"Though I was eternally caressed by the ladies, such was their opinion of my honour, that I was never envied by the men. A jealous lover of Narcissa one day thought he had caught her in an amorous conversation: for though he was at such a distance that he could hear nothing, he imagined strange things from her airs and gestures. Sometimes with a serene look she stepped back in a listening posture, and brightened into an innocent smile. Quickly after she swelled into an air of majesty and disdain, then kept her eyes half shut after a languishing manner, then covered her blushes with her hand, breathed a sigh, and seemed ready to sink down. In rushed the furious lover; but how great was his surprise to see no one there but the innocent Fidelio, with his back against the wall betwixt two windows!

"It were endless to recount all my adventures. Let me hasten to that which cost me my life, and Narcissa her happiness.

"She had the misfortune to have the small-pox, upon which I was expressly forbid her sight, it being apprehended that it would increase her distemper, and that I should infallibly catch it at the first look. As soon as she was suffered to leave her bed, she stole out of her chamber, and found me

all alone in an adjoining apartment. She ran with transport to her darling, and without mixture of fear, lest I should dislike her. But, oh me! what was her fury when she heard me say, I was afraid and shocked at so loathsome a spectacle! she stepped back, swollen with rage, to see if I had the insolence to repeat it. I did, with this addition, that her ill-timed passion had increased her ugliness. Enraged, inflamed, distracted, she snatched a bodkin, and with all her force stabbed me to the heart. Dying, I preserved my sincerity, and expressed the truth, though in broken words; and by reproachful grimaces to the last, I mimicked the deformity of my murderess.

"Cupid, who always attends the fair, and pitied the fate of so useful a servant as I was, obtained of the Destinies, that my body should remain incorruptible, and retain the qualities my mind had possessed. I immediately lost the figure of a man, and became smooth, polished, and bright, and to this day am the first favourite of the ladies."

STEELE.

T.

Nº 393. SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1712.

Necio qua præter solitum dulcedine leti.
VIRG. Georg. l. ver. 412.

Unusual sweetness purer joys inspires.

LOOKING over the letters that have been sent me, I chanced to find the following one, which I received about two years ago from an ingenious friend who was then in Denmark.

'DEAR SIR, 'Copenhagen, May 1, 1710.
'THE spring with you has already taken possession of the fields and woods. Now is the season of solitude, and of moving complaints upon trivial sufferings. Now the griefs of lovers begin to flow, and their wounds to bleed afresh. I too, at this distance from the softer climates, am not without my discontents at present. You perhaps may laugh at me for a most romantic wretch, when I have disclosed to you the occasion of my uneasiness; and yet I cannot help thinking my unhappiness real, in being confined to a region, which is the very reverse of Paradise. The seasons here are all of them unpleasant, and the country quite destitute of rural charms. I have not heard a bird sing, nor a brook murmur, nor a breeze whisper, neither have I been blessed with the sight of a flowery meadow these two years. Every wind here is a tempest, and every water a turbulent ocean. I hope, when you reflect a little, you will not think the grounds of my complaint in the least frivolous and unbecoming a man of serious thought; since the love of woods, of fields and flowers, of rivers and fountains, seems to be a passion implanted in our natures the most early of any, even before the fair sex had a being.

'I am, sir, &c. *

Could I transport myself, with a wish, from one country to another, I should choose to pass my winter in Spain, my spring in Italy, my summer in England, and my autumn in France. Of all these seasons there is none that can vie with the spring for beauty and delightfulness. It bears the same figure among the seasons of the year, that the

* This letter has been thought to have been written by Mr. Molesworth, author of the History of Denmark.

morning does among the divisions of the day, or youth among the stages of life. The English summer is pleasanter than that of any other country in Europe, on no other account but because it has a greater mixture of spring in it. The mildness of our climate, with those frequent refreshments of dews and rains that fall among us, keep up a perpetual cheerfulness in our fields, and fill the hottest months of the year with a lively verdure.

In the opening of the spring, when all nature begins to recover herself, the same animal pleasure which makes the birds sing, and the whole brute creation rejoice, rises very sensibly in the heart of man. I know none of the poets who have observed so well as Milton those secret overflows of gladness which diffuse themselves through the mind of the beholder, upon surveying the gay scenes of nature: he has touched upon it twice or thrice in his *Paradise Lost*, and describes it very beautifully under the name of 'vernal delight,' in that passage where he represents the devil himself as almost sensible of it:

'Blossoms and fruits at once of golden hue,
Appear'd with gay enamell'd colours mix'd:
On which the sun more glad impress'd his beams
Than in fair evening cloud, or humid bow,
When God hath shower'd the earth; so lovely seem'd.
That landscape: and of pure now purer air
Meets his approach, and to the heart inspires
Vernal delight, and joy able to drive
All sadness, but despair,' &c.

Many authors have written on the vanity of the creature, and represented the barrenness of every thing in this world, and its incapacity of producing any solid or substantial happiness. As discourses of this nature are very useful to the sensual and voluptuous, those speculations which show the bright side of things, and lay forth those innocent entertainments which are to be met with among the several objects that encompass us, are no less beneficial to men of dark and melancholy tempers. It was for this reason that I endeavoured to recommend a cheerfulness of mind in my two last Saturday's papers, and which I would still inculcate, not only from the consideration of ourselves, and of that Being on whom we depend, nor from the general survey of that universe in which we are placed at present, but from reflections on the particular season in which this paper is written. The creation is a perpetual feast to the mind of a good man; every thing he sees cheers and delights him. Providence has imprinted so many smiles on nature, that it is impossible for a mind which is not sunk in more gross and sensual delights, to take a survey of them, without several secret sensations of pleasure. The psalmist has, in several of his divine poems, celebrated those beautiful and agreeable scenes which make the heart glad, and produce in it that vernal delight which I have before taken notice of.

Natural philosophy quickens this taste of the creation, and renders it not only pleasing to the imagination, but to the understanding. It does not rest in the murmur of brooks and the melody of birds, in the shade of groves and woods, or in the embroidery of fields and meadows; but considers the several ends of Providence which are served by them, and the wonders of divine wisdom which appear in them. It heightens the pleasures of the eye, and raises such a rational admiration in the soul as is little inferior to devotion.

It is not in the power of every one to offer up this kind of worship to the great Author of nature, and to indulge these more refined meditations of heart, which are doubtless highly acceptable in his

sight; I shall therefore conclude this short essay on that pleasure which the mind naturally conceives from the present season of the year, by the recommending of a practice for which every one has sufficient abilities.

I would have my readers endeavour to moralize this natural pleasure of the soul, and to improve this vernal delight, as Milton calls it, into a Christian virtue. When we find ourselves inspired with this pleasing instinct, this secret satisfaction and complacency arising from the beauties of the creation, let us consider to whom we stand indebted for all these entertainments of sense, and who it is that thus opens his hand, and fills the world with good. The apostle instructs us to take advantage of our present temper of mind, to graft upon it such a religious exercise as is particularly conformable to it, by that precept which advises those who are sad to pray, and those who are merry to sing psalms. The cheerfulness of heart which springs up in us from the survey of nature's works, is an admirable preparation for gratitude. The mud has gone a great way towards praise and thanksgiving, that is filled with such a secret gladness. A grateful reflection on the Supreme Cause who produces it, sanctifies it in the soul, and gives it its proper value. Such an habitual disposition of mind consecrates every field and wood, turns an ordinary walk into a morning or evening sacrifice, and will improve these transient gleams of joy, which naturally brighten up and refresh the soul on such occasions, into an inviolable and perpetual state of bliss and happiness.

ADDISON.

I.

Nº 394. MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1712.

Bene colligitur hæc pueris et mulierculis et æreis et æreorum simillimis liberis esse grata: grati vero liberi et ea quæ sunt iudicio certo ponderant, præcipue nullo modo.

TULL.

It is rightly inferred, that these things are pleasing to children, women, and slaves, and even to such freed as greatly resemble slaves; but can by no means be approved by a man of figure and character, and who forms a right judgment of things.

I HAVE been considering the little and frivolous things which give men access to one another, and power with each other, not only in the common and indifferent accidents of life, but also in matters of greater importance. You see in elections for members to sit in parliament, how far saluting rows of old women, drinking with clowns, and being upon a level with the lowest part of mankind is that wherein they themselves are lowest, their diversions will carry a candidate. A capacity for prostituting a man's self in his behaviour, and descending to the present humour of the vulgar, is perhaps as good an ingredient as any other for making a considerable figure in the world; and if a man has nothing else or better to think of, he could not make his way to wealth and distinction by proper methods, than studying the particular bent or inclination of people with whom he converses, and working from the observation of such, their bias in all matters wherein he has any intercourse with them: for his ease and comfort he may assure himself, he need not be at the expense of any great talent or virtue to please even those who are possessed of the highest qualifications. Pride,

* See Nos. 381 and 387 on the same subject.

in some particular disguise or other, (often a secret to the proud man himself) is the most ordinary spring of action among men. You need no more than to discover what a man values himself for; then of all things admire that quality, but be sure to be failing in it yourself in comparison of the man whom you court. I have heard, or read, of a secretary of state in Spain, who served a prince who was happy in an elegant use of the Latin tongue, and often writ dispatches in it with his own hand. The king showed his secretary a letter he had written to a foreign prince, and under the colour of asking his advice, laid a trap for his applause. The honest man read it as a faithful counsellor, and not only excepted against his tying himself down too much by some expressions, but mended the phrase in others. You may guess the dispatches that evening did not take much longer time. Mr. Secretary, as soon as he came to his own house, sent for his eldest son, and communicated to him that the family must retire out of Spain as soon as possible; 'for,' said he, 'the king knows I understand Latin better than he does.'

This egregious fault in a man of the world should be a lesson to all who would make their fortunes: not a regard must be carefully had to the person with whom you have to do; for it is not to be doubted but a great man of common sense must look with secret indignation, or bridled laughter, on all the slaves who stand around him with ready faces to approve and smile at all he says in the room. It is good comedy enough to observe a superior talking half sentences, and playing an humble admirer's countenance from one thing to another, with such perplexity, that he knows not what to sneer in approbation of. But this kind of complaisance is peculiarly the manner of courts; in all other places you must constantly go further in compliance with the persons you have to do with, than a mere conformity of looks and gestures. If you are in a country life, and would be a leading man, a good stomach, a loud voice, and rustic cheerfulness, will go a great way, provided you are able to drink, and drink any thing. But I as just now going to draw the manner of behaviour I would advise people to practise under some maxim, and intimated, that every one almost was governed by his pride. There was an old fellow about forty years ago so peevish and fretful, though

a man of business, that no one could come at him: but he frequented a particular little coffee-house where he triumphed over every body at trick-track and back-gammon. The way to pass his office well, was first to be insulted by him at one of those games in his leisure hours; for his vanity was to show that he was a man of pleasure as well as business. Next to this sort of insinuation, which is called in all places (from its taking its birth in the households of princes) making one's court, the most prevailing way is, by what better-bred people call a present, the vulgar a bribe. I humbly conceive that such a thing is conveyed with more gallantry in a billet-doux that should be understood at the Bank, than in gross money: but as to stubborn people, who are so surly as to accept of neither note nor cash, having formerly dabbled in chemistry, I can only say that one part of matter asks one thing, and another another to make it fluent; but there is nothing but may be dissolved by a proper mean. Thus the virtue which is too obdurate for gold or paper, shall melt away very kindly in a liquid. The island of Barbadoes (a shrewd people) manage all their appeals to Great Britain by a skilful distribution of citron water* among the whisperers about men in power. Generous wines do every day prevail, and that in great points, where ten thousand times their value would have been rejected with indignation.

But to wave the enumeration of the sundry ways of applying by presents, bribes, management of people's passions and affections, in such a manner as it shall appear that the virtue of the best man is by one method or other corruptible; let us look out for some expedient to turn those passions and affections on the side of truth and honour. When a man has laid it down for a position, that parting with his integrity, in the minutest circumstance, is losing so much of his very self, self-love will become a virtue. By this means good and evil will be the only objects of dislike and approbation; and he that injures any man, has effectually wounded the man of this turn as much as if the harm had been to himself. This seems to be the only expedient to arrive at an impartiality; and a man who follows the dictates of truth and right reason, may by artifice be led into error, but never can into guilt.

STEEL.

T.

* At that time known by the name of Barbadoes water.

THE SPECTATOR.

VOL. VI.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

CHARLES, EARL OF SUNDERLAND*.

MY LORD,

VERY many favours and civilities (received from you in a private capacity) which I have no other way to acknowledge, will, I hope, excuse this presumption; but the justice I, as a Spectator, owe your character, places me above the want of an excuse. Candour and openness of heart, which shine in all your words and actions, exact the highest esteem from all who have the honour to know you; and a winning condescension to all subordinate to you, made business a pleasure to those who executed it under you, at the same time that it heightened her majesty's favour to all who had the happiness of having it conveyed through your hands. A secretary of state, in the interest of mankind, joined with that of his fellow-subjects, accomplished with a great facility and elegance in all the modern as well as ancient languages, was a happy and proper member of a ministry, by whose services your sovereign and country are in so high and flourishing a condition, as makes all other princes and potentates powerful or inconsiderable in Europe, as they are friends or enemies to great Britain. The importance of those great events which happened during that administration in which your lordship bore so important a charge, will be acknowledged as long as time shall endure. I shall not therefore attempt to rehearse those illustrious passages; but give this application a more private and particular turn, in desiring your lordship would continue your favour and patronage to me, as you are a gentleman of the most polite literature, and perfectly accomplished in the knowledge of books and men, which makes it necessary to beseech your indulgence to the following leaves, and the author of them; who is, with the greatest truth and respect, MY LORD,

Your Lordship's
obliged, obedient,
and humble servant,

THE SPECTATOR.

* This was the Right Hon. Charles Spencer, Earl of Sunderland, who was appointed secretary of state December 5, 1706; from which office he was dismissed June 14, 1710. On the 1st of September, 1715, he had a pension of 1,200*l.* per annum settled on him; on the 16th of April, 1717, he was again made secretary of state; on the 16th of March, 1717-18, he was appointed lord president of the council; on the 6th of February, 1718-19, made groom of the stole; and died on the 19th of April, 1722. He married Lady Anne Churchill, second daughter of John Duke of Marlborough.

Nº 395. TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1712.

—*Quod nunc ratio est, impetus ante fuit.* OVID.

'Tis reason now, 'twas appetite before.

'BEWARE of the ides of March,' said the Roman augur to Julius Caesar: 'Beware of the month of May,' says the British Spectator to his fair countrywomen. The caution of the first was unhappily neglected, and Caesar's confidence cost him his life. I am apt to flatter myself that my pretty readers had much more regard to the advice I gave them, since I have yet received very few accounts of any notorious trips made in the last month.

But though I hope for the best, I shall not pronounce too positively on this point, till I have seen forty weeks well over, at which period of time, as my good friend Sir Roger has often told me, he has more business as a justice of peace, among the dissolute young people in the country, than at any other season of the year.

Neither must I forget a letter which I received near a fortnight since from a lady, who, it seems, could hold out no longer, telling me she lost it upon the month as then out, for that she had it along reckoned by the new stile.

On the other hand, I have great reason to believe, from several angry letters which have been sent to me by disappointed lovers, that my advice has been of very signal service to the fair sex, who, according to the old proverb, were 'forewarned, forearmed.'

One of these gentlemen tells me, that he would have given me an hundred pounds, rather than I should have published that paper; for that his mistress, who had promised to explain herself to him about the beginning of May, upon reading that discourse told him, that she would give him her answer in June.

Thyrsis acquaints me, that when he desired Sylvia to take a walk in the fields, she told him, the Spectator had forbidden her.

Another of my correspondents, who writes himself Mat Meager, complains that whereas he constantly used to breakfast with his mistress upon chocolate, going to wait upon her the first of May he found his usual treat very much changed for the worse, and has been forced to feed ever since upon green tea.

As I begun this critical season with a caveat to the ladies, I shall conclude it with a congratulation, and do most heartily wish them joy of their happy deliverance.

They may now reflect with pleasure on the dangers they have escaped, and look back on it as much satisfaction on the perils that threatened them, as their great-grandmothers did formerly on the burning plough-shares, after having passed through the ordeal trial. The instigations of the spring are now abated. The nightingale gives out

her 'love-labour'd song,' as Milton phrases it; the blossoms are fallen, and the beds of flowers swept away by the scythe of the mower.

I shall now allow my fair readers to return to their romances and chocolate, provided they make use of them with moderation, till about the middle of the month, when the sun shall have made some progress in the Crab. Nothing is more dangerous than too much confidence and security. The Trojans, who stood upon their guard all the while the Grecians lay before their city, when they fancied the siege was raised, and the danger past, were the very next night burnt in their beds. I must also observe, that as in some climates there is a perpetual spring, so in some female constitutions there is a perpetual May. These are a kind of valetudinarians in chastity, whom I would continue in a constant diet. I cannot think these wholly out of danger, till they have looked upon the other sex at least five years through a pair of spectacles. Will Honeycomb has often assured me, that it is much easier to steal one of this species, when she has passed her grand climacteric, than to carry off an icy girl on this side five-and-twenty; and that a rake of his acquaintance, who had in vain endeavoured to gain the affections of a young lady of fifteen, had at last made his fortune by running away with her grandmother.

But as I do not design this speculation for the evergreens of the sex, I shall again apply myself to those who would willingly listen to the dictates of reason and virtue, and can now hear me in cold blood. If there are any who have forfeited their innocence, they must now consider themselves under that melancholy view in which Chamoist regards his sister, in those beautiful lines:

—Long she flourish'd,
Grew sweet to sense, and lovely to the eye:
Till at the last a cruel spoiler came,
Cropt this fair rose, and rifed all its sweetness,
Then cast it like a loathsome weed away.*

On the contrary, she who has observed the timely cautions I gave her, and lived up to the rules of modesty, will now flourish like 'a rose in June,' with all her virgin blushes and sweetness about her. I must, however, desire these last to consider, how shameful it would be for a general, who has made a successful campaign, to be surprised in his winter quarters. It would be no less dishonourable for a lady to lose, in any other month of the year, what she has been at the pains to preserve in May.

There is no charm in the female sex, that can supply the place of virtue. Without innocence, beauty is unlovely, and quality contemptible; good-breeding degenerates into wantonness, and wit into impudence. It is observed, that all the virtues are represented by both painters and statuary under female shapes; but if any one of them has a more particular title to that sex, it is modesty. I shall leave it to the divines to guard them against the opposite vice, as they may be overpowered by temptations. It is sufficient for me to have warned them against it, as they may be led astray by instinct.

I desire this paper may be read with more than ordinary attention, at all tea-tables within the cities of London and Westminster.

BODGELL.

X.

Nº 396. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1712.

Barbara, Colarant, Daris, Ferio, Baralhton.*

HAVING a great deal of business upon my hands at present, I shall beg the reader's leave to present him with a letter that I received about half a year ago from a gentleman at Cambridge, who styles himself Peter de Quir†. I have kept it by me some months; and, though I did not know at first what to make of it, upon my reading it over very frequently I have at last discovered several conceits in it: I would not therefore have my reader discouraged if he does not take them at the first perusal.

'TO THE SPECTATOR.

'From St. John's College, Cambridge, Feb. 3, 1712.

SIR,

THE monopoly of puns in this university has been an immemorial privilege of the Johnians‡; and we can't help resenting the late invasion of our ancient right as to that particular, by a little pretender to clenching in a neighbouring college, who in an application to you by way of letter, awhile ago, stiled himself Philobrunes§. Dear sir, as you are by character a professed well-wisher to speculation, you will excuse a remark which this gentleman's passion for the branette has suggested to a brother theorist: it is an offer towards a mechanical account of his lapse to punning, for he belongs to a set of mortals who value themselves upon an uncommon mastery in the more humane and polite part of letters.

A conquest by one of this species of females gives a very odd turn to the intellectuals of the captivated person, and very different from that way of thinking which a triumph from the eyes of another, more emphatically of the fair sex, does generally occasion. It fills the imagination with an assemblage of such ideas and pictures as are hardly any thing but shade, such as night, the devil, &c. These portraitures very near overpower the light of the understanding, almost benight the faculties, and give that melancholy tincture to the most sanguine complexion, which this gentleman calls an inclination to be in a brown-study, and is usually attended with worse consequences, in case of a repulse. During this twilight of intellects, the patient is extremely apt, as love is the most witty passion in nature, to offer at some pert sallies now and then, by way of flourish, upon the amiable enchantress, and unfortunately stumbles upon that mongrel miscreated (to speak in Miltonic) kind of wit, vulgarly termed the pun. It would not be much amiss to consult Dr. T—W— (who is certainly a very able projector, and whose system of divinity and spiritual mechanics obtains very much among the better part of our undergraduates) whether a general inter-marriage, enjoined by parliament, between this sisterhood of the olive-beauties, and the fraternity of the people called quakers, would not be a very serviceable expedient, and abate that overflow of light which shines within them so powerfully, that it dazzles their eyes, and dances them into a thousand vagaries of

* A barbarous verse, invented by the logicians.

† The writer of this letter was the noted orator Henley.

‡ The students of St. John's College. See the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lxx.

§ The second letter in Nº 286.

error and enthusiasm. These reflections may impart some light towards a discovery of the origin of punning among us, and the foundation of its prevailing so long in this famous body. It is notorious, from the instance under consideration, that it must be owing chiefly to the use of brown jugs, muddy helch, and the fumes of a certain memorable place of rendezvous with us at meals, known by the name of Staincoat Hole: for the atmosphere of the kitchen, like the tail of a comet, predominates least about the fire, but resides behind and fills the fragrant receptacle above mentioned. Besides, it is further observable, that the delicate spirits among us, who declare against these nauseous proceedings, sip tea, and put up for critic and amour, profess likewise an equal abhorrence for punning, the ancient innocent diversion of this society. After all, sir, though it may appear something absurd, that I seem to approach you with the air of an advocate for punning (you who have justified your censures of the practice in a set dissertation upon that subject *), yet I am confident you will think it abundantly atoned for by observing, that this humbler exercise may be as instrumental in diverting us from any innovating schemes and hypotheses in wit, as dwelling upon honest orthodox logic would be in securing us from heresy in religion. Had Mr. W——n's † researches been confined within the bounds of Ramus or Crackenthorp, that learned news-monger might have acquired in what the holy oracles pronounced upon the deluge, like other Christians; and had the surprising Mr. L——y ‡ been content with the employment of refining upon Shakspeare's points and quibbles (for which he must be allowed to have a superlative genius), and now and then penning a catch or a ditty, instead of inditing odes and sonnets, the gentlemen of the *bon goût* in the pit would never have been put to all that grimace in damning the frippery of state, the poverty and languor of thought, the unnatural wit, and inartificial structure of his dramas.

'I am, SIR,
'Your very humble servant,
'PETER DE QUIR.'

Nº 397. THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1712.

—Dolor ipse disertum
Fecerat — OVID. Metam. l. xlii. ver. 228.

For grief inspir'd me then with eloquence.
DRYDEN.

As the Stoic philosophers discard all passions in general, they will not allow a wise man so much as to pity the afflictions of another. 'If thou seest thy friend in trouble,' says Epictetus, 'thou mayest put on a look of sorrow, and condole with him, but take care that thy sorrow be not real.' The more rigid of this sect would not comply so far as to show even such an outward appearance of grief; but when one told them of any calamity that had befallen even the nearest of their acquaintance, would immediately reply, 'What is that to me?'

* See Nº 61.

† Mr. William Whiston.

‡ Perhaps John Lacy, who altered Shakspeare's play of *The Taming of the Shrew*. He was author of three other comedies, and a player who pleased Cha. II. so much, that he had his picture painted in three of his best characters, viz. *Tenquer*, in *The Committee*; *Scruple*, in *The Cheats*; and *Gullivord*, in *The Variety*; which picture is still preserved in Windsor Castle.

If you aggravated the circumstance of the affliction, and showed how one misfortune was followed by another, the answer was still, 'All this may be true, but what is it to me?'

For my own part, I am of opinion, compassion does not only refine and civilize human nature, but has something in it more pleasing and agreeable than what can be met with in such an indolent happiness, such an indifference to mankind as the Stoics placed their wisdom. As love is the most delightful passion, pity is nothing else but love softened by a degree of sorrow. In short, it is a kind of pleasing anguish, as well as generous sympathy, that knits mankind together, and blends them in the same common lot.

Those who have laid down rules for rhetoric or poetry, advise the writer to work himself up, if possible, to the pitch of sorrow which he endeavours to produce in others. There are none therefore who stir up pity so much as those who indite their own sufferings. Grief has a natural eloquence belonging to it, and breaks out in more moving sentiments than can be supplied by the finest imagination. Nature on this occasion dictates a thousand passionate things which cannot be supplied by art.

It is for this reason that the short speeches or sentences, which we often meet with in histories, make a deeper impression on the mind of the reader, than the most laboured strokes in a well-written tragedy. Truth and matter of fact sets the person actually before us in the one, whom fiction places at a greater distance from us in the other. I do not remember to have seen any ancient or modern story more affecting than a letter of Anne of Boleyn, wife to King Henry the Eighth, and mother to Queen Elizabeth, which is still extant in the Cotton library, as written by her own hand.

Shakspeare himself could not have made her talk in a strain so suitable to her condition and character. One sees in it the expostulation of a slighted lover, the resentments of an injured woman, and the sorrows of an imprisoned queen. I need not acquaint my reader that this princess was then under prosecution for disloyalty to the king's bed, and that she was afterwards publicly beheaded upon the same account, though this prosecution was believed by many to proceed, as she herself intimates, rather from the king's love to Jane Seymour, than from any actual crime in Anne of Boleyn.

Queen Ann Boleyn's last letter to King Henry.

'SIR,

Cotton Lib. 'YOUR grace's displeasure, and my imprisonment, are things so strange unto me, as what to write, or what to excuse, I am altogether ignorant. Whereas you send unto me (making me to confess a truth, and so obtain your favour) by such an one, whom you know to be your ancient professed enemy, I no sooner received the message by him, than I rightly conceived your meaning; and if, as you say, confessing a truth indeed may procure my safety, I shall with all willingness and duty perform your command.

'But let not your grace ever imagine, that your poor wife will ever be brought to acknowledge a fault, where not so much as a thought thereof preceded. And to speak a truth, never prince had wife more loyal in all duty, and in all true affection, than you have ever found in Anne Boleyn: with which name and place I could willingly have contented myself, if God and your grace's pleasure had been so pleased. Neither did I at any

time so far forget myself in my exaltation or received queenship, but that I always looked for such an alteration as I now find; for the ground of my preferment being on no surer foundation than your grace's fancy, the least alteration I knew was fit and sufficient to draw that fancy to some other object. You have chosen me from a low estate to be your queen and companion, far beyond my desert or desire. If then you found me worthy of such honour, good your grace, let not any light fancy, or bad counsel of mine enemies, withdraw your princely favour from me; neither let that stain, that unworthy stain, of a disloyal heart towards your good grace, ever cast so foul a blot on your most dutiful wife, and the infant princess your daughter. Try me, good king, but let me have a lawful trial, and let not my sworn enemies sit as my accusers and judges; yea, let me receive an open trial, for my truth shall fear no open shame; then shall you see either mine innocence cleared, your suspicion and conscience satisfied, the ignominy and slander of the world stopped, or my guilt openly declared. So that whatsoever God or you may determine of me, your grace may be freed from an open censure; and mine offence being so lawfully proved, your grace is at liberty, both before God and man, not only to execute worthy punishment on me as an unlawful wife, but to follow your affection, already settled on that party, for whose sake I am now as I am, whose name I could some good while since have pointed unto, your grace not being ignorant of my suspicion therein.

'But if you have already determined of me, and that not only my death, but an infamous slander must bring you the enjoying of your desired happiness, then I desire of God, that he will pardon your great sin therein, and likewise mine enemies, the instruments thereof, and that he will not call you to a strict account for your unprincely and cruel usage of me, at his general judgment-seat, where both you and myself must shortly appear, and in whose judgment I doubt not (whatsoever the world may think of me) mine innocence shall be openly known, and sufficiently cleared.

'My last and only request shall be, that myself may only bear the burden of your grace's displeasure, and that it may not touch the innocent souls of those poor gentlemen, who (as I understand) are likewise in strait imprisonment for my sake. If ever I have found favour in your sight, if ever the name of Ann Boleyn hath been pleasing in your ears, then let me obtain this request, and I will so leave to trouble your grace any further, with mine earnest prayers to the Trinity, to have your grace in his good keeping, and to direct you in all your actions. From my doleful prison in the Tower, this sixth of May;

'Your most loyal

'and ever-faithful wife,

'ANN BOLEYN.'

L.

ADDISON.

Nº 398. FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1712.

Inanire pares certa ratione modoque.

HOR. Sat. lib. 1. 2. ver. 271.

——— You'd be a fool
With art and wisdom, and be mad by rule.
CREECH.

CYNTHIO and Flavia are persons of distinction in this town, who have been lovers these ten months last past, and writ to each other for gallantry sake, under those feigned names; Mr. Such-a-one and Mrs. Such-a-one not being capable of raising the soul out of the ordinary tracts and passages of life, up to that elevation which makes the life of the enamoured so much superior to that of the rest of the world. But ever since the beauteous Cecilia has made such a figure as she now does in the circle of charming women, Cynthia has been secretly one of her adorers. Lætitia has been the finest woman in town these three months, and so long Cynthia has acted the part of a lover very awkwardly in the presence of Flavia. Flavia has been too blind towards him, and has too sincere an heart of her own, to observe a thousand things which would have discovered this change of mind to any one less engaged than she was. Cynthia was musing yesterday in the piazza in Covent-garden, and was saying to himself that he was a very ill man to go on in visiting and professing love to Flavia, when his heart was enthralled to another. It is an infirmity that I am not constant to Flavia; but it would be still a greater crime, since I cannot continue to love her, to profess that I do. To marry a woman with the coldness that usually indeed comes on after marriage, is ruining one's self with one's eyes open; besides it is really doing her an injury. This last consideration forsooth, of injuring her in persisting, made him resolve to break off upon the first favourable opportunity of making her angry. When he was in this thought, he saw Robin the porter, who waits at Will's coffee-house, passing by. Robin, you must know, is the best man in town for carrying a billet; the fellow has a thin body, swift step, demure looks, sufficient sense, and knows the town. This man carried Cynthia's first letter to Flavia, and, by frequent errands ever since, is well known to her. The fellow covers his knowledge of the nature of his messages with the most exquisite low humour imaginable. The first he obliged Flavia to take, was by complaining to her that he had a wife and three children, and if she did not take that letter, which he was sure there was no harm in, but rather love, his family must go supperless to bed, for the gentleman would pay him according as he did his business. Robin therefore Cynthia now thought fit to make use of, and gave him orders to wait before Flavia's door, and if she called him to her, and asked whether it was Cynthia who passed by, he should at first be loth to own it was, but upon importunity confess it. There needed not much search into that part of the town to find a well-dressed hussey fit for the purpose Cynthia designed her. As soon as he believed Robin was posted, he drove by Flavia's lodgings in a hackney-coach and a woman in it. Robin was at the door talking with Flavia's maid, and Cynthia pulled up the glass as surprised, and hid his associate. The report of this circumstance soon flew up stairs, and Robin could not deny but the gentleman 'favoured' his master;

yet if it was he, he was sure the lady was but his cousin whom he had seen ask for him; adding, that he believed she was a poor relation; because they made her wait one morning till he was awake. Flavia immediately writ the following epistle, which Robin brought to Will's:

'SIR,
' June 4, 1712.
' It is in vain to deny it, basest, falsest of mankind; my maid, as well as the bearer, saw you.
' THE INJURED FLAVIA.'

After Cynthio had read the letter, he asked Robin how she looked, and what she said at the delivery of it. Robin said she spoke short to him, and called him back again, and had nothing to say to him, and bid him and all the men in the world go out of her sight; but the maid followed, and bid him bring an answer.

Cynthio returned as follows:

'MADAM,
' June 4, Three afternoon, 1712.
' That your maid and the bearer have seen me very often is very certain; but I desire to know, being engaged at piquet, what your letter means by "tis in vain to deny it." I shall stay here all the evening,
' YOUR AMAZED CYNTHIO.'

As soon as Robin arrived with this, Flavia answered:

'DEAR CYNTHIO,
' I HAVE walked a turn or two in my anti-chamber since I writ to you, and have recovered myself from an impertinent fit which you ought to forgive me, and desire you would come to me immediately to laugh off a jealousy that you and a creature of the town went by in a hackney-coach an hour ago.
' I am your most humble servant,
' FLAVIA.'

' I will not open the letter which my Cynthio writ upon the misapprehension you must have been under, when you writ, for want of hearing the whole circumstance.'

Robin came back in an instant, and Cynthio answered—

'MADAM,
' Half an hour six minutes after three,
' June 4, Will's coffee-house.
' It is certain I went by your lodgings with a gentlewoman to whom I have the honour to be known; she is indeed my relation, and a pretty sort of a woman. But your starting manner of writing, and pawning you have not done me the honour so much as to open my letter, has in it something very unaccountable, and alarms one that has had thoughts of passing his days with you. But I am born to admire you with all your little imperfections.
' CYNTHIO.'

Robin ran back, and brought for answer—

'EXACT sir, that are at Will's coffee-house six minutes after three, June 4; one that has had thoughts, and all my little imperfections. Sir, come to me immediately, or I shall determine what may perhaps not be very pleasing to you.
' FLAVIA.'

Robin gave an account that she looked excessive angry when she gave him the letter; and that he told her, for she asked, that Cynthio only looked

at the clock, taking snuff, and writ two or three words on the top of the letter when he gave him his.

Now the plot thickened so well, as that Cynthio saw he had not much more to accomplish being irreconcilably banished: he writ—

'MADAM,
' I HAVE that prejudice in favour of all you do, that it is not possible for you to determine upon what will not be very pleasing to
' Your obedient servant,
' CYNTHIO.'

This was delivered, and the answer returned, in a little more than two seconds.

'SIR,
' Is it come to this? You never loved me, and the creature you were with is the properest person for your associate. I despise you, and hope I shall soon hate you as a villain to
' THE CREDULOUS FLAVIA.'

Robin ran back with—

'MADAM,
' Your credulity when you are to gain you point, and suspicion when you fear to lose it, make it a very hard part to behave as becomes
' Your humble slave,
' CYNTHIO.'

Robin whipt away, and returned with

'MR. WELLPORD,
' FLAVIA and Cynthio are no more. I relieve you from the hard part of which you complain, and banish you from my sight for ever.
' ANN HEART.'

Robin had a crown for his afternoon's work; and this is published to admonish Cecilia to avenge the injury done to Flavia.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 399. SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1712.

Ut nemo in ore tentat descendere!

PERS. Sat. iv. ver. 23

None, none descends into himself, to find
The secret imperfections of his mind.

DRYDEN.

HYPOCRISY at the fashionable end of the town, is very different from hypocrisy in the city. The modish hypocrite endeavours to appear more vicious than he really is, the other kind of hypocrite more virtuous. The former is afraid of every thing that has the show of religion in it, and would be thought engaged in many criminal gallantries and amours, which he is not guilty of. The latter assumes a face of sanctity, and covers a multitude of vices under a seeming religious deportment.

But there is another kind of hypocrisy, which differs from both these, and which I intend to make the subject of this paper: I mean that hypocrisy, by which a man does not only deceive the world, but very often imposes on himself; that hypocrisy which conceals his own heart from him, and makes him believe he is more virtuous than he really is, and either not attend to his vices, or to take even his vices for virtues. It is this fatal by

hypocrisy, and self-deceit, which is taken notice of in those words, 'Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.'

If the open professors of impiety deserve the utmost application and endeavours of moral writers to recover them from vice and folly, how much more may those lay a claim to their care and compassion, who are walking in the paths of death, while they fancy themselves engaged in a course of virtue! I shall endeavour therefore to lay down some rules for the discovery of those vices that lurk in the secret corners of the soul, and to show my reader those methods by which he may arrive at a true and impartial knowledge of himself. The usual means prescribed for this purpose, are to examine ourselves by the rules which are laid down for our direction in sacred writ, and to compare our lives with the life of that person who acted up to the perfection of human nature, and is the standing example, as well as the great guide and instructor, of those who receive his doctrines. Though these two heads cannot be too much insisted upon, I shall but just mention them, since they have been handled by many great and eminent writers.

I would therefore propose the following methods to the consideration of such as would find out their secret faults, and make a true estimate of themselves.

In the first place, let them consider well what are the characters which they bear among their enemies. Our friends very often flatter us, as much as our own hearts. They either do not see our faults, or conceal them from us, or soften them by their representations, after such a manner, that we think them too trivial to be taken notice of. An adversary, on the contrary, makes a stricter search into us, discovers every flaw and imperfection in our temper; and though his malice may set them in too strong a light, it has generally some ground for what it advances. A friend exaggerates a man's virtues, an enemy inflames his crimes. A wise man should give a just attention to both of them, so far as they may tend to the improvement of one, and the diminution of the other. Plutarch has written an essay on the benefits which a man may receive from his enemies, and, among the good fruits of enmity, mentions this in particular, that by the reproaches which it casts upon us we see the worst side of ourselves, and open our eyes to several blemishes and defects in our lives and conversations, which we should not have observed without the help of such ill-natured monitors.

In order likewise to come at a true knowledge of ourselves; we should consider on the other hand how far we may deserve the praises and approbations which the world bestow upon us; whether the actions they celebrate proceed from laudable and worthy motives; and how far we are really possessed of the virtues which gain us applause among those with whom we converse. Such a reflection is absolutely necessary, if we consider how apt we are either to value or condemn ourselves by the opinions of others, and to sacrifice the report of our own hearts to the judgment of the world.

In the next place, that we may not deceive ourselves in a point of so much importance, we should not lay too great a stress on any supposed virtues we possess that are of a doubtful nature: and such we may esteem all those in which multitudes of men dissent from us, who are as good and wise as ourselves. We should always act with great cautionness and circumspection in points where

it is not impossible that we may be deceived. Intemperate zeal, bigotry, and persecution for any party or opinion, how praiseworthy soever they may appear to weak men of our own principles; produce infinite calamities among mankind, and are highly criminal in their own nature: and yet how many persons eminent for piety suffer such monstrous and absurd principles of action to take root in their minds under the colour of virtues! For my own part, I must own, I never yet knew any party so just and reasonable, that a man could follow it in its height and violence, and at the same time be innocent.

We should likewise be very apprehensive of those actions which proceed from natural constitutions, favourite passions, particular education, or whatever promotes our worldly interest or advantage. In these and the like cases, a man's judgment is easily perverted, and a wrong bias hangs upon his mind. These are the inlets of prejudice; the unguarded avenues of the mind, by which a thousand errors and secret faults find admission, without being observed or taken notice of. A wise man will suspect those actions to which he is directed by something besides reason; and always apprehend some concealed evil in every resolution that is of a disputable nature, when it is conformable to his particular temper, his age, or way of life, or when it favours his pleasure, or his profit.

There is nothing of greater importance to us than thus diligently to sift our thoughts, and examine all these dark recesses of the mind, if we would establish our souls in such a solid and substantial virtue, as will turn to account in that great day when it must stand the test of infinite wisdom and justice.

I shall conclude this essay with observing, that the two kinds of hypocrisy I have here spoken of, namely, that of deceiving the world, and that of imposing on ourselves, are touched with wonderful beauty in the hundred and thirty-ninth psalm. The folly of the first kind of hypocrisy is there set forth by reflections on God's omniscience and omnipresence, which are celebrated in as noble strains of poetry as any other I ever met with either sacred or profane. The other kind of hypocrisy, whereby a man deceives himself, is intimated in the two last verses, where the psalmist addresses himself to the great Searcher of hearts in that emphatical petition, 'Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart; prove me, and examine my thoughts. Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.'

ADDISON:

L.

N° 400. MONDAY, JUNE 9, 1712.

———*Latet anguis in herba.*

VIRG. Ecl. iii. ver. 28.

There's a snake in the grass. [English Proverb.]

It should, methinks, preserve modesty and its interests in the world, that the transgression of it always creates offence; and the very purposes of wantonness are defeated by a carriage which has in it so much boldness, as to intimate that fear and reluctance are quite extinguished in an object which would be otherwise desirable. It was said of a wit of the last age *,

* Sir Charles Sedley.

'Sedley has that prevailing gentle art
Which can with a restless charm impart
The loosest wishes to the chastest heart;
Raise such a conflict, kindle such a fire,
Between declining virtue and desire,
That the poor vanquish'd maid dissolves away
In dreams all night, in sighs and tears all day.'

This 'prevailing gentle art' was made up of complaisance, courtship, and artful conformity to the modesty of a woman's manners. Rusticity, broad expression, and forward obtrusion, offend those of education, and make the transgressors odious to all who have merit enough to attract regard. It is in this taste that the scenery is so beautifully ordered in the description which Antony makes in the dialogue between him and Dolabella, of Cleopatra in her barge:

'Her galley down the silver Cidnus row'd;
The tackling still, the streamers wav'd with gold;
The gentle winds were lodg'd in purple sails;
Her nymphs, like Nereids, round her couch were plac'd,
Where she, another sea-born Venus, lay;
She lay, and lean'd her cheek upon her hand,
And cast a look so languishingly sweet,
As if secure of all beholders' hearts,
Neglecting she could take them. Boys, like cupids,
Stood fanning with their painted wings the winds
That play'd about her face; but if she smil'd,
A darting glory seem'd to blaze abroad,
That men's desiring eyes were never weary'd,
But hung upon the object. To soft lutes
The silver oars kept time: and while they play'd,
The hearing gave new pleasure to the sight;
And both to thought—'

Here the imagination is warmed with all the objects presented, and yet there is nothing that is lascivious, or what raises any idea more loose than that of a beautiful woman set off to advantage. The like, or a more delicate and careful spirit of modesty, appears in the following passage in one of Mr. Philips's pastorals:

'Breathe soft ye winds, ye waters gently flow,
Shield her ye trees, ye flow'rs around her grow;
Ye swains, I beg you, pass in silence by,
My love in yonder vale asleep does lie.'

Desire is corrected when there is a tenderness or admiration expressed which partakes the passion. Licentious language has something brutal in it, which disgraces humanity, and leaves us in the condition of the savages in the field. But it may be asked, to what good use can tend a discourse of this kind at all? It is to alarm chaste ears against such as have, what is above called, the 'prevailing gentle art.' Masters of that talent are capable of clothing their thoughts in so soft a dress, and something so distant from the secret purpose of their heart, that the imagination of the unguarded is touched with a fondness, which grows too insensibly to be resisted. Much care and concern for the lady's welfare, to seem afraid lest she should be annoyed by the very air which surrounds her, and this uttered rather with kind looks, and expressed by an interjection, an 'ah,' or an 'oh,' at some little hazard in moving or making a step, than in any direct profession of love, are the methods of skilful admirers. They are honest arts when their purpose is such, but infamous when misapplied. It is certain, that many a young woman in this town has had her heart irrecoverably won, by men who have not made one advance which ties their admirers, though the females languish with the utmost anxiety. I have often, by way of admonition to my female readers, given them warning against

agreeable company of the other sex, except they are well acquainted with their characters. Women may disguise it if they think fit; and the more to do it, they may be angry at me for saying it; but I say it is natural to them, that they have no manner of approbation of men, without some degree of love. For this reason he is dangerous to be entertained as a friend or visitant, who is capable of gaining any eminent esteem or observation, though it be never so remote from pretensions as a lover. If a man's heart has not the abhorrence of any treacherous design, he may easily improve approbation into kindness, and kindness into passion. There may possibly be no manner of love between them in the eyes of all their acquaintance; no, it is all friendship; and yet they may be as fond as shepherd and shepherdess in a pastoral; but still the nymph and the swain may be to each other, no other, I warrant you, than Py-lades and Orestes.

'When Lucy decks with flow'rs her swelling breast,
And on her elbow leans, dissembling rest;
Unable to refrain my madding mind,
Nor sheep nor pasture worth my care I find.'

'Once Delia slept, on easy moss reclin'd,
Her lovely limbs half bare, and rude the wind.
I smooth'd her coats, and stole a silent kiss:
Condemn me, shepherds, if I did amiss.'

Such good offices as these, and such friendly thoughts and concerns for one another, are what make up the amity, as they call it, between man and woman.

It is the permission of such intercourse, that makes a young woman come to the arms of her husband, after the disappointment of four or five passions which she has successively had for different men, before she is prudentially given to him for whom she has neither love nor friendship. For what should a poor creature do that has lost all her friends! There's Marinet the agreeable has, to my knowledge, had a friendship for Lord Welford, which had like to break her heart; then she had so great a friendship for Colonel Hardy, that she could not endure any woman else should do any thing but rail at him. Many and fatal have been disasters between friends who have fallen out, and these resentments are more keen than ever those of other men can possibly be: but in this it happens unfortunately, that as there ought to be nothing concealed from one friend to another, the friends of different sexes very often find fatal effects from their unanimity.

For my part, who study to pass life in as much innocence and tranquillity as I can, I shun the company of agreeable women as much as possible; and must confess that I have, though a tolerable good philosopher, but a low opinion of Platonic love: for which reason I thought it necessary to give my fair readers a caution against it, having, to my great concern, observed the waist of a Platonist lately swell to a roundness which is inconsistent with that philosophy.

STEEL.

S.

N° 401. TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1712.

*In amore hæc omnia insunt vitia: Injuria,
Suspiciones, inimicitie, inducie,
Bellum, pax rursus—*

TER. EUN. act 1. sc. 1.

It is the capricious state of love, to be attended with injuries, suspicions, enmities, truces, quarrelling, and reconciliation.

I SHALL publish, for the entertainment of this day, a odd sort of a packet, which I have just received from one of my female correspondents.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

SINCE you have often confessed that you are not pleased your papers should sometimes convey complaints of distressed lovers to each other, am in hopes you will favour one who gives you an undoubted instance of her reformation, and at the same time a convincing proof of the happy influence your labours have had over the most incorrigible part of the most incorrigible sex. You must know, sir, I am one of that species of women, whom you have often characterised under the name of "Jilts," and that I send you these lines well to do public penance for having so long continued in a known error, as to beg pardon of the party offended. I rather choose this way, cause it in some measure answers the terms on which he intimated the breach between us might possibly be made up, as you will see by the letter sent me the next day after I had discarded him; which I thought fit to send you a copy of, that you might the better know the whole case.

'I must further acquaint you, that before I jilted him, there had been the greatest intimacy between us for a year and a half together, during all which he cherished his hopes, and indulged his flame. I leave you to guess, after this, what must be his surprise, when, upon his pressing for my full consent one day, I told him I wondered what could make him fancy he had ever any place in my affection. His own sex allow him sense, and all ours od breeding. His person is such as might, without vanity, make him believe himself not incapable to be beloved. Our fortunes indeed, weighed the nice scale of interest, are not exactly equal, which by the way was the true cause of my jilting him; and I had the assurance to acquaint him with the following maxim, that I should always believe a man's passion to be the most violent, who should offer me the largest settlement. I have since changed my opinion, and have endeavoured to let him know so much by several letters, but the barrow man has refused them all; so that I have been left of writing to him but by your assistance. If you can bring him about once more, I promise to send you all gloves and favours, and all desire the favour of Sir Roger and yourself to add as godfathers to my first boy.

'I am, sir,

'Your most obedient, most humble servant,
'AMORET.'

'PHILANDER TO AMORET.

'MADAM,

AM so surprised at the question you were pleased ask me yesterday, that I am still at a loss what to answer to it. At least my answer would be too long trouble you with, as it would come from a person who, it seems, is so very indifferent to you.

Instead of it, I shall only recommend to your consideration the opinion of one whose sentiments on these matters I have often heard you say are extremely just. "A generous and constant passion," says your favourite author, "in an agreeable lover, where there is not too great a disparity in their circumstances, is the greatest blessing that can befall a person beloved; and if overlooked in one, may perhaps never be found in another."

I do not, however, at all despair of being very shortly much better beloved by you than Antenor is at present; since, whenever my fortune shall exceed his, you were pleased to intimate your passion would increase accordingly.

The world has seen me shamefully lose that time to please a fickle woman, which might have been employed much more to my credit and advantage in other pursuits. I shall therefore take the liberty to acquaint you, however harsh it may sound in a lady's ears, that though your love-fit should happen to return, unless you could contrive a way to make your recantation as well known to the public, as they are already apprised of the manner with which you have treated me, you shall never more see

'PHILANDER.'

'AMORET TO PHILANDER.

'SIR,
'UPON reflection, I find the injury I have done both to you and myself to be so great, that, though the part I now act may appear contrary to that decorum usually observed by our sex, yet I purposely break through all rules, that my repentance may in some measure equal my crime. I assure you, that in my present hopes of recovering you, I look upon Antenor's estate with contempt. The fop was here yesterday in a gilt chariot and new liveries, but I refused to see him. Though I dread to meet your eyes, after what has passed, I flatter myself, that, amidst all their confusion, you will discover such a tenderness in mine, as none can imitate but those who love. I shall be all this month at Lady D——'s in the country; but the woods, the fields, and gardens, without Philander, afford no pleasures to the unhappy

'AMORET.'

'I must desire you, dear Mr. Spectator, to publish this my letter to Philander as soon as possible, and to assure him that I know nothing at all of the death of his rich uncle in Gloucestershire.'

BUDGELL.

X.

N° 402. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1712.

Ipse sibi tradit Spectator—
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 181.

By the Spectator given to himself.

WHEN I to publish all the advertisements I receive from different hands, and persons of different circumstances and quality, the very mention of them, without reflections on the several subjects, would raise all the passions which can be felt by human minds. As instances of this, I shall give you two or three letters; the writers of which can have no recourse to any legal power for redress, and seem to have written rather to vent their sorrow than to receive consolation.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I AM a young woman of beauty and quality, and suitably married to a gentleman who doats on me. But this person of mine is the object of an unjust passion in a nobleman who is very intimate with my husband. This friendship gives him very easy access, and frequent opportunities of entertaining me apart. My heart is in the utmost anguish, and my face is covered over with confusion, when I impart to you another circumstance, which is, that my mother, the most mercenary of all women, is gained by this false friend of my husband’s to solicit me for him. I am frequently chid by the poor believing man my husband, for showing an impatience of his friend’s company; and I am never alone with my mother, but she tells me stories of the discretionary part of the world, and such a one, and such a one, who are guilty of as much as she advises me to. She laughs at my astonishment; and seems to hint to me, that as virtuous as she has always appeared, I am not the daughter of her husband. It is possible that printing this letter may relieve me from the unnatural importunity of my mother, and the perfidious courtship of my husband’s friend. I have an unfeigned love of virtue, and am resolved to preserve my innocence. The only way I can think of to avoid the fatal consequences of the discovery of this matter, is to fly away for ever, which I must do to avoid my husband’s fatal resentment against the man who attempts to abuse him, and the shame of exposing a parent to infamy. The persons concerned will know these circumstances relate to them; and, though the regard to virtue is dead in them, I have some hopes from their fear of shame upon reading this in your paper; which I conjure you to publish, if you have any compassion for injured virtue.

‘SYLVIA.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I AM the husband of a woman of merit, but am fallen in love, as they call it, with a lady of her acquaintance, who is going to be married to a gentleman who deserves her. I am in a trust relating to this lady’s fortune, which makes my concurrence in this matter necessary; but I have so irresistible a rage and envy rise in me when I consider his future happiness, that against all reason, equity, and common justice, I am ever playing mean tricks to suspend the nuptials. I have no manner of hopes for myself: Emilia, for so I’ll call her, is a woman of the most strict virtue; her lover is a gentleman whom of all others I could wish my friend: but envy and jealousy, though placed so unjustly, waste my very being; and, with the torment and scum of a demon, I am ever cursing what I cannot but approve. I wish it were the beginning of repentance, that I sit down and describe my present disposition with so hellish an aspect; but at present the destruction of these two excellent persons would be more welcome to me than their happiness. Mr. Spectator, pray let me have a paper on these terrible groundless sufferings, and do all you can to exorcise crowds who are in some degree possessed as I am.

‘CANIBAL.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I HAVE no other means but this to express my thanks to one man, and my resentment against another. My circumstances are as follow: I have been for five years last past courted by a gentle-

man of greater fortune than I ought to expect in the market for women goes. You must, to be sure, have observed people who live in that sort of way, as all their friends reckon it will be a match, and are marked out by all the world for each other. In this view we have been regarded for some time, and I have above these three years loved him tenderly. As he is very careful of his fortune, I always thought he lived in a near manner, to lay up what he thought was wanting in my fortune to make up what he might expect in another. When these few months I have observed his carriage very much altered, and he has affected a certain air of getting me alone, and talking with a mighty profusion of passionate words, how I am not to be resisted longer, how irresistible his wishes are, and the like. As long as I have been acquainted with him, I could not on such occasions say down to him, “You know you may make me your own, if you please.” But the other night he with great frankness and impudence explained to me, that he thought of me only as a mistress. I answered his declaration as it deserved; upon which he only doubled the terms on which he proposed my marrying. When my anger heightened upon him, he told me he was sorry he had made so little use of his unguarded hours we had been together so remote from company, “as indeed,” continued he, “we are at present.” I flew from him to a neighbouring gentlewoman’s house, and, though her husband was in the room, threw myself on a couch and burst into a passion of tears. My friend desired her husband to leave the room. “But,” said he, “there is something so extraordinary in this, that I will partake in the affliction; and, be what it will, she is so much your friend, that she knows you may command what services I can do her.” The man sat down by me, and spoke to me as a brother, that I told him my whole affliction. He spoke of the injury done me with so much indignation, and animated me against the love he said he saw I had for the wretch who would have betrayed me, with so much reason and humanity to my weakness, that I doubt not of my perseverance. His wife and he are my comforters, and I am under no more restraint in their company than if I were alone; and I doubt not but in a small time contempt and hatred will take place of the remains of affection to a rascal.

‘I am, sir,

‘Your affectionate reader.

‘NEARLY.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I HAD the misfortune to be an uncle before I knew my nephews from my nieces; and now we are grown up to better acquaintance, they deny me the respect they owe. One upbraids me with being their familiar, another will hardly be persuaded that I am an uncle, a third calls me little more, and a fourth tells me there is no duty at all to an uncle. I have a brother-in-law, whose son ed win all my affection, unless you shall think me worthy of your cognizance, and will be pleased to prescribe some rules for our future reciprocal behaviour. It will be worthy the particulars of your genius to lay down rules for his conduct, which was, as it were, born an old man; in which you will much oblige, sir,

‘Your most obedient servant,

‘CORNELIUS LEPIDUS.

STEELE.

f.

N° 403. THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1712.

Qui mores hominum multorum vidit —
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 142.

Who many towns, and change of manners saw.
ROSCOMMON.

As I consider this great city in its several quarters and divisions, I look upon it as an aggregate of various nations distinguished from each other by their respective customs, manners, and interests. The courts of two countries do not so much differ from one another, as the court and city, in their secular ways of life and conversation. In short, the inhabitants of St. James's, notwithstanding they live under the same laws, and speak the same language, are a distinct people from those of the Strand, who are likewise removed from those of the Temple on the one side, and those of Smithfield on the other, by several climates and degrees in their way of thinking and conversing together.

For this reason, when any public affair is upon the anvil, I love to hear the reflections that arise upon it in the several districts and parishes of London and Westminster, and to ramble up and down the whole day together, in order to make myself acquainted with the opinions of my ingenious countrymen. By this means I know the faces of all the principal politicians within the bills of mortality: and as every coffee-house has some particular statesman belonging to it, who is the mouth of the street where he lives, I always take care to place myself near him, in order to know his judgment on the present state of affairs. The last progress that I made with this intention was about three months ago, when we had a current report of the King of France's death. As I foresaw this would produce a new face of things in Europe, and many curious speculations in our British coffee-houses, I was very desirous to learn the thoughts of our most eminent politicians on that occasion.

That I might begin as near the fountain-head as possible, I first of all called in at St. James's, where I found the whole outward room in a buzz of politics. The speculations were but very indifferent towards the door, but grew finer as you advanced to the upper end of the room, and were very much improved by a knot of theorists, who sat in the inner room, within the steams of the coffee-pot, that I there heard the whole Spanish monarchy disposed of, and all the line of Bourbon provided for in less than a quarter of an hour.

I afterwards called in at Giles's, where I saw a board of French gentlemen sitting upon the life and death of their grand monarch. Those among them who had espoused the whig interest, very positively affirmed, that he departed this life about a week since, and therefore proceeded without any further delay to the release of their friends in the allies, and to their own re-establishment; but, finding they could not agree among themselves, I succeeded on my intended progress.

Upon my arrival at Jenny Man's, I saw an alert young fellow that cocked his hat upon a friend of his, who entered just at the same time with myself, and accosted him after the following manner: 'Well, Jack, the old prig is dead at last. Sharp's be word. Now or never, boy. Up to the walls of Paris directly.' With several other deep reflections of the same nature.

I met with very little variation in the politics be-

tween Charing-cross and Covent-garden. And upon my going into Will's, I found their discourse was gone off from the death of the French king to that of Monsieur Boileau, Racine, Corneille, and several other poets, whom they regretted on this occasion, as persons who would have obliged the world with very noble elegies on the death of so great a prince, and so eminent a patron of learning.

At a coffee-house near the Temple, I found a couple of young gentlemen engaged very smartly in a dispute on the succession to the Spanish monarchy. One of them seemed to have been retained as advocate for the Duke of Anjou, the other for his Imperial majesty. They were both for regulating the title to that kingdom by the statute laws of England: but finding them going out of my depth, I passed forward to Paul's Church-yard, where I listened with great attention to a learned man who gave the company an account of the deplorable state of France during the minority of the deceased king.

I then turned on my right hand into Fish-street, where the chief politician of that quarter, upon hearing the news, (after having taken a pipe of tobacco, and ruminated for some time) 'If,' says he, 'the King of France is certainly dead, we shall have plenty of mackerel this season: our fishery will not be disturbed by privateers, as it has been for these ten years past.' He afterwards considered how the death of this great man would affect our pilchards, and by several other remarks infused a general joy into his whole audience.

I afterwards entered a by-coffee-house, that stood at the upper end of a narrow lane, where I met with a non-juror, engaged very warmly with a laceman who was the great support of a neighbouring conventicle. The matter in debate was, whether the late French king was most like Augustus Cæsar, or Nero. The controversy was carried on with great heat on both sides, and as each of them looked upon me very frequently during the course of their debate, I was under some apprehension that they would appeal to me, and therefore laid down my penny at the bar, and made the best of my way to Cheapside.

I here gazed upon the signs for some time before I found one to my purpose. The first object I met in the coffee-room, was a person who expressed a great grief for the death of the French king; but, upon his explaining himself, I found his sorrow did not arise from the loss of the monarch, but for his having sold out of the Bank about three days before he heard the news of it. Upon which a haberdasher, who was the oracle of the coffee-house, and had his circle of admirers about him, called several to witness that he had declared his opinion above a week before, that the French king was certainly dead; to which he added, that, considering the late advices we had received from France, it was impossible that it could be otherwise. As he was laying these together, and dictating to his hearers with great authority, there came in a gentleman from Garraway's, who told us that there were several letters from France just come in, with advice that the king was in good health, and was gone out a hunting the very morning the post came away: upon which the haberdasher stole off his hat that hung upon a wooden peg by him, and retired to his shop with great confusion. This intelligence put a stop to my travels, which I had prosecuted with so much satisfaction; not being a little pleased to hear so many different

opinions upon so great an event, and to observe how naturally upon such a piece of news every one is apt to consider it with regard to his particular interest and advantage.

ADDISON,

L.

N° 404. FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1712.

Non omnia possumus omnes.

VIRG. Ecl. viii. ver. 63.

With different talents form'd, we variously excel.

NATURE does nothing in vain: the Creator of the universe has appointed every thing to a certain use and purpose, and determined it to a settled course and sphere of action, from which if it in the least deviates, it becomes unfit to answer those ends for which it was designed. In like manner it is in the dispositions of society; the civil economy is formed in a chain, as well as the natural: and in either case the breach but of one link puts the whole in some disorder. It is, I think, pretty plain, that most of the absurdity and ridicule we meet with in the world, is generally owing to the impertinent affectation of excelling in characters men are not fit for, and for which nature never designed them.

Every man has one or more qualities which may make him useful both to himself and others. Nature never fails of pointing them out; and while the infant continues under her guardianship, she brings him on in his way, and then offers herself for a guide in what remains of the journey; if he proceeds in that course he can hardly miscarry. Nature makes good her engagements; for, as she never promises what she is not able to perform, so she never fails of performing what she promises. But the misfortune is, men despise what they may be masters of, and affect what they are not fit for; they reckon themselves already possessed of what their genius inclined them to, and so bend all their ambition to excel in what is out of their reach. Thus they destroy the use of their natural talents, in the same manner as covetous men do their quiet and repose; they can enjoy no satisfaction in what they have, because of the absurd inclination they are possessed with for what they have not.

Cleantes had good sense, a great memory, and a constitution capable of the closest application. In a word, there was no profession in which Cleantes might not have made a very good figure: but this won't satisfy him; he takes up an unaccountable fondness for the character of a fine gentleman; all his thoughts are bent upon this: instead of attending a dissection, frequenting the courts of justice, or studying the fathers, Cleantes reads plays, dances, dresses, and spends his time in drawing-rooms; instead of being a good lawyer, divine, or physician, Cleantes is a downright coxcomb, and will remain to all that know him a contemptible example of talents misapplied. It is to this affectation the world owes its whole race of coxcombs. Nature in her whole drama never drew such a part; she has sometimes made a fool, but a coxcomb is always of a man's own making, by applying his talents otherwise than Nature designed, who ever bears a high resentment for being put out of her course, and never fails of taking her revenge on those that do so. Opposing her tendency in the application of a man's parts, has the same success as declining from her course in the production of vegetables, by the assistance of art and an hot-bed. We may possibly extort an un-

willing plant, or an untimely salad; but how weak, how tasteless and insipid! Just as insipid is the poetry of Valerio. Valerio had an universal character, was genteel, had learning, thought just, spoke correctly; it was believed there was nothing in which Valerio did not excel; and it was so true, that there was but one: Valerio had no genius for poetry, yet he is resolved to be a poet; he writes verses, and takes great pains to convince a town that Valerio is not that extraordinary person he was taken for.

If men would be content to graft upon Nature, and assist her operations, what mighty effects might we expect! Tully would not stand so much alone in oratory, Virgil in poetry, or Caesar in war. To build upon Nature, is laying the foundation upon a rock; every thing disposes itself into order as it were of course, and the whole work is half done as soon as undertaken. Cicero's genius inclined him to oratory, Virgil's to follow the train of the Muses; they piously obeyed the admonition, and were rewarded. Had Virgil attended the bar, his modest and ingenuous virtues would surely have made but a very indifferent figure; and Tully's declamatory inclination would have been an end in poetry. Nature, if left to herself, leads us on in the best course, but will do nothing by compulsion and constraint; and if we are not satisfied to follow her way, we are always the greatest sufferers by it.

Wherever Nature designs a production, she always disposes seeds proper for it, which are as absolutely necessary to the formation of any moral or intellectual excellence, as they are to the breed and growth of plants; and I know not by what fate and folly it is, that men are taught not to reckon him equally absurd that will write verse in spite of Nature, with that gardener that should undertake to raise a jonquil or tulip without the help of their respective seeds.

As there is no good or bad quality that does not affect both sexes, so it is not to be imagined but the fair sex must have suffered by an affection of this nature, at least as much as the other. The effect of it is in none so conspicuous as in the two opposite characters of Celia and Iras: Celia has all the charms of person, together with an abundant sweetness of nature, but wants wit, and has a very ill voice; Iras is ugly and ungenteel, but has wit and good sense. If Celia would be silent, her beholders would adore her; if Iras would talk, her hearers would admire her; but Celia's tongue runs incessantly, while Iras gives herself silent airs and soft languors, so that it is difficult to persuade one's self that Celia has beauty, and Iras vice: each neglects her own excellence, and is ambitious of the other's character; Iras would be thought to have as much beauty as Celia, and Celia as much wit as Iras.

The great misfortune of this affection is, that men not only lose a good quality, but also contract a bad one. They not only are unfit for what they were designed, but they assign themselves to what they are not fit for; and, instead of making a very good figure one way, make a very ridiculous one another. If Semeante would have been clothed with her natural complexion, she might still have been celebrated by the name of the olive beauty; but Semeante has taken up an affection to whiteness and red, and is now distinguished by the character of the lady that paints so well. In a word, could the world be reformed to the obedience of the famed dictate, 'Follow Nature,' which the Oracle of Delphos pronounced to Cicero when he con-

sued what course of studies he should pursue, we should see almost every man as eminent in his proper sphere as Tully was in his, and should in a very short time find impertinence and affectation banished from among the women, and coxcombs and false characters from among the men. For my part, I could never consider this preposterous repugnancy to nature any otherwise, than not only as the greatest folly, but also one of the most heinous crimes, since it is a direct opposition to the disposition of Providence, and (as Tully expresses it) like the sin of the giants, an actual rebellion against heaven.

[Supposed to be POPE.]

Z.

Nº 405. SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1712.

Οι δε ψαλμωτοὶ μολπὴ θύσι ἱλασμένην,
Καλὸν αἰδέσθης Παιτήτα κυρὸν Ἀχαιοῖν,
Μολπῆσι; Ἐκαίργον δὲ θεῖα φέρειν ἀκούει.
HOM. Iliad l. ver. 472.

With hymns divine the joyous banquet ends;
The Pæans lengthen'd till the sun descends:
The Greeks restor'd the grateful notes prolong;
Apollo listens, and approves the song.

POPE.

I AM very sorry to find, by the opera bills for this day, that we are likely to lose the greatest performer in dramatic music that is now living, or that perhaps ever appeared upon a stage. I need not acquaint my reader, that I am speaking of Signior Nicolini. The town is highly obliged to that excellent artist, for having shown us the Italian music in its perfection, as well as for that generous approbation he lately gave to an opera * of our own country, in which the composer endeavoured to do justice to the beauty of the words, by following that noble example, which has been set him by the greatest foreign masters in that art.

I could heartily wish there was the same application and endeavours to cultivate and improve our church-music, as have been lately bestowed on that of the stage. Our composers have one very great incitement to it. They are sure to meet with excellent words, and at the same time a wonderful variety of them. There is no passion that is not finely expressed in those parts of the inspired writings which are proper for divine songs and anthems.

There is a certain coldness and indifference in the phrases of our European languages, when they are compared with the oriental forms of speech; and it happens very luckily, that the Hebrew idioms run into the English tongue with a particular grace and beauty. Our language has received innumerable elegancies and improvements, from that infusion of Hebraisms, which are derived to it out of the poetical passages in holy writ. They give force and energy to our expression, warm and vivify our language, and convey our thoughts in more ardent and intense phrases, than any that are to be met with in our own tongue. There is something so pathetic in this kind of diction, that it often sets the mind in a flame, and makes our hearts burn within us. How cold and dead does a prayer appear, that is composed in the most elegant and polite terms of speech, which are natural

to our tongue, when it is not heightened by that solemnity of phrase which may be drawn from the sacred writings! It has been said by some of the ancients, that if the gods were to talk with men, they would certainly speak in Plato's style; but I think we may say with justice, that when mortals converse with their Creator, they cannot do it in so proper a style as in that of the holy scriptures.

If any one would judge of the beauties of poetry that are to be met with in the divine writings, and examine how kindly the Hebrew manners of speech mix and incorporate with the English language; after having perused the book of Psalms, let him read a literal translation of Horace or Pindar. He will find in these two last such an absurdity and confusion of style, with such a comparative poverty of imagination, as will make him very sensible of what I have been here advancing.

Since we have therefore such a treasury of words, so beautiful in themselves, and so proper for the air of music, I cannot but wonder that persons of distinction should give so little attention and encouragement to that kind of music, which would have its foundation in reason, and which would improve our virtue in proportion as it raises our delight. The passions that are excited by ordinary compositions generally flow from such silly and absurd occasions, that a man is ashamed to reflect upon them seriously; but the fear, the love, the sorrow, the indignation that are awakened in the mind by hymns and anthems, make the heart better, and proceed from such causes as are altogether reasonable and praise-worthy. Pleasure and duty go hand in hand, and the greater our satisfaction is, the greater is our religion.

Music among those who were styled the chosen people was a religious art. The songs of Zion, which we have reason to believe were in high repute among the courts of the eastern monarchs, were nothing else but psalms and pieces of poetry that adored or celebrated the Supreme Being. The greatest conqueror in this holy nation, after the manner of the old Grecian lyrics, did not only compose the words of his divine odes, but generally set them to music himself: after which, his works, though they were consecrated to the tabernacle, became the national entertainment, as well as the devotion of his people.

The first original of the drama was a religious worship consisting only of a chorus, which was nothing else but a hymn to a deity. As luxury and voluptuousness prevailed over innocence and religion, this form of worship degenerated into tragedies; in which, however, the chorus so far remembered its first office, as to brand every thing that was vicious, and recommend every thing that was laudable, to intercede with heaven for the innocent, and to implore its vengeance on the criminal.

Homer and Hesiod intimate to us how this art should be applied, when they represent the muses as surrounding Jupiter, and warbling their hymns about his throne. I might show, from innumerable passages in ancient writers, not only that vocal and instrumental music were made use of in their religious worship, but that their most favourite diversions were filled with songs and hymns to their respective deities. Had we frequent entertainments of this nature among us, they would not a little purify and exalt our passions, give our thoughts a proper turn, and cherish those divine impulses in the soul, which every one feels that has not stifled them by sensual and immoderate pleasures.

Music, when thus applied, raises noble hints in

* Calypso and Telemachus, written by Mr. Hughes, and composed by Celliard.

the mind of the hearer, and fills it with great conceptions. It strengthens devotion, and advances praise into rapture, lengthens out every act of worship, and produces more lasting and permanent impressions in the mind, than those which accompany any transient form of words which are uttered in the ordinary method of religious worship.

ADDISON.

O*.

N° 406. MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1712.

*Hec studia adolescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant,
secundas res ornant, adversis solatium et periculum
præbent; delectant domi, non impediunt foris; per-
noctant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur.*

TULL.

These studies improve youth; delight old age; are the ornament of prosperity, and refuge of adversity; please at home; are no incumbrance abroad; lodge with us; travel with us, and retire into the country with us.

THE following letters bear a pleasing image of the joys and satisfactions of a private life. The first is from a gentleman to a friend, for whom he has a very great respect, and to whom he communicates the satisfaction he takes in retirement; the other is a letter to me, occasioned by an ode written by my Lapland lover†: this correspondent is so kind as to translate another of Scheffer's songs in a very agreeable manner. I publish them together, that the young and old may find something in the same paper which may be suitable to their respective tastes in solitude; for I know no fault in the description of ardent desires, provided they are honourable.

‘DEAR SIR,

You have obliged me with a very kind letter; by which I find you shift the scene of your life from the town to the country, and enjoy that mixed state which wise men both delight in, and are qualified for. Methinks most of the philosophers and moralists have run too much into extremes, in praising entirely either solitude or public life; in the former men generally grow useless by too much rest, and in the latter are destroyed by too much precipitation: as waters lying still, putrify and are good for nothing; and running violently on, do but the more mischief in their passage to others, and are swallowed up and lost the sooner themselves. Those who, like you, can make themselves useful to all states, should be like gentle streams, that not only glide through lonely vales and forests amidst the flocks and shepherds, but visit populous towns in their course, and are at once of ornament and service to them. But there is another sort of people who seem designed for solitude, those I mean who have more to hide than to show. As for my own part, I am one of those of whom Seneca says, “*Tam umbratiles sunt, ut putent in turbido esse guloquid in luce est.*” Some men, like pictures, are fitter for a corner than a full light; and I believe such as have a natural bent to solitude are like waters which may be forced into fountains, and exalted to a great height, may make a much nobler figure, and a much louder noise, but after all run more smoothly, equally and plentifully, in their own natural course upon the ground. The consi-

* The letter O is supposed to have been used by Addison, as the signature to such of these papers as were sent from his office; or perhaps this signature marked those which had been sketched at Oxford.

† See N° 366.

deration of this would make me very well contented with the possession only of that quiet which Cowley calls the companion of obscurity; but whoever has the muses too for his companions, can never be idle enough to be uneasy. Thus, sir, you see I would flatter myself into a good opinion of my own way of living: Plutarch just now told me, that it is in human life as in a game at tables, one may wish he had the highest cast, but if his chance be otherwise, he is even to play it as well as he can, and make the best of it.

‘I am, sir,

‘Your most obliged,

‘and most humble servant.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘THE town being so well pleased with the fine picture of artless love, which Nature inspired the Laplander to paint in the ode you lately printed; we were in hopes that the ingenious translator would have obliged it with the other also which Scheffer has given us; but since he has not, a much inferior hand has ventured to send you this.

‘It is a custom with the northern lovers to divert themselves with a song, whilst they journey through the fenny moors to pay a visit to their mistresses. This is addressed by the lover to his rein-deer, which is the creature that in that country supplies the want of horses. The circumstances which successively present themselves to him in his way, are, I believe you will think, naturally interwoven. The anxiety of absence, the gloominess of the roads, and his resolution of frequenting only those, since those only can carry him to the object of his desires; the dissatisfaction he expresses even at the greatest swiftness with which he is hurried, and his joyful surprise at an unexpected sight of his mistress as she is bathing, seem beautifully described in the original.

‘If all those pretty images of rural nature are lost in the imitation, yet possibly you may think it to let this supply the place of a long letter, when want of leisure or indisposition for writing will not permit our being entertained by your own hand. I propose such a time, because, though it is natural to have a fondness for what one does one's self, yet I assure you I would not have any thing of mine displace a single line of yours.

“Haste, my rein-deer, and let us nimbly go
Our am'rous journey through this dreary waste;
Haste, my rein-deer! still, still thou art too slow,
Impetuous love demands the lightning's haste.

“Around us far the rusby moors are spread:
Soon will the sun withdraw his cheerful ray;
Darkling and tir'd we shall the marshes tread,
No lay unsung to cheat the tedious way.

“The watry length of these unjoyous moors
Does all the flow'ry meadows pride excel;
Through these I fly to her my soul adores;
Ye flow'ry meadows, empty pride, farewell.

“Each moment from the charmer I'm consumed,
My breast is tortur'd with impatient fires;
Fly, my rein-deer, fly swifter than the wind,
Thy tardy feet wing with my secret desires.

“Our pleasing toil will then be soon o'erpaid,
And thou, in wonder lost, shalt view my fair,
Admire each feature of the lovely maid,
Her artless charms, her bloom, her sprightly air.

“But lo! with graceful motion there she swims,
Gently removing each ambitious wave;
The crowding waves transported clasp her limbs:
When, when, oh when shall I such freedom have!”

* See N° 366.

"In vain, ye envious streams, so fast ye flow,
To hide her from a lover's ardent gaze:
From every touch you more transparent grow,
And all reveal'd the beauteous wanton plays."

STEELE.

T.

N° 407. TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1712.

— *abest facundis gratia dictis.*

OVID. Met. xiii. ver. 127.

Eloquent words a graceful manner want.

Most foreign writers, who have given any character of the English nation, whatever vices they ascribe to it, allow, in general, that the people are naturally modest. It proceeds perhaps from this our national virtue, that our orators are observed to make use of less gesture or action than those of other countries. Our preachers stand stock still in the pulpit, and will not so much as move a finger to set off the best sermons in the world. We meet with the same speaking statues at our bars, and in all public places of debate. Our words flow from us in a smooth continued stream, without those strainings of the voice, motions of the body, and majesty of the hand, which are so much celebrated in the orators of Greece and Rome. We can talk of life and death in cold blood, and keep our temper in a discourse which turns upon every thing that is dear to us. Though our zeal breaks out in the finest tropes and figures, it is not able to stir a limb about us. I have heard it observed more than once, by those who have seen Italy, that an untravelled Englishman cannot relish all the beauties of Italian pictures, because the postures which are expressed in them are often such as are peculiar to that country. One who has not seen an Italian in the pulpit, will not know what to make of that noble gesture in Raphael's picture of St. Paul preaching at Athens, where the apostle is represented as lifting up both his arms, and pouring out the thunder of his rhetoric amidst an audience of pagan philosophers.

It is certain, that proper gestures and vehement exertions of the voice cannot be too much studied by a public orator. They are a kind of comment to what he utters, and enforce every thing he says, with weak hearers, better than the strongest argument he can make use of. They keep the audience awake, and fix their attention to what is delivered to them, at the same time that they show the speaker is in earnest, and affected himself with what he so passionately recommends to others. Violent gesture and vociferation naturally shake the hearts of the ignorant, and fill them with a kind of religious horror. Nothing is more frequent than to see women weep and tremble at the sight of a moving preacher, though he is placed quite out of their hearing; as in England we very frequently see people lulled asleep with solid and elaborate discourses of piety, who would be warmed and transported out of themselves by the bellowing and distortions of enthusiasm.

If nonsense, when accompanied with such an emotion of voice and body, has such an influence on men's minds, what might we not expect from many of those admirable discourses which are printed in our tongue, were they delivered with a becoming fervour, and with the most agreeable graces of voice and gesture?

We are told that the great Latin orator very much impaired his health by this *laterum contentio*, this vehemence of action, with which he used to

deliver himself. The Greek orator was likewise so very famous for this particular in rhetoric, that one of his antagonists, whom he had banished from Athens, reading over the oration which had procured his banishment, and seeing his friends admire it, could not forbear asking them, if they were so much affected by the bare reading of it, how much more they would have been alarmed, had they heard him actually throwing out such a storm of eloquence?

How cold and dead a figure, in comparison of these two great men, does an orator often make at the British bar, holding up his head, with the most insipid serenity, and stroking the sides of a long wig that reaches down to his middle! The truth of it is, there is often nothing more ridiculous than the gestures of an English speaker; you see some of them running their hands into their pockets as far as ever they can thrust them, and others looking with great attention on a piece of paper that has nothing written in it; you may see many a smart rhetorician turning his hat in his hands, moulding it into several different cocks, examining sometimes the lining of it, and sometimes the button, during the whole course of his harangue. A deaf man would think he was cheapening a beaver, when perhaps he is talking of the fate of the British nation. I remember, when I was a young man, and used to frequent Westminster-hall, there was a counsellor who never pleaded without a piece of packthread in his hand, which he used to twist about a thumb or a finger all the while he was speaking: the wags of those days used to call it 'the thread of his discourse,' for he was unable to utter a word without it. One of his clients, who was more merry than wise, stole it from him one day in the midst of his pleading; but he had better have let it alone, for he lost his cause by his jest.

I have all along acknowledged myself to be a dumb man, and therefore may be thought a very improper person to give rules for oratory; but I believe every one will agree with me in this, that we ought either to lay aside all kinds of gesture (which seems to be very suitable to the genius of our nation), or at least to make use of such only as are graceful and expressive.

ADDISON.

O.

N° 408. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1712.

Decet affectus animi neque se nimium erigere, nec subjacere strulliter.

TULL. de Finibus.

We should keep our passions from being exalted above measure, or servilely depressed.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE always been a very great lover of your speculations, as well in regard to the subject, as to your manner of treating it. Human nature I always thought the most useful object of human reason, and to make the consideration of it pleasant and entertaining, I always thought the best employment of human wit: other parts of philosophy may perhaps make us wiser, but this not only answers that end, but speaks us better too. Hence it was that the oracle pronounced Socrates the wisest of all men living, because he judiciously made choice of human nature for the object of his thoughts; an inquiry into which as much exceeds all other learning, as it is of more consequence to adjust the true nature and measures of right and

wrong, than to settle the distance of the planets and compute the times of their circulations.

One good effect that will immediately arise from a near observation of human nature, is, that we shall cease to wonder at those actions which men are used to reckon wholly unaccountable; for, as nothing is produced without a cause, so, by observing the nature and course of the passions, we shall be able to trace every action from its first conception to its death. We shall no more admire at the proceedings of Catiline or Tiberius, when we know the one was actuated by a cruel jealousy, the other by a furious ambition; for the actions of men follow their passions as naturally as light does heat, or as any other effect flows from its cause; reason must be employed in adjusting the passions, but they must ever remain the principles of action.

The strange and absurd variety that is so apparent in men's actions, shows plainly they can never proceed immediately from reason; so pure a fountain emits no such troubled waters. They must necessarily arise from the passions, which are to the mind as the winds to a ship; they only can move it, and they too often destroy it: if fair and gentle, they guide it into the harbour; if contrary and furious, they overset it in the waves. In the same manner is the mind assisted or endangered by the passions; reason must then take the place of pilot, and can never fail of securing her charge if she be not wanting to herself. The strength of the passions will never be accepted as an excuse for complying with them; they were designed for subjection; and if a man suffers them to get the upper hand, he then betrays the liberty of his own soul.

As nature has framed the several species of beings as it were in a chain, so man seems to be placed as the middle link between angels and brutes. Hence he participates both of flesh and spirit by an admirable tie, which in him occasions perpetual war of passions; and as a man inclines to the angelic or brute part of his constitution, he is then denominated good or bad, virtuous or wicked; if love, mercy, and good-nature prevail, they speak him of the angel; if hatred, cruelty, and envy predominate, they declare his kindred to the brute. Hence it was that some of the ancients imagined, that as men in this life inclined more to the angel or the brute, so after their death they should transmute into the one or the other; and it would be no unpleasant notion to consider the several species of brutes, into which we may imagine that tyrants, misers, the proud, malicious, and ill-natured, might be changed.

As a consequence of this original, all passions are in all men, but appear not in all: constitution, education, custom of the country, reason, and the like causes, may improve or abate the strength of them; but still the seeds remain, which are ever ready to sprout forth upon the least encouragement. I have heard a story of a good religious man, who, having been bred with the milk of a goat, was very modest in public by a careful reflection he made on his actions; but he frequently had an hour in secret, wherein he had his frisks and capers; and if we had an opportunity of examining the retirement of the strictest philosophers, no doubt but we should find perpetual returns of those passions they so artfully conceal from the public. I remember Machiavel observes, that every state should entertain a perpetual jealousy of its neighbours, that so it should never be unprovided when an emergency happens; in like manner, should

the reason be perpetually on its guard against the passions, and never suffer them to carry on any design that may be destructive of its security; yet at the same time it must be careful, that it does not so far break their strength as to render them contemptible, and consequently itself unguarded.

The understanding being of itself too slow and lazy to exert itself into action, it is necessary it should be put in motion by the gentle gales of the passions, which may preserve it from stagnating and corruption; for they are necessary to the health of the mind, as the circulation of the animal spirits is to the health of the body: they keep it in life, and strength, and vigour; nor is it possible for the mind to perform its offices without their assistance. These motions are given us with our being; they are little spirits that are born and die with us; to some they are mild, easy, and gentle; to others, wayward and unruly, yet never too strong for the reins of reason, and the guidance of judgment.

We may generally observe a pretty nice proportion between the strength of reason and passion; the greatest geniuses have commonly the strongest affections, as, on the other hand, the weaker understandings have generally the weaker passions; and it is fit the fury of the couriers should not be too great for the strength of the charioteer. Young men, whose passions are not a little unruly, give small hopes of their ever being considerable; the fire of youth will of course abate, and is a fault, if it be a fault, that mends every day; but surely, unless a man has fire in youth, he can hardly have warmth in old age. We must therefore be very cautious lest, while we think to regulate the passions, we should quite extinguish them, which is putting out the light of the soul; for to be without passion, or to be hurried away with it, makes a man equally blind. The extraordinary severity used in most of our schools has this fatal effect, it breaks the spring of the mind, and most certainly destroys more good geniuses than it can possibly improve. And surely it is a mighty mistake that the passions should be so entirely subdued: few little irregularities are sometimes not only to be borne with, but to be cultivated too, since they are frequently attended with the greatest perfections. All great geniuses have faults mixed with their virtues, and resemble the flaming bush which has thorns amongst lights.

Since therefore the passions are the principles of human actions, we must endeavour to manage them so as to retain their vigour, yet keep them under strict command; we must govern them rather like free subjects than slaves, lest, while we intend to make them obedient, they become abject, and unfit for those great purposes to which they were designed. For my part, I must confess I could never have any regard to that sect of philosophers, who so much insisted upon an absolute indifference and vacancy from all passion; for it seems to me a thing very inconsistent, for a man to divest himself of humanity, in order to acquire tranquillity of mind; and to eradicate the very principles of action, because it is possible they may produce ill effects.

I am, &c.

Your affectionate admirer,

T. A.

[Supposed to be by Pope.]

2

N° 409. THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1712.

Musæo contingere cuncta lepore.
LUCR. lib. 1. ver. 933.

To grace each subject with enlivening wit.

GRATIAN * very often recommends 'the fine taste' as the utmost perfection of an accomplished man.

As this word arises very often in conversation, I shall endeavour to give some account of it, and to lay down rules how we may know whether we are possessed of it, and how we may acquire that fine taste of writing, which is so much talked of among the polite world.

Most languages make use of this metaphor, to express that faculty of the mind which distinguishes all the most concealed faults and nicest perfections in writing. We may be sure this metaphor would not have been so general in all tongues, had there not been a very great conformity between that mental taste, which is the subject of this paper, and that sensitive taste, which gives us a relish of every different flavour that affects the palate. Accordingly we find, there are as many degrees of refinement in the intellectual faculty, as in the sense, which is marked out by this common denomination.

I knew a person who possessed the one in so great a perfection, that after having tasted ten different kinds of tea, he would distinguish, without seeing the colour of it, the particular sort which was offered him; and not only so, but any two sorts of them that were mixed together in an equal proportion; may, he has carried the experiment so far, as, upon tasting the composition of three different sorts, to name the parcels from whence the several ingredients were taken. A man of a fine taste in writing will discern, after the same manner, not only the general beauties and imperfections of an author, but discover the several ways of thinking and expressing himself, which diversify him from all other authors, with the several foreign infusions of thought and language, and the particular authors from whom they were borrowed.

'After having thus far explained what is generally meant by a fine taste in writing, and shown the propriety of the metaphor which is used on this occasion, I think I may define it to be 'that faculty of the soul, which discerns the beauties of an author with pleasure, and the imperfections with dislike.' If a man would know whether he is possessed of this faculty, I would have him read over the celebrated works of antiquity, which have stood the test of so many different ages and countries, or those works among the moderns which have the sanction of the politer part of our contemporaries. If, upon the perusal of such writings, he does not find himself delighted in an extraordinary manner, or if, upon reading the admired passages in such authors, he finds a coldness and indifference in his thoughts, he ought to conclude; not (as is too usual among tasteless readers) that the author wants those perfections which have been admired in him, but that he himself wants the faculty of discovering them.

He should, in the second place, be very careful to observe, whether he tastes the distinguishing perfections, or, if I may be allowed to call them so,

the specific qualities of the author whom he peruses; whether he is particularly pleased with Livy for his manner of telling a story, with Sallust for his entering into those internal principles of action which arise from the characters and manners of the persons he describes, or with Tacitus for his displaying those outward motives of safety and interest, which give birth to the whole series of transactions which he relates.

He may likewise consider, how differently he is affected by the same thought, which presents itself in a great writer, from what he is when he finds it delivered by a person of an ordinary genius; for there is as much difference in apprehending a thought clothed in Cicero's language, and that of a common author, as in seeing an object by the light of a taper, or by the light of the sun.

It is very difficult to lay down rules for the acquirement of such a taste as that I am here speaking of. The faculty must in some degree be born with us, and it very often happens, that those who have other qualities in perfection are wholly void of this. One of the most eminent mathematicians of the age has assured me, that the greatest pleasure he took in reading Virgil, was in examining Æneas his voyage by the map; as I question not but many a modern compiler of history would be delighted with little more in that divine author than the bare matters of fact.

But, notwithstanding this faculty must in some measure be born with us, there are several methods for cultivating and improving it, and without which it will be very uncertain, and of little use to the person that possesses it. The most natural method for this purpose is, to be conversant among the writings of the most polite authors. A man who has any relish for fine writing, either discovers new beauties, or receives stronger impressions, from the masterly strokes of a great author every time he peruses him; besides that he naturally wears himself into the same manner of speaking and thinking.

Conversation with men of a polite genius is another method for improving our natural taste. It is impossible for a man of the greatest parts to consider any thing in its whole extent, and in all its variety of lights. Every man, besides those general observations which are to be made upon an author, forms several reflections that are peculiar to his own manner of thinking; so that conversation will naturally furnish us with hints which we did not attend to, and make us enjoy other men's parts and reflections as well as our own. This is the best reason I can give for the observation which several have made, that men of great genius in the same way of writing seldom rise up singly, but at certain periods of time appear together, and in a body; as they did at Rome in the reign of Augustus, and in Greece about the age of Socrates. I cannot think that Corneille, Racine, Moliere, Boileau, La Fontaine, Bruyere, Bossu, or the Daciers, would have written so well as they have done, had they not been friends and contemporaries.

It is likewise necessary for a man who would form to himself a finished taste of good writing, to be well versed in the works of the best critics both ancient and modern. I must confess that I could wish there were authors of this kind, who beside the mechanical rules, which a man of very little taste may discourse upon, would enter into the very spirit and soul of fine writing, and show us the several sources of that pleasure which rises in the mind upon the perusal of a noble work. Thus although in poetry it be absolutely necessary that the

* See Nov. 293 and 379.

unities of time, place, and action, with other points of the same nature, should be thoroughly explained and understood; there is still something more essential to the art, something that elevates and astonishes the fancy, and gives a greatness of mind to the reader, which few of the critics besides Longinus have considered.

Our general taste in England is for epigram, turns of wit, and forced conceits, which have no manner of influence, either for the bettering or enlarging the mind of him who reads them, and have been carefully avoided by the greatest writers, both among the ancients and moderns. I have endeavoured, in several of my speculations, to banish this Gothic taste, which has taken possession among us. I entertained the town for a week together with an essay upon wit*, in which I endeavoured to detect several of those false kinds which have been admired in the different ages of the world, and at the same time to show wherein the nature of true wit consists. I afterwards gave an instance of the great force which lies in a natural simplicity of thought to affect the mind of the reader, from such vulgar pieces as have little else besides this single qualification to recommend them. I have likewise examined the works of the greatest poet which our nation, or perhaps any other, has produced, and particularised most of those rational and manly beauties, which give a value to that divine work†. I shall next Saturday enter upon an essay on 'The Pleasures of the Imagination,' which, though it shall consider that subject at large, will perhaps suggest to the reader what it is that gives a beauty to many passages of the finest writers both in prose and verse. As an undertaking of this nature is entirely new, I question not but it will be received with candour.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 410. FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1712.

*—Dum foris sunt, nihil videtur mundius,
Nec magis compositum quidquam, nec magis elegans;
Quæ, cum amatore suo cum cenant, liguriunt.
Hærum videre ingluviem, sordes, inopiam,
Quam inhoneste sole sint domi, atque avidæ cibî,
Quo pacto ex jure hæterno panem aërum vorant:
Nunc omnia hæc, salus est adolescentiis.*

TER. Eun. act. v. sc. 4.

When they are abroad, nothing is so clean, and nicely dressed; and when at supper with a gallant, they do but piddle, and pick the choicest bits; but, to see their nastiness and poverty at home, their gluttony, and how they devour black crusts dipped in yesterday's broth, is a perfect antidote against venching.

WILL HONEYCOMB, who disguises his present decay by visiting the wenches of the town only by way of humour, told us, that the last rainy night he, with Sir Roger de Coverley, was driven into the Temple cloister, whither had escaped also a lady most exactly dressed from head to foot. Will made no scruple to acquaint us, that she saluted him very familiarly by his name, and, turning immediately to the knight, she said, she supposed that was his good friend Sir Roger de Coverley: upon which nothing less could follow than Sir Roger's approach to salutation, with 'Madam, the same, at your service.' She was dressed in a black tabby mantle and petticoat, without ribbons; her linen

striped muslin, and in the whole an agreeable and decent mourning; decent dresses being often affected by the creatures of the town, at once combining cheapness and the pretensions to modesty. She went on with a familiar easy air, 'Your friend, Mr. Honeycomb, is a little surprised to see a woman here alone and unattended; but I dismissed my coach at the gate, and tripped it down to my counsel's chambers; for lawyers' fees take up too much of a small disputed jointure to admit any other expenses but mere necessities.' Mr. Honeycomb begged they might have the honour of setting her down, for Sir Roger's servant was gone to call a coach. In the interim the footman returned, and 'no coach to be had;' and there appeared nothing to be done but trusting herself with Mr. Honeycomb and his friend, to wait at the tavern at the gate for a coach, or to be subjected to all the impertinence she must meet with in that public place. Mr. Honeycomb being a man of honour determined the choice of the first, and Sir Roger, as the gentleman, took the lady by the hand, leading her through all the shower, covering her with his hat, and gallanting a familiar acquaintance three rows of young fellows, who winked at Sauey as the state she marched off, Will Honeycomb bringing up the rear.

Much importunity prevailed upon the fair one to admit of a collation, where, after declaring she had no stomach, and having eaten a couple of chickens, devoured a truss of salad, and drank a full bottle to her share, she sung the Old Man. Wish to Sir Roger. The knight left the room for some time after supper, and writ the following billet, which he conveyed to Sauey, and Sauey to his friend Will Honeycomb. Will has given it to Sir Andrew Freeport, who read it last night to the club.

MADAM,

'I AM not so mere a country gentleman, but I can guess at the law-business you had at the Temple. If you would go down to the country, and leave off all your vanities but your singing, let me know at my lodgings in Bow-street, Covent-garden, and you shall be encouraged by

Your humble servant,
ROGER DE COVERLEY.

My good friend could not well stand the railway which was rising upon him; but, to put a stop to it, I delivered Will Honeycomb the following letter, and desired him to read it to the board:

MR. SPECTATOR,

'HAVING seen a translation of one of the chapters in the Canticles into English verse inserted among your late papers; I have ventured to send you the viith chapter of the Proverbs in a poetical dress. If you think it worthy of appearing among your speculations, it will be a sufficient reward for the trouble of

Your constant reader,
A. A.

"My son, th' instruction that my words impart,
Grave on the living tablet of thy heart;
And all the wholesome precepts that I give,
Observe with strictest reverence, and live.

* See "Songs and other Poems, by Alexander Brome," 1664. Song xxvii.—It may be imagined, by what appears that the song was not of the most chaste description.

† No 388.

* See Nº 58—63.

† See the critique upon Milton, Nº 267, and the subsequent Saturday papers.

"Let all thy homage be to Wisdom paid,
Seek her protection, and implore her aid;
That she may keep thy soul from harm secure,
And turn thy footsteps from the harlot's door,
Who with cur'd charms lures the unwary in,
And soothes with flattery their souls to sin.

"Once from my window as I east mine eye
On those that pass'd in giddy numbers by,
A youth among the foolish youths I spy'd,
Who took not sacred Wisdom for his guide.

"Just as the sun withdrew his cooler light,
And evening soft led on the shades of night,
He stole in covert twilight to his fate,
And pass'd the corner near the harlot's gate!
When lo, a woman comes!—

Loose her attire, and such her glaring dress,
As aptly did the harlot's mind express:
Subtle she is, and practis'd in the arts
By which the wanton conquer heedless hearts:
Stubborn and loud she is; she hates her home,
Varying her place and form, she loves to roam:
Now she's within, now in the street does stray,
Now at each corner stands, and waits her prey.
The youth she seiz'd; and, laying now aside
All modesty, the female's justest pride,
She said with an embrace, 'Here at my house
Peace-offerings are, this day I paid my vows.
I therefore came abroad to meet my dear,
And lo, in happy hour, I find thee here.
My chamber I've adorn'd, and o'er my bed
Are coverings of the richest tapestry spread,
With linen it is deck'd from Egypt brought,
And curvings by the curious artist wrought:
It wants no glad perfume Arabia yields
In all her citron groves, and spicy fields;
Here all her store of richest odours meets,
I'll lay thee in a wilderness of sweets,
Whatever to the sense can grateful be,
I have collected there—I want but thee.
My husband's gone a journey far away,
Much gold he took abroad, and long will stay,
He nam'd for his return a distant day.

"Upon her tongue did such smooth mischief dwell,
And from her lips such welcome flattery fell,
Th' unguarded youth, in silken letters ty'd,
Resign'd his reason, and with ease comply'd.
Thus does the ox to his own slaughter go,
And thus is senseless of th' impending blow.
Thus flies the simple bird into the snare,
That skilful fowlers for his life prepare.
But let my sons attend. Attend may they
Whom youthful vigour may to sin betray;
Let them false charmers fly, and guard their hearts
Against the wily wanton's pleasing arts;
With care direct their steps, nor turn astray
To tread the paths of her deceitful way;
Lest they too late of her fell power complain,
And fall, where many mightier have been slain."

STEEL.

T.

No 411. SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1712.

PAPER I.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

The perfection of our sight above our other senses. The pleasures of the imagination arise originally from sight. The pleasures of the imagination divided under two heads. The pleasures of the imagination in some respects equal to those of the understanding. The extent of the pleasures of the imagination. The advantages a man receives from a relish of these pleasures. In what respect they are preferable to those of the understanding.

*Asia Pieridum peragro loca, nullius ante
Trita solo: juncti integros accedere fontes,
Atque haurire—*

LUCR. lib. 1. ver. 925.

— Inspired I trace the Muses' seats,
Untrodden yet: 'tis sweet to visit first
Untouch'd and virgin streams, and quench my thirst.
CREECH.

Our sight is the most perfect and most delightful of all our senses. It fills the mind with the largest variety of ideas, converses with its objects at the

greatest distance, and continues the longest in action without being tired or satiated with its proper enjoyments. The sense of feeling can indeed give us a notion of extension, shape, and all other ideas that enter at the eye, except colours; but at the same time it is very much straitened and confined in its operations, to the number, bulk, and distance of its particular objects. Our sight seems designed to supply all these defects, and may be considered as a more delicate and diffusive kind of touch, that spreads itself over an infinite multitude of bodies, comprehends the largest figures, and brings into our reach some of the most remote parts of the universe.

It is this sense which furnishes the imagination with its ideas; so that by 'the pleasures of the imagination,' or 'fancy,' (which I shall use promiscuously) I here mean such as arise from visible objects, either when we have them actually in our view, or when we call up their ideas into our minds by paintings, statues, descriptions, or any the like occasion. We cannot indeed have a single image in the fancy that did not make its first entrance through the sight; but we have the power of retaining, altering, and compounding those images, which we have once received, into all the varieties of picture and vision that are most agreeable to the imagination: for by this faculty a man in a dungeon is capable of entertaining himself with scenes and landscapes more beautiful than any that can be found in the whole compass of nature.

There are few words in the English language which are employed in a more loose and uncircumscribed sense than those of the fancy and the imagination. I therefore thought it necessary to fix and determine the notion of these two words, as I intend to make use of them in the thread of my following speculations, that the reader may conceive rightly what is the subject which I proceed upon. I must therefore desire him to remember, that by 'the pleasures of the imagination,' I mean only such pleasures as arise originally from sight, and that I divide these pleasures into two kinds: my design being first of all to discourse of those primary pleasures of the imagination, which entirely proceed from such objects as are before our eyes; and in the next place to speak of those secondary pleasures of the imagination which flow from the ideas of visible objects, when the objects are not actually before the eye, but are called up into our memories, or formed into agreeable visions of things that are either absent or fictitious.

The pleasures of the imagination, taken in the full extent, are not so gross as those of sense, nor so refined as those of the understanding. The last are indeed more preferable, because they are founded on some new knowledge or improvement in the mind of man; yet it must be confessed, that those of the imagination are as great and as transporting as the other. A beautiful prospect delights the soul, as much as a demonstration; and a description in Homer has charmed more readers than a chapter in Aristotle. Besides, the pleasures of the imagination have this advantage above those of the understanding, that they are more obvious, and more easy to be acquired. It is but opening the eye, and the scene enters. The colours paint themselves on the fancy, with very little attention of thought or application of mind in the beholder. We are struck, we know not how, with the symmetry of any thing we see, and immediately assent to the beauty of an object, without inquiring into the particular causes and occasions of it.

A man of a polite imagination is let into a great many pleasures that the vulgar are not capable of receiving. He can converse with a picture, and find an agreeable companion in a statue. He meets with a secret refreshment in a description, and often feels a greater satisfaction in the prospect of fields and meadows, than another does in the possession. It gives him, indeed, a kind of property in every thing he sees, and makes the most rude uncultivated parts of nature administer to his pleasures: so that he looks upon the world as it were in another light, and discovers in it a multitude of charms, that conceal themselves from the generality of mankind.

There are indeed but very few who know how to be idle and innocent, or have a relish of any pleasures that are not criminal; every diversion they take is at the expense of some one virtue or another, and their very first step out of business is into vice or folly. A man should endeavour, therefore, to make the sphere of his innocent pleasures as wide as possible, that he may retire into them with safety, and find in them such a satisfaction as a wise man would not blush to take. Of this nature are those of the imagination, which do not require such a bent of thought as is necessary to our more serious employments, nor, at the same time, suffer the mind to sink into that negligence and remissness, which are apt to accompany our more sensual delights; but like a gentle exercise to the faculties, awaken them from sloth and idleness, without putting them upon any labour or difficulty.

We might here add, that the pleasures of the fancy are more conducive to health, than those of the understanding, which are worked out by dint of thinking, and attended with too violent a labour of the brain. Delightful scenes, whether in nature, painting, or poetry, have a kindly influence on the body, as well as the mind; and not only serve to clear and brighten the imagination, but are able to disperse grief and melancholy, and to set the animal spirits in pleasing and agreeable motions. For this reason, Sir Francis Bacon, in his Essay upon Health, has not thought it improper to prescribe to his reader a poem or a prospect, where he particularly dissuades him from knotty and subtle disquisitions, and advises him to pursue studies that fill the mind with splendid and illustrious objects, as histories, fables, and contemplations of nature.

I have in this paper, by way of introduction, settled the notion of those pleasures of the imagination which are the subject of my present undertaking, and endeavoured, by several considerations, to recommend to my reader the pursuit of those pleasures. I shall in my next paper examine the several sources from whence these pleasures are derived.

ADDITION.

O

Nº 412. MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1712.

PAPER II.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

Three sources of all the pleasures of the imagination. 1. A survey of outward objects. How what is great pleases the imagination. How what is new pleases the imagination. How what is beautiful in our own species pleases the imagination. How what is beautiful in general pleases the imagination. What other accidental causes may contribute to the heightening of those pleasures.

— *Dicitur sic brevis flet opus.*

MART. Ep. lxxviii. lib. 4.

The work, divided aptly, shorter grown.

I SHALL first consider those pleasures of the imagination which arise from the actual view and survey of outward objects: and these, I think, all proceed from the sight of what is great, uncommon, or beautiful. There may, indeed, be something so terrible or offensive, that the horror or loathsomeness of an object may overbear the pleasure which results from its greatness, novelty, or beauty: but still there will be such a mixture of delight in the very disgust it gives us, as any of these three qualifications are most conspicuous and prevailing.

By greatness, I do not only mean the bulk of any single object, but the largeness of a whole view, considered as one entire piece. Such are the prospects of an open champaign country, a vast uncultivated desert of huge heaps of mountains, high rocks, and precipices, or a wide expanse of water, where we are not struck with the novelty or beauty of the sight, but with that rude kind of magnificence which appears in many of these stupendous works of nature. Our imagination loves to be filled with an object, or to grasp at any thing that is too big for its capacity. We are struck into a pleasing astonishment at such unbounded views, and feel a delightful stillness and amazement in the soul at the apprehensions of them. The mind of man naturally hates every thing that looks like a restraint upon it, and is apt to fancy itself under a sort of confinement, when the sight is pent up in a narrow compass, and shortened on every side by the neighbourhood of walls or mountains. On the contrary, a spacious horizon is an image of liberty, where the eye has room to range abroad, to expatiate at large on the immensity of its views, and to lose itself amidst the variety of objects that offer themselves to its observation. Such wide and undetermined prospects are as pleasing to the fancy, as the speculations of eternity or infinitude are to the understanding. But if there be a beauty or uncommonness joined with this grandeur, as in a troubled ocean, a heaven adorned with stars and meteors, or a spacious landscape cut out into rivers, woods, rocks, and meadows, the pleasure still grows upon us, as it arises from more than a single principle.

Every thing that is new or uncommon raises a pleasure in the imagination, because it fills the soul with an agreeable surprise, gratifies its curiosity, and gives it an idea of which it was not before possessed. We are indeed so often conversant with one set of objects, and tired out with so many repeated shows of the same things, that whatever is new or uncommon contributes a little to vary human life, and to divert our minds, for a while, with the strangeness of its appearance. It serves

us for a kind of refreshment, and takes off from that satiety we are apt to complain of, in our usual and ordinary entertainments. It is this that bestows charms on a monster, and makes even the imperfections of nature please us. It is this that recommends variety, where the mind is every instant called off to something new, and the attention not suffered to dwell too long, and waste itself on any particular object. It is this, likewise, that improves what is great or beautiful, and makes it afford the mind a double entertainment. Groves, fields, and meadows, are at any season of the year pleasant to look upon, but never so much as in the opening of the spring, when they are all new and fresh, with their first gloss upon them, and not yet too much accustomed and familiar to the eye. For this reason there is nothing that more enlivens a prospect than rivers, jetteaus, or falls of water, where the scene is perpetually shifting and entertaining the sight every moment with something that is new. We are quickly tired with looking upon hills and valleys, where every thing continues fixed and settled in the same place and posture, but find our thoughts a little agitated and relieved at the sight of such objects as are ever in motion, and sliding away from beneath the eye of the beholder.

But there is nothing that makes its way more directly to the soul than beauty, which immediately diffuses a secret satisfaction and complacency through the imagination, and gives a finishing to any thing that is great or uncommon. The very first discovery of it strikes the mind with an inward joy, and spreads a cheerfulness and delight through all its faculties. There is not perhaps any real beauty or deformity more in one piece of matter than another, because we might have been so made, that whatever now appears loathsome to us, might have shown itself agreeable; but we find by experience that there are several modifications of matter which the mind, without any previous consideration, pronounces at first sight beautiful or deformed. Thus we see that every different species of sensible creatures has its different notions of beauty, and that each of them is most affected with the beauties of its own kind. This is no where more remarkable than in birds of the same shape and proportion, where we often see the mate determined in his courtship, by the single grain or tincture of a feather, and never discovering any charms but in the colour of its species.

*' Scilicet thalamo seroare fides, sanctasque ceretur
Communis leges; non illum in pectore candor
solicitant nives; neque pravorum accendit amorem
Splendida luvago, vel honesta in vertice crista,
Purpureasve nilor pennarum; aut agmina late
Feminea explorat cautus, maculasque requirit
Ungulas, paribusque interstitia corpora guttis:
Nec faceret, pictis stygiam circum undique monstria
Confusum aspiceret vulgo, partisque bifurcas,
Et genus ambiguus, et veneris monumenta nefanda.
' Hinc merula in nigro se oblectat nigra marito,
Hinc socium lactosam petit philomela canorum,
Agnoscitque parca sonitus, hinc noctua tetram
Canitibus alarum, et glaucos miratur ocellos.
Nempe sibi semper constat, crescitque quotannis
Lucida progenies, castos confusa parentes;
Dum virides inter silvas lucosque sonoros
Vere novo exultat, plumasque decora juventus
Explicat ad soltem patrisque coloribus ardet.'*

*' The feather'd husband, to his partner true,
Preserves consubial rites inviolate.
With cold indifference every charm he sees,
The milky whiteness of the stately neck,
The shining down, proud crest, and purple wings:
But cautious with a searching eye explores
The female tribes, his proper mate to find,
With kindred colours mark'd: did he not so,*

*The grove with painted monsters would abound,
Th' ambiguous product of unnatural love.
The blackbird hence selects her sooty spouse;
The nightingale, her musical compeer,
Lur'd by the well-known voice: the bird of night,
Sunk with her dusky wings and greenish eyes,
Wooes his dun paramour. 'The beauteous race
Speak the chaste loves of their progenitors;
When, by the spring invited, they exult
In woods and fields, and to the sun unfold
Their plumes, that with paternal colours glow.'*

There is a second kind of beauty that we find in the several products of art and nature, which does not work in the imagination with that warmth and violence as the beauty that appears in our proper species, but is apt however to raise in us a secret delight, and a kind of fondness for the places or objects in which we discover it. This consists either in the gaiety or variety of colours, in the symmetry and proportion of parts, in the arrangement and disposition of bodies, or in a just mixture and concurrence of all together. Among these several kinds of beauty the eye takes most delight in colours. We no where meet with a more glorious or pleasing show in nature, than what appears in the heavens at the rising and setting of the sun, which is wholly made up of those different stains of light that show themselves in clouds of a different situation. For this reason we find the poets, who are always addressing themselves to the imagination, borrowing more of their epithets from colours than from any other topic.

As the fancy delights in every thing that is great, strange, or beautiful, and is still more pleased the more it finds of these perfections in the same object, so it is capable of receiving a new satisfaction by the assistance of another sense. Thus any continued sound, as the music of birds, or a fall of water, awakens every moment the mind of the beholder, and makes him more attentive to the several beauties of the place that lie before him. Thus if there arises a fragrant of smells or perfumes, they heighten the pleasures of the imagination, and make even the colours and verdure of the landscape appear more agreeable; for the ideas of both senses recommend each other, and are pleasanter together, than when they enter the mind separately: as the different colours of a picture, when they are well disposed, set off one another, and receive an additional beauty from the advantage of their situation.

ADDISON.

O.

N^o 413. TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1712.

PAPER III.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

Why the necessary cause of our being pleased with what is great, new, or beautiful, unknown. Why the final cause more known and more useful. The final cause of our being pleased with what is great. The final cause of our being pleased with what is new. The final cause of our being pleased with what is beautiful in our own species. The final cause of our being pleased with what is beautiful in general.

Causa latet, vis est notissima—

OVID. Met. l. iv. ver. 207.

The cause is secret, but th' effect is known.

ADDISON.

THOUGH in yesterday's paper we considered how every thing that is great, new, or beautiful, is apt to affect the imagination with pleasure, we must

own that it is impossible for us to assign the necessary cause of this pleasure, because we know neither the nature of an idea, nor the substance of a human soul, which might help us to discover the conformity or disagreeableness of the one to the other; and therefore, for want of such a light, all that we can do in speculations of this kind, is to reflect on those operations of the soul that are most agreeable, and to range, under their proper heads, what is pleasing or displeasing to the mind, without being able to trace out the several necessary and efficient causes from whence the pleasure or displeasure arises.

Final causes lie more bare and open to our observation, as there are often a greater variety that belong to the same effect; and these, though they are not altogether so satisfactory, are generally more useful than the other, as they give us greater occasion of admiring the goodness and wisdom of the first Contriver.

One of the final causes of our delight in any thing that is great, may be this. The Supreme Author of our being has so formed the soul of man, that nothing but himself can be its last, adequate, and proper happiness. Because, therefore, a great part of our happiness must arise from the contemplation of his being, that he might give our souls a just relish of such a contemplation, he has made them naturally delight in the apprehension of what is great or unlimited. Our admiration, which is a very pleasing motion of the mind, immediately rises at the consideration of any object that takes up a great deal of room in the fancy, and by consequence, will improve into the highest pitch of astonishment and devotion when we contemplate his nature, that is neither circumscribed by time nor place, nor to be comprehended by the largest capacity of a created being.

He has annexed a secret pleasure to the idea of any thing that is new or uncommon, that he might encourage us in the pursuit after knowledge, and engage us to search into the wonders of his creation; for every new idea brings such a pleasure along with it, as rewards any pains we have taken in its acquisition, and consequently serves as a motive to put us upon fresh discoveries.

He has made every thing that is beautiful in our own species pleasant, that all creatures might be tempted to multiply their kind, and fill the world with inhabitants; for it is very remarkable, that wherever nature is crossed in the production of a monster (the result of any unnatural mixture) the breed is incapable of propagating its likeness, and of founding a new order of creatures: so that unless all animals were allured by the beauty of their own species, generation would be at an end, and the earth unpeopled.

In the last place, he has made every thing that is beautiful in all other objects pleasant, or rather has made so many objects appear beautiful, that he might render the whole creation more gay and delightful. He has given almost every thing about us the power of raising an agreeable idea in the imagination: so that it is impossible for us to behold his works with coldness or indifference, and to survey so many beauties without a secret satisfaction and complacency. Things would make but a poor appearance to the eye, if we saw them only in their proper figures and motions: and what reason can we assign for their exciting in us many of those ideas which are different from any thing that exists in the objects themselves (for such are light and colours), were it not to add supernumerary ornaments to the universe, and make it more agree-

able to the imagination? We are every where entertained with pleasing shows and apparitions: we discover imaginary glories in the heavens, and in the earth, and see some of this visionary beauty poured out upon the whole creation; but what a rough unsightly sketch of nature should we be entertained with, did all her colouring disappear, and the several distinctions of light and shade vanish? In short, our souls are at present delightfully lost and bewildered in a pleasing delusion, and we walk about like the enchanted hero in a romance, who sees beautiful castles, woods, and meadows; and at the same time hears the warbling of birds, and the purling of streams; but, upon the failing of some secret spell, the fantastic scene breaks up, and the disconsolate knight finds himself on a barren heath, or in a solitary desert. It is not improbable that something like this may be the state of the soul after its first separation, in respect of the images it will receive from matter, though indeed the ideas of colours are so pleasing and beautiful in the imagination, that it is possible the soul will not be deprived of them, but perhaps find them excited by some other occasional cause, as they are at present by the different impressions of the subtle matter on the organ of sight.

I have here supposed that my reader is acquainted with that great modern discovery, which is at present universally acknowledged by all the inquirers into natural philosophy: namely, that light and colours, as apprehended by the imagination, are only ideas in the mind, and not qualities that have any existence in matter. As this is a truth which has been proved incontestably by many modern philosophers, and is indeed one of the best speculations in that science, if the English reader would see the notion explained at large, he may find it in the eighth chapter of the second book of Mr. Locke's *Essay on Human Understanding*.

ADDISON.

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[The following letter from Steele to Addison is here reprinted from the original edition of *The Spectator* in folio.

MR. SPECTATOR, June 26, 1722.
 'I WOULD not divert the course of your discoveries, which you seem bent upon obliging the world with a train of things, which, rightly attended to, may render the life of every man who reads it more easy and happy for the future. The pleasures of the imagination are what bewilder life, when reason and judgment do not interpose; it is therefore a great action in you to look carefully into the powers of fancy, to other men, from the knowledge of them, may improve their joys, and allay their griefs, by a just use of that faculty. I say, sir, I would not interrupt you in the progress of this course; but if you will do me the favour of inserting a letter in your next paper, you will do some service to the public, though not in so noble a way of obliging, as the improving their minds. Allow me, sir, to acquaint you with a design (of which I am partly author), though it tends to a greater good than that of getting money. I should like to hope for the favour of a philosopher in this matter, if it were not attempted under all the restrictions which you speak of upon private acquisitions. The first purpose which a good man is to propose to himself, is the service of his country; after that is done, he cannot add to it, but he must also be beneficial to them. This scheme is not only consistent with that end, but has its very being in subordination to it; for no man can be a greater benefit at the same time to himself, or some other, than by his dealings with the government. It is called 'The Multiplication Table,' and is so far calculated for the service of her majesty, that the same person who is a winner in the lottery of the state may receive yet further advantage in this table. And I am sure nothing can be more pleasing to her gracious temper than to find out additional methods of increasing their good fortune who adventure any thing in service, or laying occasions for others to become capable of serving their country who are at present in too low circumstances to exert themselves. The manner of carrying

design is, by giving out receipts for half guineas received, which shall entitle the fortunate bearer to certain sums in the table, as is set forth at large in the proposals printed the 23d instant. There is another circumstance in this design which gives me hopes of your favour to it, and that is what Tully advises, to wit, that the benefit is made as diffusive as possible. Every one that has half a guinea is put into the possibility, from that small sum, to raise himself an easy fortune: when these little parcels of wealth are, as it were, thus thrown back again into the redonation of Providence, we are to expect that some who live under hardships or obscurity, may be produced to the world in the figure they deserve by this means. I doubt not but this last argument will have force with you, and I cannot add another to it, but what your seventy will, I fear, very little regard; which is, that I am,

SIR,

'Your greatest admirer,

'RICHARD STEELE.'

, See the Advertisement at the end of N^o 417.

N^o 414. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1712.

PAPER IV.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

The works of nature more pleasant to the imagination than those of art. The works of nature still more pleasant, the more they resemble those of art. The works of art more pleasant, the more they resemble those of nature. Our English plantations and gardens considered in the foregoing light.

Alterius sic

Altera poscit opem res, et conjurat amice.

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 411.

But mutually they need each other's help.
ROSCOMMON.

If we consider the works of nature and art, as they are qualified to entertain the imagination, we shall find the last very defective, in comparison of the former; for though they may sometimes appear as beautiful or strange, they can have nothing in them of that vastness and immensity, which afford so great an entertainment to the mind of the beholder. The one may be as polite and delicate as the other, but can never show herself so august and magnificent in the design. There is something more bold and masterly in the rough careless strokes of nature, than in the nice touches and embellishments of art. The beauties of the most stately garden or palace lie in a narrow compass, the imagination immediately runs them over, and requires something else to gratify her; but in the wide fields of nature, the sight wanders up and down without confinement, and is fed with an infinite variety of images, without any certain stint or number. For this reason we always find the poet in love with the country life, where nature appears in the greatest perfection, and furnishes out all those scenes that are most apt to delight the imagination.

'Scriptorum chorus omnis amant nemus, et fugit urbes.'
HOR. Ep. li. l. 2. ver. 77.

'——— To grottoes and to groves we run,
To ease and silence, ev'ry muse's son.'
POPE.

'*Hic securus quies, et necia fillere villa,
Dives opum varietarum; hic latet oïa fundis,
Epilanca, vitivus lacus; hic frigida Tempe,
Mugilique bosum, molliorque sub arboris umbræ.*'
VIRG. Georg. li. ver. 467.

'Here easy quiet, a secure retreat,
A harmless life that knows not how to cheat,
With home-bred plenty the rich owner blesses,
And rural pleasures crown his happiness.'

Unwex'd with quarrels, undisturb'd with noise,
The country king his peaceful realm enjoys:
Cool grots, and living lakes, the flow'ry pride
Of meads, and streams that through the valley glide;
And shady groves that easy sleep invite,
And, after toilsome days, a short repose at night.'
DRYDEN.

But though there are several of these wild scenes, that are more delightful than any artificial shows; yet we find the works of nature still more pleasant, the more they resemble those of art: for in this case our pleasure rises from a double principle; from the agreeableness of the objects to the eye, and from their similitude to other objects. We are pleas'd as well with comparing their beauties, as with surveying them, and can represent them to our minds, either as copies or originals. Hence it is that we take delight in a prospect which is well laid out, and diversified with fields and meadows, woods, and rivers; in those accidental landscapes of trees, clouds, and cities, that are sometimes found in the veins of marble, in the curious fret-work of rocks and grottoes; and, in a word, in any thing that hath such a variety or regularity as may seem the effect of design in what we call the works of chance.

If the products of nature rise in value according as they more or less resemble those of art, we may be sure that artificial works receive a greater advantage from their resemblance of such as are natural; because here the similitude is not only pleasant, but the pattern more perfect. The prettiest landscape I ever saw, was one drawn on the walls of a dark room, which stood opposite on one side to a navigable river, and on the other to a park. The experiment is very common in optics*. Here you might discover the waves and fluctuations of the water in strong and proper colours, with the picture of a ship entering at one end, and sailing by degrees through the whole piece. On another there appeared the green shadows of trees, waving to and fro with the wind, and herds of deer among them in miniature, leaping about upon the wall. I must confess, the novelty of such a sight may be one occasion of its pleasantness to the imagination; but certainly the chief reason is its near resemblance to nature, as it does not only, like other pictures, give the colour and figure, but the motion, of the things it represents.

We have before observed, that there is generally in nature something more grand and august, than what we meet with in the curiosities of art. When, therefore, we see this imitated in any measure, it gives us a nobler and more exalted kind of pleasure than what we receive from the nicer and more accurate productions of art. On this account our English gardens are not so entertaining to the fancy as those in France and Italy, where we see a large extent of ground covered over with an agreeable mixture of garden and forest, which represent every where an artificial rudeness, much more charming than that neatness and elegance which we meet with in those of our own country. It might indeed be of ill consequence to the public, as well as unprofitable to private persons, to alienate so much ground from pasture, and the plough, in many parts of a country that is so well peopled, and cultivated to a far greater advantage. But why may not a whole estate be thrown into a kind of garden by frequent plantations, that may turn as much to the profit as the pleasure of the owner? A marsh overgrown with willows, or a

* Alluding to the representations of nature produced by the camera obscura, &c. in a darkened room.

mountain shaded with oaks, are not only more beautiful but more beneficial, than when they lie bare and undorned. Fields of corn make a pleasant prospect, and if the walks were a little taken care of that lie between them, if the natural embroidery of the meadows were helped and improved by some small additions of art, and the several rows of hedges set off by trees and flowers that the soil was capable of receiving, a man might make a pretty landscape of his own possessions.

Writers who have given us an account of China, tell us the inhabitants of that country laugh at the plantations of our Europeans, which are laid out by the rule and line; because they say, any one may place trees in equal rows and uniform figures. They choose rather to show a genius in works of this nature, and therefore always conceal the art by which they direct themselves. They have a word, it seems, in their language, by which they express the particular beauty of a plantation that thus strikes the imagination at first sight, without discovering what it is that has so agreeable an effect. Our British gardeners, on the contrary, instead of bemoaning nature, love to deviate from it as much as possible. Our trees rise in cones, globes, and pyramids. We see the marks of the scissars upon every plant and bush. I do not know whether I am singular in my opinion, but, for my own part, I would rather look upon a tree in all its luxuriance and diffusion of boughs and branches, than when it is thus cut and trimmed into a mathematical figure; and cannot but fancy that an orchard in flower looks infinitely more delightful, than all the little labyrinths of the most finished parterre. But as our great modellers of gardens have their magazines of plants to dispose of, it is very natural for them to tear up all the beautiful plantations of fruit-trees, and contrive a plan that may most turn to their own profit, in taking off their evergreens, and the like moveable plants, with which their shops are plentifully stocked.

ADDITION.

O.

N° 415. THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1712.

PAPER V.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

Of architecture, as it affects the imagination. Greatness in architecture relates either to the bulk or to the manner. Greatness of bulk in the ancient oriental buildings. The ancient accounts of these buildings confirmed, 1. From the advantages for raising such works, in the first ages of the world, and in the eastern climates; 2. From several of them which are still extant. Instances how greatness of manner affects the imagination. A French author's observations on this subject. Why concave and convex figures give a greatness of manner to works of architecture. Every thing that pleases the imagination in architecture, is either great, beautiful, or new.

Adde tot egregias urbes, operumque laborem.

VIRG. Georg. II. ver. 155.

Next add our cities of illustrious name,
Their costly labour, and stupendous frame.

DRYDEN.

HAVING already shown how the fancy is affected by the works of nature, and afterwards considered in general both the works of nature and of art, how they mutually assist and complete each other in forming such scenes and prospects as are most apt to delight the mind of the beholder, I shall in

this paper throw together some reflections on that particular art, which has a more immediate tendency, than any other, to produce those primary pleasures of the imagination, which have hitherto been the subject of this discourse. The art I mean is that of architecture, which I shall consider only with regard to the light in which the foregoing speculations have placed it, without entering into those rules and maxims which the great masters of architecture have laid down and explained at large in numberless treatises upon that subject.

Greatness, in the works of architecture, may be considered as relating to the bulk and body of the structure, or to the manner in which it is built. As for the first, we find the ancients, especially among the eastern nations of the world, infinitely superior to the moderns.

Not to mention the tower of Babel, of which an old author says, there were the foundations to be seen in his time, which looked like a spacious mountain; what could be more noble than the walls of Babylon, its hanging gardens, and its temple to Jupiter Belus, that rose a mile high by eight several stories, each story a furlong in height, and on the top of which was the Babylonian observation? I might here, likewise, take notice of the huge rock that was cut into the figure of Semiramis, with the smaller rocks that lay by it in the shape of tributary kings; the prodigious basin, or artificial lake, which took in the whole Euphrates, till such time as a new canal was formed for its reception, with the several trenches through which that river was conveyed. I know there are persons who look upon some of these wonders of art as fabulous; but I cannot find any ground for such a suspicion; unless it be that we have no such works among us at present. There were indeed many greater advantages for building in those times, and in that part of the world, than have been met with ever since. The earth was extremely fruitful; was lived generally on pasturage, which requires a much smaller number of hands than agriculture. There were few trades to employ the busy part of mankind, and fewer arts and sciences to give work to men of speculative tempers; and, what is more than all the rest, the prince was absolute; so that, when he went to war, he put himself at the head of a whole people; as we find Semiramis leading her three millions to the field, and yet overpowered by the number of her enemies. It is no wonder, therefore, when she was at peace, and turned her thoughts on building, that she could accomplish so great works, with such a prodigious multitude of labourers: besides that in her climate there was small interruption of frosts and winters, which make the northern workmen lie half the year idle. I might mention too, among the benefits of the climate, what historians say of the earth, that it sweated out a bitumen or natural kind of mortar, which is doubtless the same with that mentioned in holy writ, as contributing to the structure of Babel: 'Slime they used instead of mortar.'

In Egypt we still see their pyramids, which answer to the descriptions that have been made of them; and I question not but a traveller might find out some remains of the labyrinth that covered a whole province, and had a hundred temples disposed among its several quarters and divisions.

The wall of China is one of these eastern pieces of magnificence, which makes a figure even in the map of the world, although an account of it would have been thought fabulous, were not the wall itself still extant.

We are obliged to devotion for the noblest bu-

ings that have adorned the several countries of the world. It is this which has set men at work on temples and public places of worship, not only that they might, by the magnificence of the building, invite the Deity to reside within it, but that such stupendous works might, at the same time, open the mind to vast conceptions, and fit it to converse with the divinity of the place. For every thing that is majestic imprints an awfulness and reverence on the mind of the beholder, and strikes in with the natural greatness of the soul.

In the second place we are to consider greatness of manner in architecture, which has such force upon the imagination, that a small building, where it appears, shall give the mind nobler ideas than one of twenty times the bulk, where the manner is ordinary or little. Thus, perhaps, a man would have been more astonished with the majestic air that appeared in one of Lysippus's statues of Alexander, though no bigger than the life, than he might have been with mount Athos, had it been cut into the figure of the hero, according to the proposal of Phidias, with a river in one hand, and a city in the other.

Let any one reflect on the disposition of mind he finds in himself, at his first entrance into the Pantheon at Rome, and how the imagination is filled with something great and amazing; and, at the same time, consider how little, in proportion, he is affected with the inside of a gothic cathedral, though it be five times larger than the other; which can arise from nothing else but the greatness of the manner in the one, and the meanness in the other.

I have seen an observation upon this subject in a French author, which very much pleased me. It is in Monsieur Freart's *Parallel of the Ancient and Modern Architecture*. I shall give it the reader with the same terms of art which he has made use of. 'I am observing,' says he, 'a thing which, in my opinion, is very curious; whence it proceeds, that in the same quantity of superficies, the one manner seems great and magnificent, and the other poor and trifling; the reason is fine and uncommon. I say then, that to introduce into architecture this grandeur of manner, we ought so to proceed, that the division of the principal members of the order may consist but of few parts, that they be all great, and of a bold and ample relieve and swelling; and that the eye beholding nothing little and mean, the imagination may be more vigorously touched and affected with the work that stands before it. For example; in a cornice, if the gola or cymatium of the corona, the coping, the modillions or dentelli, make a noble show by their graceful projections, if we see none of that ordinary confusion which is the result of those little cavities, quarter rounds of the astragal, and I know not how many other intermingled particulars, which produce no effect in great and massy works, and which very unprofitably take up place to the prejudice of the principal member, it is most certain that this manner will appear solemn and great; as, on the contrary, that it will have but a poor and mean effect, where there is a redundancy of those smaller ornaments, which divide and scatter the angles of the sight into such a multitude of rays, so pressed together that the whole will appear but a confusion.'

Among all the figures of architecture, there are none that have a greater air than the concave and the convex; and we find in all the ancient and modern architecture, as well in the remote parts of China, as in countries nearer home, that round pillars and vaulted roofs make a great part of those buildings which are designed for pomp and

magnificence. The reason I take to be, because in these figures we generally see more of the body, than in those of other kinds. There are, indeed, figures of bodies, where the eye may take in two-thirds of the surface; but as in such bodies the sight must split upon several angles, it does not take in one uniform idea, but several ideas of the same kind. Look upon the outside of a dome, your eye half surrounds it; look upon the inside, and at one glance you have all the prospect of it; the entire concavity falls into your eye at once, the sight being as the centre that collects and gathers into it the lines of the whole circumference: in a square pillar, the sight often takes in but a fourth part of the surface; and in a square concave, must move up and down to the different sides, before it is master of all the inward surface. For this reason, the fancy is infinitely more struck with the view of the open air, and skies, that passes through an arch, than what comes through a square, or any other figure. The figure of the rainbow does not contribute less to its magnificence, than the colours to its beauty, as it is very poetically described by the son of Sirach: 'Look upon the rainbow, and praise him that made it; very beautiful it is in its brightness; it encompasses the heavens with a glorious circle, and the hands of the Most High have bended it.'

Having thus spoken of that greatness which affects the mind in architecture, I might next show the pleasure that rises in the imagination from what appears new and beautiful in this art; but as every beholder has naturally a greater taste of these two perfections in every building which offers itself to his view, than of that which I have hitherto considered, I shall not trouble my reader with any reflections upon it. It is sufficient for my present purpose to observe, that there is nothing in this whole art which pleases the imagination, but as it is great, uncommon, or beautiful.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 416. FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1712.

PAPER VI.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

The secondary pleasures of the imagination. The several sources of these pleasures (statuary, painting, description, and music) compared together. The final cause of our receiving pleasure from these several sources. Of descriptions in particular. The power of words over the imagination. Why one reader more pleased with descriptions than another.

Quatenus hoc simile est oculis, quod mente videmus.

LUCR. l. iv. ver. 754.

—Objects still appear the same
To mind and eye, in colour and in frame.

CREECH.

I AT first divided the pleasures of the imagination into such as arise from objects that are actually before our eyes, or that once entered in at our eyes, and are afterwards called up into the mind either barely by its own operations, or on occasion of something without us, as statues, or descriptions. We have already considered the first division, and shall therefore enter on the other, which, for distinction sake, I have called 'The Secondary Pleasures of the Imagination.' When I say the ideas we receive from statues, descriptions, or such like occasions, are the same that were once actually in

our view, it must not be understood that we had once seen the very place, action, or person, which are carved or described. It is sufficient that we have seen places, persons, or actions in general, which bear a resemblance, or at least some remote analogy, with what we find represented; since it is in the power of the imagination, when it is once stocked with particular ideas, to enlarge, compound, and vary them at her own pleasure.

Among the different kinds of representation, statuary is the most natural, and shows us something like the object that is represented. To make use of a common instance, let one who is born blind, take an image in his hands, and trace out with his fingers the different furrows and impressions of the chisel, and he will easily conceive how the shape of a man, or beast, may be represented by it; but should he draw his hand over a picture, where all is smooth and uniform, he would never be able to imagine how the several prominences and depressions of a human body could be shown on a plain piece of canvas, that has in it no unevenness or irregularity. Description runs yet further from the thing it represents than painting: for a picture bears a real resemblance to its original, which letters and syllables are wholly void of. Colours speak all languages, but words are understood only by such a people or nation. For this reason, though men's necessities quickly put them on finding out speech, writing is probably of a later invention than painting; particularly we are told that in America, when the Spaniards first arrived there, expresses were sent to the emperor of Mexico in paint, and the news of his country delineated by the strokes of a pencil, which was a more natural way than that of writing, though at the same time much more imperfect, because it is impossible to draw the little connections of speech, or to give the picture of a conjunction or an adverb. It would be yet more strange to represent visible objects by sounds that have no ideas annexed to them, and to make something like description in music. Yet it is certain, there may be confused imperfect notions of this nature raised in the imagination by an artificial composition of notes; and we find that great masters in the art are able, sometimes, to set their hearers in the heat and hurry of a battle, to overcast their minds with melancholy scenes and apprehensions of deaths and funerals, or to lull them into pleasing dreams of groves and elysiums.

In all these instances, this secondary pleasure of the imagination proceeds from that action of the mind, which compares the ideas arising from the original objects with the ideas we receive from the statue, picture, description, or sound, that represents them. It is impossible for us to give the necessary reason why this operation of the mind is attended with so much pleasure, as I have before observed on the same occasion; but we find a great variety of entertainments derived from this single principle: for it is this that not only gives us a relish of statuary, painting, and description, but makes us delight in all the actions and arts of mimicry. It is this that makes the several kinds of wit pleasant, which consists, as I have formerly shown, in the affinity of ideas; and we may add, it is this also that raises the little satisfaction we sometimes find in the different sorts of false wit; whether it consists in the affinity of letters, as an anagram, acrostic; or of syllables, as in doggerel rhymes, echoes; or of words, as in puns, quibbles; or of a whole sentence or poem, as wings and altars. The final cause, probably, of annexing

pleasure to this operation of the mind, was to quicken and encourage us in our searches after truth, since the distinguishing one thing from another, and the right discerning betwixt our ideas, depends wholly upon our comparing them together, and observing the congruity or disagreement that appears among the several works of nature.

But I shall here confine myself to those pleasures of the imagination, which proceed from ideas raised by words, because most of the observations that agree with descriptions, are equally applicable to painting and statuary.

Words, when well chosen, have so great a force in them, that a description often gives us more lively ideas than the sight of things themselves. The reader finds a scene drawn in stronger colours, and painted more to the life in his imagination, by the help of words than by an actual survey of the scene which they describe. In this case the poet seems to get the better of nature: he takes, indeed, the landscape after her, but gives it more vigorous touches, heightens its beauty, and so relivens the whole piece, that the images which flow from the objects themselves appear weak and faint, in comparison of those that come from the expressions. The reason, probably, may be, because, in the survey of any object, we have only so much of it painted on the imagination as comes in at the eye; but in its description, the poet gives us as free a view of it as he pleases, and discovers to us several parts, that either we did not attend to, or that lay out of our sight when we first beheld it. As we look on any object, our idea of it is, perhaps, made up of two or three simple ideas; but when the poet represents it, he may either give us a more complex idea of it, or only raise in us such ideas as are most apt to affect the imagination.

It may be here worth our while to examine how it comes to pass that several readers, who are all acquainted with the same language, and know the meaning of the words they read, should nevertheless have a different relish of the same description. We find one transported with a passage, which another runs over with coldness and indifference; or finding the representation extremely natural, when another can perceive nothing of likeness and conformity. This different taste must proceed either from the perfection of imagination in one more than in another, or from the different ideas that several readers affix to the same words. For, to have a true relish, and form a right judgment of a description, a man should be born with a good imagination, and must have well weighed the force and energy that lie in the several words of a language, so as to be able to distinguish which are most significant and expressive of their proper ideas, and what additional strength and beauty they are capable of receiving from conjunction with others. The fancy must be warm, to retain the print of those images it hath received from outward objects; and the judgment discerning, to know what expressions are most proper to clothe and adorn them to the best advantage. A man who is deficient in either of these respects, though he may receive the general notion of a description, can never see distinctly all its particular beauties: as a person with a weak sight may have the confused prospect of a place that lies before him, without entering into its several parts, or discerning the variety of its colours in their full glory and perfection.

ADDISON.

N° 417. SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1712.

PAPER VII.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

How a whole set of ideas hang together, &c. A natural cause assigned for it. How to perfect the imagination of a writer. Who among the ancient poets had this faculty in its greatest perfection. Homer excelled in imagining what is great; Virgil in imagining what is beautiful; Ovid in imagining what is new. Our own countryman Milton very perfect in all three respects.

*Quem tu, Melpomene, semel
Nascentem placido lumine videris,
Non illum labor Isthmius
Clarabit pugilem, non equus impiger, &c.*

*Sed quæ Tibur aquæ stridit perfluunt,
Et spinae nemorum comæ
Fingunt Eolio carmine nobilem.*

HOR. Od. iii. l. 4. ver. 1.

At whose bless'd birth propitious rays
The Muses shed, on whom they smile,
No dusty Isthmian game
Shall stoutest of the ring proclaim,
Or, to reward his toil,
Wreath ivy crowns, and grace his head with bays, &c.

But fruitful Tibur's shady groves,
Its pleasant springs and purling streams,
Shall raise a lasting name,
And set him high in sounding fame
For Lyric verse.

CREECH.

We may observe, that any single circumstance of what we have formerly seen, often raises up a whole scene of imagery, and awakens numberless ideas that before slept in the imagination; such a particular smell or colour is able to fill the mind, on a sudden, with the picture of the fields or gardens where we first met with it, and to bring up into view all the variety of images that once attended it. Our imagination takes the hint, and leads us unexpectedly into cities or theatres, plains or meadows. We may further observe, when the fancy thus reflects on the scenes that have passed in it formerly, those which were at first pleasant to behold, appear more so upon reflection, and that the memory heightens the delightfulness of the original. A Cartesian would account for both these instances in the following manner:

The set of ideas which we receive from such a prospect or garden, having entered the mind at the same time, have a set of traces belonging to them in the brain, bordering very near upon one another; when, therefore, any one of these ideas arises in the imagination, and consequently dispatches a flow of animal spirits to its proper trace, these spirits, in the violence of their motion, run not only into the trace to which they were more particularly directed, but into several of those that lie about it. By this means they awaken other ideas of the same set, which immediately determine a new dispatch of spirits, that in the same manner open other neighbouring traces, till at last the whole set of them is blown up, and the whole prospect or garden flourishes in the imagination. But because the pleasure we receive from these places far surmounted, and overcame the little disagreeableness we found in them; for this reason there was at first a wider passage worn in the pleasure traces, and, on the contrary, so narrow a one in those which belonged to the disagreeable ideas, that they were quickly stopped up, and rendered incapable of receiving any animal spirits,

and consequently of exciting any unpleasant ideas in the memory.

It would be in vain to inquire, whether the power of imagining things strongly proceeds from any greater perfection in the soul, or from any nicer texture in the brain of one man than of another. But this is certain, that a noble writer should be born with this faculty in its full strength and vigour, so as to be able to receive lively ideas from outward objects, to retain them long, and to range them together, upon occasion, in such figures and representations, as are most likely to hit the fancy of the reader. A poet should take as much pains in forming his imagination, as a philosopher in cultivating his understanding. He must gain a due relish of the works of nature, and be thoroughly conversant in the various scenery of a country life.

When he is stored with country images, if he would go beyond pastoral, and the lower kinds of poetry, he ought to acquaint himself with the pomp and magnificence of courts. He should be very well versed in every thing that is noble and stately in the productions of art, whether it appear in painting or statuary, in the great works of architecture which are in their present glory, or in the ruins of those which flourished in former ages.

Such advantages as these help to open a man's thoughts, and to enlarge his imagination, and will therefore have their influence on all kinds of writing, if the author knows how to make right use of them. And among those of the learned languages who excel in this talent, the most perfect in their several kinds are perhaps Homer, Virgil, and Ovid. The first strikes the imagination wonderfully with what is great, the second with what is beautiful, and the last with what is strange. Reading the *Iliad*, is like travelling through a country uninhabited, where the fancy is entertained with a thousand savage prospects of vast deserts, wide uncultivated marshes, huge forests, misshapen rocks and precipices. On the contrary, the *Æneid* is like a well-ordered garden, where it is impossible to find out any part unadorned, or to cast our eyes upon a single spot that does not produce some beautiful plant or flower. But when we are in the *Metamorphoses*, we are walking on enchanted ground, and see nothing but scenes of magic lying round us.

Homer is in his province, when he is describing a battle or a multitude, a hero or a god. Virgil is never better pleased than when he is in his *Elysium*, or copying out an entertaining picture. Homer's epithets generally mark out what is great; Virgil's, what is agreeable. Nothing can be more magnificent than the figure Jupiter makes in the first *Iliad*, nor more charming than that of Venus in the first *Æneid*.

Ἡ καὶ χυμένῳ τῷ ὀφρῶσι νηὶς Κρονίῳ,
Ἀμβροσίαι δ' ἀοὶ χαίται παρ' ὤμαρτο ἀνὰ κλῶς
Κρατὸς ἀπ' ἀβύσσου μάγαν δ' ἐλάϊζεν Ὀλύμπου.
Iliad. lib. i. ver. 522.

'He spoke, and awful bends his sable brows;
Shakes his ambrosial curls, and gives the nod,
The stamp of fate, and sanction of the god:
High heav'n with trembling the dread signal took,
And all Olympus to the centre shook.'

POPE.

'Dirit et avertens rosea cervice refulsit:
Ambrosiaque comæ divinum vertice odorem
Spirare: pedes ventis deflavit ad imos,
Et vœra incensu paluit dea——'
Æn. i. ver. 406.

'Thus having said, she turn'd and made appear
Her neck refulgent, and dishevel'd hair;

Which, flowing from her shoulders, reach'd the ground,
And widely spread ambrosial scents around :
In length of train descends her sweeping gown,
And by her graceful walk the queen of love is known."
DRYDEN.

Homer's persons are most of them godlike and terrible: Virgil has scarce admitted any into his poem, who are not beautiful; and has taken particular care to make his hero so

— *lumenque juvenat*
Purpureum, et latus oculus afflavit honores.
Æn. i. ver. 594.

'And gave his rolling eyes a sparkling grace,
And breath'd a youthful vigour on his face.'
DRYDEN.

In a word, Homer fills his readers with sublime ideas, and, I believe, has raised the imagination of all the good poets that have come after him. I shall only instance Horace, who immediately takes fire at the first hint of any passage in the Iliad or Odyssey, and always rises above himself when he has Homer in his view. Virgil has drawn together, into his Æneid, all the pleasing scenes his subject is capable of admitting, and in his Georgics has given us a collection of the most delightful landscapes that can be made out of fields and woods, herds of cattle, and swarms of bees.

Ovid, in his Metamorphoses, has shown us how the imagination may be affected by what is strange. He describes a miracle in every story, and always gives us the sight of some new creature at the end of it. His art consists chiefly in well timing his description, before the first shape is quite worn off, and the new one perfectly finished; so that he every where entertains us with something we never saw before, and shows us monster after monster to the end of the Metamorphoses.

If I were to name a poet that is a perfect master in all these arts of working on the imagination, I think Milton may pass for one: and if his Paradise Lost falls short of the Æneid or Iliad in this respect, it proceeds rather from the fault of the language in which it is written, than from any defect of genius in the author. So divine a poem in English, is like a stately palace built of brick, where one may see architecture in as great a perfection as in one of marble, though the materials are of a coarser nature. But to consider it only as it regards our present subject; what can be conceived greater than the battle of angels, the majesty of Messiah, the stature and behaviour of Satan and his peers? What more beautiful than Pandemonium, Paradise, Heaven, Angels, Adam and Eve? What more strange than the creation of the world, the several metamorphoses of the fallen angels, and the surprising adventures their leader meets with in his search after Paradise? No other subject could have furnished a poet with scenes so proper to strike the imagination, as no other poet could have painted those scenes in more strong and lively colours.

ADDISON.

O.

ADVERTISEMENT.

"Whereas the proposal called the Multiplication Table is under an information from the attorney-general; in humble submission and duty to her majesty the said undertaking is laid down, and attendance is this day given, at the last house on the left hand in Ship Yard, Bartholomew Lane, in order to repay such sums as have been paid in the said table, without deduction."

See the letter annexed to N^o 413, and *Mary's Works*, vol. xv. p. 312. 8vo. edit. 1801. "Steel was arrested the other day for making a lottery, directed against an act of parliament. He is now under prosecution; but they think it will be dropped with pity. I believe he will very soon lose his employment, for he has been mighty impertinent of late to his Spectators; and I will never offer a word in his behalf."

N^o 418. MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1712.

PAPER VIII.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

Why any thing that is unpleasant to behold pleases the imagination when well described. Why the imagination receives a more exquisite pleasure from the description of what is great, new, or beautiful. The pleasure heightened, if what is described raises passion in the mind. Disagreeable passions pleasing when raised by apt descriptions. Why terror and grief are pleasing to the mind when excited by description. A particular advantage the poets in poetry and fiction have to please the imagination. What liberties are allowed them.

— *feret et rubus asper amomum.*
VIRG. Ecl. iii. ver. 9.

The rugged thorn shall bear the fragrant rose.

THE pleasures of these secondary views of the imagination are of a wider and more universal nature than those it has when joined with sight; for we only what is great, strange, or beautiful, but any thing that is disagreeable when looked upon pleases us in an apt description. Here, therefore, we must inquire after a new principle of pleasure, which is nothing else but the action of the mind, which compares the ideas that arise from words with the ideas that arise from the objects themselves; and why this operation of the mind attended with so much pleasure, we have before considered. For this reason, therefore, the description of a dunghill is pleasing to the imagination, if the image be represented to our minds by suitable expressions; though, perhaps, this may be more properly called the pleasure of the understanding than of the fancy, because we are not so much delighted with the image that is contained in the description, as with the aptness of the description to excite the image.

But if the description of what is little, common, or deformed, be acceptable to the imagination, the description of what is great, surprising, or beautiful, is much more so; because here we are not only delighted with comparing the representation with the original, but are highly pleased with the original itself. Most readers, I believe, are more charmed with Milton's description of Paradise than of hell: they are both, perhaps, equally perfect in their kind; but in the one the brimstone and sulphur are not so refreshing to the imagination, as the beds of flowers and the wilderness of sweets in the other.

There is yet another circumstance which recommends a description more than all the rest; and that is, if it represents to us such objects as are apt to raise a secret ferment in the mind of the reader, and to work with violence upon his passions. For in this case, we are at once warmed and refreshed, so that the pleasure becomes more universal, and is several ways qualified to entertain us. Thus in painting, it is pleasant to look on the picture

any face where the resemblance is hit; but the pleasure increases if it be the picture of a face that is beautiful, and is still greater, if the beauty be softened with an air of melancholy or sorrow. The two leading passions which the more serious parts of poetry endeavour to stir up in us, are terror and pity. And here, by the way, one would wonder how it comes to pass that such passions as are very unpleasant at all other times, are very agreeable when excited by proper descriptions. It is not strange, that we should take delight in such passages as are apt to produce hope, joy, admiration, love, or the like emotions, in us, because they never rise in the mind without an inward pleasure which attends them. But how comes it to pass, that we should take delight in being terrified or dejected by a description, when we find so much uneasiness in the fear or grief which we receive from any other occasion?

If we consider, therefore, the nature of this pleasure, we shall find that it does not arise so properly from the description of what is terrible, as from the reflection we make on ourselves at the time of reading it. When we look on such hideous objects, we are not a little pleased to think we are in no danger of them. We consider them, at the same time, as dreadful and harmless; so that the more frightful appearance they make, the greater is the pleasure we receive from the sense of our own safety. In short, we look upon the terrors of a description, with the same curiosity and satisfaction that we survey a dead monster.

*Informis cadaver
Protahitur: nequeunt expleri corda tuendo
Terribilis oculos, cultum, villosaque actis
Pectora senijeri atque extinctos fructibus ignes?*
VIRG. Æn. viii. ver. 964.

They drag him from his den.
The wond'ring neighbourhood, with glad surprise,
Beheld his shagged breast, his giant size,
His mouth that flames no more, and his extinguish'd eyes.

DRYDEN.

It is for the same reason that we are delighted with reflecting upon dangers that are past, or in looking on a precipice at a distance, which would ill us with a different kind of horror, if we saw it hanging over our heads.

In the like manner, when we read of torments, wounds, deaths, and the like dismal accidents, our pleasure does not flow so properly from the grief which such melancholy descriptions give us, as from the secret comparison which we make between ourselves and the person who suffers. Such representations teach us to set a just value upon our own condition, and make us prize our good fortune, which exempts us from the like calamities. This is, however, such a kind of pleasure as we are not capable of receiving, when we see a person actually lying under the tortures that we meet with in a description; because, in this case, the object presses too close upon our senses, and bears so hard upon us, that it does not give us time or leisure to reflect on ourselves. Our thoughts are so intent upon the miseries of the sufferer, that we cannot turn them upon our own happiness. Whereas, on the contrary, we consider the misfortunes we read in history or poetry, either as past, or as fictitious; so that the reflection upon ourselves rises in us insensibly, and overbears the sorrow we conceive for the sufferings of the afflicted.

But because the mind of man requires something more perfect in matter than what it finds there, and can never meet with any sight in nature which

sufficiently answers its highest ideas of pleasantness; or, in other words, because the imagination can fancy to itself things more great, strange, or beautiful, than the eye ever saw, and is still sensible of some defect in what it has seen; on this account it is the part of a poet to humour the imagination in our own notions, by mending and perfecting nature where he describes a reality, and by adding greater beauties than are put together in nature, where he describes a fiction.

He is not obliged to attend her in the slow advances which she makes from one season to another, or to observe her conduct in the successive production of plants and flowers. He may draw into his description all the beauties of the spring and autumn, and make the whole year contribute something to render it the more agreeable. His rose-trees, woodbines, and jessamines, may flower together, and his beds be covered at the same time with lilies, violets, and amaranths. His soil is not restrained to any particular set of plants, but is proper either for oaks or myrtles, and adapts itself to the products of every climate. Oranges may grow wild in it; myrrh may be met with in every hedge; and if he thinks it proper to have a grove of spices, he can quickly command sun enough to raise it. If all this will not furnish out an agreeable scene, he can make several new species of flowers, with richer scents and higher colours than any that grow in the gardens of nature. His concerts of birds may be as full and harmonious, and his woods as thick and gloomy, as he pleases. He is at no more expence in a long vista than a short one, and can as easily throw his cascades from a precipice of half a mile high, as from one of twenty yards. He has his choice of the winds, and can turn the course of his rivers in all the variety of meanders, that are most delightful to the readers' imagination. In a word, he has the modelling of nature in his own hands, and may give her what charms he pleases, provided he does not reform her too much, and run into absurdities by endeavouring to excel.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 419. TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1712.

PAPER IX.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

Of that kind of poetry which Mr. Dryden calls, 'The Fairy Way of Writing.' How a poet should be qualified for it. The pleasures of the imagination that arise from it. In this respect why the moderns excel the ancients. Why the English excel the moderns. Who the best among the English. Of emblematical persons.

mentis gratissimus error.

HOR. Ep. ii. l. 2. ver. 140.

In pleasing error lost, and charmingly deceiv'd.

THERE is a kind of writing, wherein the poet quite loses sight of nature, and entertains his reader's imagination with the characters and actions of such persons as have many of them no existence, but what he bestows on them. Such are fairies, witches, magicians, demons, and departed spirits. This Mr. Dryden calls 'the fairy way of writing,' which is indeed more difficult than any other that depends on the poet's fancy, because he has no pattern to follow in it, and must work altogether out of his own invention.

There is a very odd turn of thought required for this sort of writing; and it is impossible for a poet to succeed in it, who has not a particular cast of fancy, and an imagination naturally fruitful and superstitious. Besides this, he ought to be very well versed in legends and fables, antiquated romances, and the traditions of nurses and old women, that he may fall in with our natural prejudices, and humour those notions which we have imbibed in our infancy. For otherwise he will be apt to make his fairies talk like people of his own species, and not like other sets of beings, who converse with different objects, and think in a different manner from that of mankind.

*' Sylvis deducti cœcant, me iudice, fauni,
Ne velut innati trivitiæ, ac pene foremæ,
Aut nutium teneris juvenentur verbis —'*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 244.

A satyr, that comes staring from the woods,
Must not at first speak like an orator.

ROSCOMMON.

I do not say, with Mr. Bays in the Rehearsal, that spirits must be confined to speak sense; but it is certain their sense ought to be a little discoloured, that it may seem particular, and proper to the person and condition of the speaker.

These descriptions raise a pleasing kind of horror in the mind of the reader, and amuse his imagination with the strangeness and novelty of the persons who are represented in them. They bring up into our memory the stories we have heard in our childhood, and favour those secret terrors and apprehensions to which the mind of man is naturally subject. We are pleased with surveying the different habits and behaviours of foreign countries: how much more must we be delighted and surprised when we are led, as it were, into a new creation, and see the persons and manners of another species! Men of cold fancies, and philosophical dispositions, object to this kind of poetry, that it has not probability enough to affect the imagination. But to this it may be answered, that we are sure, in general, there are many intellectual beings in the world beside ourselves, and several species of spirits, who are subject to different laws and economies from those of mankind: when we see, therefore, any of these represented naturally, we cannot look upon the representation as altogether impossible; nay, many are prepossessed with such false opinions, as dispose them to believe these particular delusions; at least we have all heard so many pleasing relations in favour of them, that we do not care for seeing through the falsehood, and willingly give ourselves up to so agreeable an imposture.

The ancients have not much of this poetry among them; for, indeed, almost the whole substance of it owes its original to the darkness and superstition of later ages, when pious frauds were made use of to amuse mankind, and frighten them into a sense of their duty. Our forefathers looked upon nature with more reverence and horror, before the world was enlightened by learning and philosophy; and loved to astonish themselves with the apprehensions of witchcraft, prodigies, charms, and incantments. There was not a village in England that had not a ghost in it; the churchyards were all haunted; every large common had a circle of fairies belonging to it; and there was scarce a shepherd to be met with who had not seen a spirit*.

Among all the poets of this kind, our English

are much the best, by what I have yet seen; whether it be that we abound with more stories of the nature, or that the genius of our country is fitter for this sort of poetry. For the English are naturally fanciful, and very often disposed, by the gloominess and melancholy of temper which is frequent in our nation, to many wild notions and visions, to which others are not so liable.

Among the English, Shakspeare has incomparably excelled all others. That noble extravagance of fancy, which he had in so great perfection, thoroughly qualified him to touch this weak superstitious part of his reader's imagination; and may him capable of succeeding, where he had nothing to support him besides the strength of his own genius. There is something so wild, and yet so solemn, in the speeches of his ghosts, fairies, witches, and the like imaginary persons, that we cannot forbear thinking them natural, though we have a rule by which to judge of them, and must confess if there are such beings in the world, it looks highly probable they should talk and act as he has represented them.

There is another sort of imaginary being, to which we sometimes meet with among the poets, when the author represents any passion, appetite, virtue or vice, under a visible shape, and makes it a person or an actor in his poem. Of this nature are the descriptions of Hunger and Envy in Ovid, of Fame in Virgil, and of Sin and Death in Milton. We find a whole creation of the like shadowy persons in Spenser, who had an admirable talent for representations of this kind. I have discoursed of these emblematical persons in former papers*, and shall therefore only mention them in this place. Thus we see how many ways poetry addresses itself to the imagination, as it has not only the wide circle of nature for its province, but makes new worlds of its own, shows us persons who are not to be found in being, and represents even the faculties of the soul, with the several virtues and vices, in a sensible shape and character.

I shall, in my two following papers, consider, in general, how other kinds of writing are qualified to please the imagination; with which I intend to conclude this essay.

ADDISON.

Nº 420. WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1712

PAPER X.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

What authors please the imagination. Who have most to do with fiction. How history pleases the imagination. How the authors of the new philosophy please the imagination. The bounds and defects of the imagination. Whether these defects are essential to the imagination.

— *Quocunque volent animorum auditoris agere*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 111.

And raise men's passions to what height they will.
ROSCOMMON.

As the writers in poetry and fiction borrow their several materials from outward objects, and mix them together at their own pleasure, there are others who are obliged to follow nature very closely, and to take entire scenes out of her. These are historians, natural philosophers, travellers, &c.

* See Nos. 110 and 117.

* See Nº 273.

graphers, and, in a word, all who describe visible objects of a real existence.

It is the most agreeable talent of an historian to be able to draw up his armies and fight his battles in proper expressions, to set before our eyes the divisions, cabals and jealousies of great men, and to lead us step by step into the several actions and events of his history. We love to see the subject unfolding itself by just degrees, and breaking upon us insensibly, that so we may be kept in a pleasing suspense, and have time given us to raise our expectations, and to side with one of the parties concerned in the relation. I confess this shows more the art than the veracity of the historian; but I am only to speak of him as he is qualified to please the imagination. And in this respect Livy has, perhaps, excelled all who went before him, or have written since his time. He describes every thing in so lively a manner, that his whole history is an admirable picture, and touches on such proper circumstances in every story, that his reader becomes a kind of spectator, and feels in himself all the variety of passions which are correspondent to the several parts of the relation.

But among this set of writers there are none who more gratify and enlarge the imagination, than the authors of the new philosophy, whether we consider their theories of the earth or heavens, the discoveries they have made by glasses, or any other of their contemplations on nature. We are not a little pleased to find every green leaf swarm with millions of animals, that at their largest growth are not visible to the naked eye. There is something very engaging to the fancy, as well as to our reason, in the treatises of metals, minerals, plants, and meteors. But when we survey the whole earth at once, and the several planets that lie within its neighbourhood, we are filled with a pleasing astonishment, to see so many worlds hanging one above another, and sliding round their axes in such an amazing pomp and solemnity. If, after this, we contemplate those wild fields of ether, that reach in height as far as from Saturn to the fixed stars, and run abroad almost to an infinitude, our imagination finds its capacity filled with so immense a prospect, and puts itself upon the stretch to comprehend it. But if we yet rise higher, and consider the fixed stars as so many vast oceans of flame, that are each of them attended with a different set of planets, and still discover new firmaments and new lights that are sunk further in those unfathomable depths of ether, so as not to be seen by the strongest of our telescopes, we are lost in such a labyrinth of suns and worlds, and confounded with the immensity and magnificence of nature.

Nothing is more pleasant to the fancy, than to enlarge itself by degrees, in its contemplation of the various proportions which its several objects bear to each other, when it compares the body of man to the bulk of the whole earth, the earth to the circle it describes round the sun, that circle to the sphere of the fixed stars, the sphere of the fixed stars to the circuit of the whole creation, the whole creation itself to the infinite space that is every where diffused about it; or when the imagination works downward, and considers the bulk of a human body in respect of an animal a hundred times less than a mite, the particular limbs of such an animal, the different springs which actuate the limbs, the spirits which set these springs a going, and the proportionable minuteness of these several parts, before they have arrived at their full growth and perfection: but if, after all this, we take the least particle of these animal spirits, and consider

its capacity of being wrought into a world that shall contain within those narrow dimensions a heaven and earth, stars and planets, and every different species of living creatures, in the same analogy and proportion they bear to each other in our own universe; such a speculation, by reason of its nicety, appears ridiculous to those who have not turned their thoughts that way, though at the same time it is founded on no less than the evidence of a demonstration. Nay, we may yet carry it further, and discover in the smallest particle of this little world, a new inexhausted fund of matter, capable of being spun out into another universe.

I have dwelt the longer on this subject, because I think it may show us the proper limits as well as the defectiveness of our imagination; how it is confined to a very small quantity of space, and immediately stopped in its operations, when it endeavours to take in any thing that is very great or very little. Let a man try to conceive the different bulk of an animal, which is twenty, from another which is an hundred times less than a mite, or to compare in his thoughts a length of a thousand diameters of the earth, with that of a million; and he will quickly find that he has no different measures in his mind, adjusted to such extraordinary degrees of grandeur or minuteness. The understanding, indeed, opens an infinite space on every side of us; but the imagination, after a few faint efforts, is immediately at a stand, and finds herself swallowed up in the immensity of the void that surrounds it: our reason can pursue a particle of matter through an infinite variety of divisions; but the fancy soon loses sight of it, and feels in itself a kind of chasm, that wants to be filled with matter of a more sensible bulk. We can neither widen nor contract the faculty to the dimensions of either extreme. The object is too big for our capacity, when we would comprehend the circumference of a world, and dwindles into nothing, when we endeavour after the idea of an atom.

It is possible this defect of imagination may not be in the soul itself, but as it acts in conjunction with the body. Perhaps there may not be room in the brain for such a variety of impressions, or the animal spirits may be incapable of figuring them in such a manner, as is necessary to excite so very large or very minute ideas. However it be, we may well suppose, that beings of a higher nature very much excel us in this respect, as it is probable the soul of man will be infinitely more perfect hereafter in this faculty, as well as in all the rest; insomuch that, perhaps, the imagination will be able to keep pace with the understanding, and to form in itself distinct ideas of all the different modes and quantities of space.

ADDISON.

Q.

N° 421. THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1712.

PAPER XI.

ON THE PLEASURES OF THE IMAGINATION.

CONTENTS.

How those please the imagination, who treat of subjects abstracted from matter, by allusions taken from it. What allusions most pleasing to the imagination. Great writers how faulty in this respect. Of the art of imagining in general. The imagination capable of pain as well as pleasure. In what degree the imagination is capable either of pain or pleasure.

*Ignotis errare locis, ignota videre
Flumina gaudebat; studio minuerunt laborem.*
OVID. Met. l. iv. ver. 294.

He sought fresh fountains in a foreign soil!
The pleasure lessen'd the attending toil.
ADDISON.

THE pleasures of the imagination are not wholly confined to such particular authors as are conversant in material objects, but are often to be met with among the polite masters of morality, criticism, and other speculations abstracted from matter, who, though they do not directly treat of the visible parts of nature, often draw from them their similitudes, metaphors, and allegories. By these allusions, a truth in the understanding is, as it were, reflected by the imagination; we are able to see something like colour and shape in a notion, and to discover a scheme of thoughts traced out upon matter. And here the mind receives a great deal of satisfaction, and has two of its faculties gratified at the same time, while the fancy is busy in copying after the understanding, and transcribing ideas out of the intellectual world into the material.

The great art of a writer shows itself in the choice of pleasing allusions, which are generally to be taken from the great or beautiful works of art or nature; for though whatever is new or uncommon is apt to delight the imagination, the chief design of an allusion being to illustrate and explain the passages of an author, it should be always borrowed from what is more known and common, than the passages which are to be explained.

Allusions, when well chosen, are like so many tracks of light in a discourse, that make every thing about them clear and beautiful. A noble metaphor, when it is placed to an advantage, casts a kind of glory round it, and darts a lustre through a whole sentence. These different kinds of allusion are but so many different manners of similitude; and, that they may please the imagination, the likeness ought to be very exact or very agreeable, as we love to see a picture where the resemblance is just, or the posture and air graceful. But we often find eminent writers very faulty in this respect: great scholars are apt to fetch their comparisons and allusions from the sciences in which they are most conversant, so that a man may see the compass of their learning in a treatise on the most indifferent subject. I have read a discourse upon love, which none but a profound chemist could understand, and have heard many a sermon that should only have been preached before a congregation of Cartesians. On the contrary, your men of business usually have recourse to such instances as are too mean and familiar. They are for drawing the reader into a game of chess or

tennis, or for leading him from shop to shop, in the cant of particular trades and employments. It is certain, there may be found an infinite variety of very agreeable allusions in both these kinds; but, for the generality, the most entertaining ones are the work of nature, which are obvious to all capacities, and more delightful than what is to be found in arts and sciences.

It is this talent of affecting the imagination, that gives an embellishment to good sense, and makes one man's compositions more agreeable than another's. It sets off all writings in general, but the very life and highest perfection of poetry, where it shines in an eminent degree, it has preserved several poems for many ages, that have nothing else to recommend them; and where all the other beauties are present, the work appears dry and insipid, if this single one be wanting. It bestows a kind of existence, and draws up to the reader's view several objects which are not to be found in being. It makes additions to nature, and gives greater variety to God's works. In a word, it is able to beautify and adorn the most illustrious scenes of the universe, or to fill the mind with more glorious shows and apparitions, than can be found in any part of it.

We have now discovered the several originals of those pleasures that gratify the fancy; and here, perhaps, it would not be very difficult to cast under their proper heads those contrary objects, which are apt to fill it with distaste and terror; for the imagination is as liable to pain as pleasure. Was the brain hurt by any accident, or the mind disordered by dreams or sickness, the fancy is overrun with wild dismal ideas, and terrified with a thousand hideous monsters of its own framing.

*'Eumenidum orbiati demens videt agmina Pentheus,
Et solem geminum, et duplices se ostendere Thebas;
Aut Jigameum scenis agitatae Orestes,
Armatum facibus matrem, et serpentibus atras
Cum jugit, ultricesque sedent in limine dira.'*
VIRG. Æn. iv. ver. 47

'Like Pentheus, when distracted with his fear,
He saw two suns, and double Thebes appear;
Or mad Orestes, when his mother's ghost
Full in his face infernal torches tost,
And shook her snaky locks: he shuns the sight,
Flies o'er the stage, surpris'd with mortal fright;
The furies guard the door, and intercept his flight.'
DRYDEN.

There is not a sight in nature so mortifying as that of a distracted person, whose imagination is troubled, and his whole soul disordered and confused. Babylon in ruins is not so melancholy a spectacle. But to quit so disagreeable a subject, I shall only consider by way of conclusion, what an infinite advantage this faculty gives an Almighty Being over the soul of man, and how great a measure of happiness or misery we are capable of receiving from the imagination only.

We have already seen the influence that one man has over the fancy of another, and with what ease he conveys into it a variety of imagery: how great a power then may we suppose lodged in him, who knows all the ways of affecting the imagination, who can infuse what ideas he pleases, and fill those ideas with terror and delight to what degree he thinks fit! He can excite images in the mind without the help of words, and make scenes rise up before us, and seem present to the eye, without the assistance of bodies or exterior objects. He can transpoit the imagination with such bright and glorious visions, as cannot possibly enter into the

present conceptions, or haunt it with such ghastly spectres and apparitions, as would make us hope for annihilation, and think existence no better than a curse. In short, he can so exquisitely ravish or torture the soul through this single faculty, as might suffice to make the whole heaven or hell of any finite being.

ADDITION.

O.

N° 422. FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1712.

Hec scripsi non otii abundantia, sed amoris erga te.
TULL. Epist.

I have written this, not out of abundance of leisure, but of my affection towards you.

I do not know any thing which gives greater disturbance to conversation, than the false notion some people have of raillery. It ought, certainly, to be the first point to be aimed at in society, to gain the good-will of those with whom you converse: the way to that is, to show you are well inclined towards them: what then can be more absurd than to set up for being extremely sharp and biting, as the term is, in your expressions to your familiars? A man who has no good quality but courage, is in a very ill way towards making an agreeable figure in the world, because that which he has superior to other people cannot be exerted, without raising himself an enemy. Your gentleman of a satirical vein is in the like condition. To say a thing which perplexes the heart of him you speak to, or brings blushes into his face, is a degree of murder; and it is, I think, an unpardonable offence to show a man you do not care whether he is pleased or displeased. But won't you then take a jest?—Yes: but pray let it be a jest. It is no jest to put me, who am so unhappy as to have an utter aversion to speaking to more than one man at a time, under a necessity to explain myself in much company, and reducing me to shame and derision, except I perform what my infirmity of silence disables me to do.

Callisthenes has great wit, accompanied with that quality, without which a man can have no wit at all, a sound judgment. This gentleman rallies the best of any man I know, for he forms his ridicule upon a circumstance which you are in your heart not unwilling to grant him; to wit, that you are guilty of an excess in something which is in itself laudable. He very well understands what you would be, and needs not fear your anger for declaring you are a little too much that thing. The generous will bear being reproached as lavish, and the valiant as rash, without being provoked to resentment against their monitor. What has been said to be a mark of a good writer will fall in with the character of a good companion. The good writer makes his reader better pleased with himself, and the agreeable man makes his friends enjoy themselves, rather than him, while he is in their company. Callisthenes does this with inimitable pleasantry. He whispered a friend the other day, so as to be overheard by a young officer, who gave symptoms of cocking upon the company, 'That gentleman has very much of the air of a general officer.' The youth immediately put on a composed behaviour, and behaved himself suitably to the conceptions he believed the company had of him. It is to be allowed that Callisthenes will make a man run into impertinent re-

lations, to his own advantage, and express the satisfaction he has in his own dear self till he is very ridiculous; but in this case the man is made a fool by his own consent, and not exposed as such whether he will or no. I take it therefore, that, to make raillery agreeable, a man must either not know he is rallied, or think never the worse of himself if he sees he is.

Acetus is of a quite contrary genius, and is more generally admired than Callisthenes, but not with justice. Acetus has no regard to the modesty or weakness of the person he rallies; but if the quality or humility gives him any superiority to the man he would fall upon, he has no mercy on making the onset. He can be pleased to see his best friend out of countenance, while the laugh is loud in his own applause. His raillery always puts the company into little divisions and separate interests, while that of Callisthenes cements it, and makes every man not only better pleased with himself, but also with all the rest in the conversation.

To rally well, it is absolutely necessary that kindness must run through all you say; and you must ever preserve the character of a friend to support your pretensions to be free with a man. Acetus ought to be banished human society, because he raises his mirth upon giving pain to the person upon whom he is pleasant. Nothing but the malevolence which is too general towards those who excel, could make his company tolerated; but they with whom he converses are sure to see some man sacrificed wherever he is admitted; and all the credit he has for wit, is owing to the gratification it gives to other men's ill-nature.

Minutius has a wit that conciliates a man's love, at the same time that it is exerted against his faults. He has an art in keeping the person he rallies in countenance, by insinuating that he himself is guilty of the same imperfection. This he does with so much address, that he seems rather to bewail himself, than fall upon his friend.

It is really monstrous to see how unaccountably it prevails among men, to take the liberty of displeasing each other. One would think sometimes that the contention is, who shall be most disagreeable. Allusions to past follies, hints which revive what a man has a mind to forget for ever, and deserves that all the rest of the world should, are commonly brought forth even in company of men of distinction. They do not thrust with the skill of fencers, but cut up with the barbarity of butchers. It is, methinks, below the character of men of humanity and good manners, to be capable of mirth while there is any one of the company in pain and disorder. They who have the true taste of conversation, enjoy themselves in a communication of each other's excellences, and not in a triumph over their imperfections. Fortius would have been reckoned a wit, if there had never been a fool in the world: he wants not foils to be a beauty, but has that natural pleasure in observing perfection in others, that his own faults are overlooked out of gratitude by all his acquaintance.

After these several characters of men who succeed or fail in raillery, it may not be amiss to reflect a little further what one takes to be the most agreeable kind of it; and that to me appears when the satire is directed against vice, with an air of contempt of the fault, but no ill-will to the criminal. Mr. Congreve's Doris is a masterpiece in this kind. It is the character of a woman utterly abandoned; but her impudence, by the finest piece of raillery, is made only generosity:

' Peculiar therefore is her way,
Whether by nature taught,
I shall not undertake to say,
Or by experience bought.

' For who o'ernight obtain'd her grace,
She can next day disown,
And stare upon the strange man's face,
As one she ne'er had known.

' So well she can the truth disguise,
Such artful wonder frame,
The lover or distrusts his eyes,
Or thinks 'twas all a dream.

' Some censure this as low or low,
Who are to bounty blind;
But to forget what we bestow
Bespeaks a noble mind.'

STEELE.

T.

Nº 423. SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1712.

Nuper idoneus.

HOR. Od. xxvi. l. 3. ver. 1.

Once fit myself.

I LOOK upon myself as a kind of guardian to the fair, and am always watchful to observe any thing which concerns their interest. The present paper shall be employed in the service of a very fine young woman; and the admonitions I give her may not be unuseful to the rest of her sex. Gloriana shall be the name of the heroine in to-day's entertainment; and when I have told you that she is rich, witty, young, and beautiful, you will believe she does not want admirers. She has had, since she came to town, about twenty-five of those lovers who make their addresses by way of jointure and settlement: these come and go with great indifference on both sides; and as beauteous as she is, a line in a deed has had exception enough against it, to outweigh the lustre of her eyes, the readiness of her understanding, and the merit of her general character. But among the crowd of such cool adorers, she has two who are very assiduous in their attendance. There is something so extraordinary and artful in their manner of application, that I think it but common justice to alarm her in it. I have done it in the following letter:

' MADAM,

' I HAVE for some time taken notice of two gentlemen who attend you in all public places, both of whom have also easy access to you at your own house. The matter is adjusted between them; and Damon, who so passionately addresses you, has no design upon you; but Strephon, who seems to be indifferent to you, is the man who is, as they have settled it, to have you. The plot was laid over a bottle of wine; and Strephon, when he first thought of you, proposed to Damon to be his rival. The manner of his breaking of it to him, I was so placed at a tavern, that I could not avoid hearing. "Damon," said he, with a deep sigh, "I have long languished for that miracle of beauty, Gloriana; and if you will be very steadfastly my rival, I shall certainly obtain her. Do not," continued he, "be offended at this overture; for I go upon the knowledge of the temper of the woman, rather than any vanity that I should profit by an opposition of your pretensions to those of your humble servant. Gloriana has very good sense, a quick relish of the satisfactions of life, and will not give herself, as the crowd of women do, to the arms of a man to whom she is indifferent. As she is a sensible woman, expressions of rapture and adoration

will not move her neither: but he that has her, must be the object of her desire, not her pity. The way to this end, I take to be, that a man's general conduct should be agreeable, without addressing in particular to the woman he loves. Now, sir, if you will be so kind as to sigh and die for Gloriana, I will carry it with great respect towards her, but seem void of any thoughts as a lover. By this means I shall be in the most amiable light of which I am capable; I shall be received with freedom, you with reserve." Damon, who has himself designs of marriage at all, easily fell into the scheme; and you may observe, that wherever you are, Damon appears also. You see he carries an unaffected exactness in his dress and manner, and strives always to be the very contrary of Strephon. They have already succeeded so far, that your eyes are ever in search of Strephon, and turn themselves of course from Damon. They meet and compare notes upon your carriage; and the letter which was brought to you the other day, was a contrivance to remark your resentment. When you saw the billet subscribed Damon, and turned away with a scornful air, and cried, "impertinence!" you gave hopes to him that shuns you without mortifying him that languishes for you.

' What I am concerned for, madam, is, that the disposal of your heart, you should know what you are doing, and examine it before it is lost. Strephon contradicts you in discourse with the civility of one who has a value for you, but gives nothing like one that loves you. This seeming unconcern gives his behaviour the advantage of sincerity, and insensibly obtains your good opinion, by appearing disinterested in the pursuit of it. If you watch these correspondents hereafter, you will find that Strephon makes his visit of civility immediately after Damon has tired you with one of love. Though you are very discreet, you will find it no easy matter to escape the trap so well laid, as when one studies to be disagreeable in passion, the other to be pleasing without it. All the turns of your temper are carefully watched, and their quick and faithful intelligence gives your lovers irresistible advantage. You please, madam, to be upon your guard, and take all the necessary precautions against one who is amiable to you before you know he is enamoured.

' I AM, MADAM,

' Your most obedient servant.'

Strephon makes great progress in this lady's good graces; for most women being actuated by some little spirit of pride and contradiction, he has the good effects of both those motives by this contrivance of courtship. He received a message yesterday from Damon, in the following words, subscribed, 'With speed.'

' ALL goes well; she is very angry at me, and I dare say hates me in earnest. It is a good time to visit.

' Yours.'

The comparison of Strephon's gaiety to Damon's languishment, strikes her imagination with a prospect of very agreeable hours with such a man; the former, and abhorrence of the insipid pretence with one like the latter. To know when a man is displeased with another, is to know the best way of advancing yourself. This method of persons playing into each other's hand is so dangerous, that I cannot tell how a woman could be so weak as to withstand such a siege. The condition of

I am afraid, is irretrievable; for Strephon has had so many opportunities of pleasing without suspicion, that all which is left for her to do is to bring him, now she is advised, to an explanation of his passion, and beginning again, if she can conquer the kind sentiments she has already conceived for him. When one shows himself a creature to be avoided, the other proper to be fled to for succour, they have the whole woman between them, and can occasionally rebound her love and hatred from one to the other, in such a manner, as to keep her at a distance from all the rest of the world, and cast lots for the conquest.

N. B. I have many other secrets which concern the empire of love; but I consider that, while I alarm my women, I instruct my men.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 424. MONDAY, JULY 7, 1712.

Est ulubris, animus si te non deficit equus.

HOR. Ep. xi. l. i. ver. 30.

'Tis not the place disgust or pleasure brings:
From our own mind our satisfaction springs.

MR. SPECTATOR,

'London, June 24.

A MAN who has it in his power to choose his own company, would certainly be much to blame should be not, to the best of his judgment, take such as are of a temper most suitable to his own; and where that choice is wanting, or where a man is mistaken in his choice, and yet under a necessity of continuing in the same company, it will certainly be his interest to carry himself as easily as possible.

In this I am sensible I do but repeat what has been said a thousand times, at which however I think nobody has any title to take exception, but they who never failed to put this in practice. Not to use any longer preface, this being the season of the year in which great numbers of all sorts of people retire from this place of business and pleasure to country solitude, I think it not improper to advise them to take with them as great a stock of good-humour as they can; for though a country life is described as the most pleasant of all others, and though it may in truth be so, yet it is so only to those who know how to enjoy leisure and retirement.

As for those who can't live without the constant helps of business or company, let them consider that in the country there is no Exchange, there are no playhouses, no variety of coffee-houses, nor many of those other amusement, which serve here as so many reliefs from the repeated occurrences in their own families; but that there the greatest part of their time must be spent within themselves, and consequently it behoves them to consider how agreeable it will be to them before they leave this dear town.

I remember, Mr. Spectator, we were very well entertained, last year, with the advices you gave us from Sir Roger's country seat*; which I the rather mention, because it is almost impossible not to live pleasantly, where the master of the family is such a one as you there describe your friend, who cannot therefore (I mean as to his domestic character) be too often recommended to the imitation of others. How amiable is that affability and benevolence with which he treats his neighbours,

and every one, even the meanest of his own family! and yet how seldom imitated! Instead of which we commonly meet with ill-natured expostulations, noise, and chidings—And this I hinted, because the humour and disposition of the head is what chiefly influences all the other parts of a family.

An agreement and kind correspondence between friends and acquaintance is the greatest pleasure of life. This is an undoubted truth; and yet any man who judges from the practice of the world will be almost persuaded to believe the contrary; for how can we suppose people should be so industrious to make themselves uneasy? What can engage them to entertain and foment jealousies of one another upon every the least occasion! Yet so it is, there are people who (as it should seem) delight in being troublesome and vexatious, who (as Tully speaks) *mirâ sunt alacritate ad litigandum*, 'have a certain cheerfulness in wrangling.' And thus it happens, that there are very few families in which there are not fends and animosities, though it is every one's interest, there more particularly, to avoid them, because there (as I would willingly hope) no one gives another uneasiness, without feeling some share of it. But I am gone beyond what I designed, and had almost forgot what I chiefly proposed; which was, barely to tell you how hardly we, who pass most of our time in town, dispense with a long vacation in the country, how uneasy we grow to ourselves, and to one another, when our conversation is confined; insomuch that, by Michaelmas, it is odds but we come to downright squabbling, and make as free with one another to our faces, as we do with the rest of the world behind their backs. After I have told you this, I am to desire that you would now and then give us a lesson of good-humour, a family piece, which, since we are all very fond of you I hope may have some influence upon us.

After these plain observations, give me leave to give you an hint of what a set of company of my acquaintance, who are now gone into the country, and have the use of an absent nobleman's seat, have settled among themselves, to avoid the inconveniences above mentioned. They are a collection of ten or twelve, of the same good inclination towards each other, but of very different talents and inclinations; from hence they hope, that the variety of their tempers will only create variety of pleasures. But as there always will arise, among the same people, either for want of diversity of objects, or the like causes, a certain satiety, which may grow into ill-humour or discontent, there is a large wing of the house which they design to employ in the nature of an infirmary. Whoever says a peevish thing, or acts any thing which betrays a sourness or indisposition to company, is immediately to be conveyed to his chambers in the infirmary; from whence he is not to be relieved, till by his manner of submission, and the sentiments expressed in his petition for that purpose, he appears to the majority of the company to be again fit for society. You are to understand, that all ill-natured words or uneasy gestures are sufficient cause for banishment; speaking impatiently to servants, making a man repeat what he says, or any thing that betrays inattention or dishumour, are also criminal without reprieve. But it is provided, that whoever observes the ill-natured fit coming upon himself, and voluntarily retires, shall be received at his return from the infirmary with the highest marks of esteem. By these and other wholesome methods, it is expected that, if they

* See Nº 107.

cannot cure one another, yet at least they have taken care that the ill-humour of one shall not be troublesome to the rest of the company. There are many other rules which the society have established, for the preservation of their ease and tranquillity, the effects of which, with the incidents that arise among them, shall be communicated to you from time to time, for the public good, by,

SIR,
Your most humble servant,
R. O.
T.

STEELE.

Nº 425. TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1712.

*Frigora mitescunt Zephyris; ver proterit aestas
Ineritura, simul
Pomifer autumnus fruges effuderit; et mox
Bruma recurrit iners.*

HOR. Od. vii. l. 4. ver. 9.

The cold grows soft with western gales,
The summer over spring prevails,
But yields to autumn's fruitful rain,
As this to winter storms and hail;
Each loss the hasting moon repairs again.

SIR W. TEMPLE.

MR SPECTATOR,

THERE is hardly any thing gives me a more sensible delight, than the enjoyment of a cool still evening after the uneasiness of a hot sultry day. Such a one I passed not long ago, which made me rejoice, when the hour was come for the sun to set, that I might enjoy the freshness of the evening in my garden, which then affords me the pleasantest hours I pass in the whole four-and-twenty. I immediately rose from my couch, and went down into it. You descend at first by twelve stone steps into a large square divided into four grass-plots, in each of which is a statue of white marble. This is separated from a large parterre by a low wall; and from thence, through a pair of iron-gates, you are led into a long broad walk of the finest turf, set on each side with tall yews, and on either hand bordered by a canal, which on the right divides the walk from a wilderness parted into variety of alleys and arbours, and on the left form a kind of amphitheatre, which is the receptacle of a great number of oranges and myrtles. The moon shone bright, and seemed then most agreeably to supply the place of the sun, obliging me with as much light as was necessary to discover a thousand pleasing objects, and at the same time divested of all power of heat. The reflection of it in the water, the fanning of the wind rustling on the leaves, the singing of the thrush and nightingale, and the coolness of the walks, all conspired to make me lay aside all displeasing thoughts, and brought me into such a tranquillity of mind, as is, I believe, the next happiness to that of hereafter. In this sweet retirement I naturally fell into the repetition of some lines out of a poem of Milton's, which he entitles *Il Penseroso*, the ideas of which were exquisitely suited to my present wanderings of thought:

"Sweet bird! that shun'st the noise of folly,
Most musical! most melancholy!
Thee, chauntress, oft, the woods among,
I woo to hear thy evening song:
And missing thee I walk unseen
On the dry smooth-shaven green,
To behold the wand'ring moon,
Riding near her highest noon,
Like one that hath been led astray,
Through the heaven's wide pathless way,
And oft, as if her head she bow'd,
Snooping through a fleecy cloud.

"Then let some strange mysterious dream
Wave at his wings in airy stream
Of lively portraiture display'd,
Softly on my eyelids laid:
And as I wake, sweet music breathe
Above, about, or underneath,
Sent by some spirits to mortals' good,
Or the unseen genius of the wood."

I reflected then upon the sweet vicissitudes of night and day, on the charming disposition of the seasons, and their return again in a perpetual circle: and oh! said I, that I could from these a declining years return again to my first spring of youth and vigour; but that, alas! is impossible: all that remains within my power, is to soften the inconveniences I feel, with an easy contented mind, and the enjoyment of such delights as this solitude affords me. In this thought I sat me down on a bank of flowers, and dropped into a slumber, which, whether it were the effect of fumes and vapours, or my present thoughts, I know not; but methought the genius of the garden stood before me, and introduced into the walk where I lay the drama, and different scenes of the revolution of the year, which, whilst I then saw, even in my dream, I resolved to write down, and send to the Spectator.

The first person whom I saw advancing towards me, was a youth of a most beautiful air and shape, though he seemed not yet arrived at that exact proportion and symmetry of parts which a little more time would have given him; but, however, there was such a bloom in his countenance, such satisfaction and joy, that I thought it the most desirable form that I had ever seen. He was clothed in a flowing mantle of green silk, interwoven with flowers: he had a chaplet of roses on his head, and a narcissus in his hand; primroses and violets sprang up under his feet, and all nature was cheered at his approach. Flora was on one hand, and Vertumnus on the other, in a robe of changeable silk. After this I was surprised to see the moon-beams reflected with a sudden glare from armour, and to see a man completely armed, advancing with his sword drawn. I was soon informed by the genius it was Mars, who had long usurped a place among the attendants of the Spring. He made way for a softer appearance. It was Venus, without any ornament but her own beauty, not so much as her own cestus, with which she has encompassed a globe, which she held in her right hand, and in her left she had a sceptre of gold. After her followed the Graces, with their arms entwined within one another: their girdles were loosed, and they moved to the sound of soft music, striking the ground alternately with their feet. Then came up the three months which belong to this season. As March advanced towards me, there was methought in his look a lowering roughness, which ill befitted a month which was ranked in so soft a season; but as he came forwards, his features became insensibly more mild and gentle: he smoothed his brow, and looked with so sweet a countenance, that I could not but lament his departure, though he made way for April. He appeared in the greatest gaiety imaginable, and had a thousand pleasures to attend him: his look was frequently clouded, but immediately returned to its first composure, and remained fixed in a smile. Then came May, attended by Cupid, with his bow strung, and in a posture to let fly an arrow: as he passed by, methought I heard a confused noise of soft complaints, gentle ecstasies, and tender sighs of lovers; vows of constancy, and as many complainings of perfidiousness; all which the warm

wafted away as soon as they had reached my hearing. After these I saw a man advance in the full prime and vigour of his age: his complexion was sanguine and ruddy, his hair black, and fell down in beautiful ringlets beneath his shoulders: a mantle of hair-coloured silk hung loosely upon him: he advanced with a hasty step after the Spring, and sought out the shade and cool fountains which played in the garden. He was particularly well pleased when a troop of Zephyrs fanned him with their wings. He had two companions who walked on each side, that made him appear the most agreeable; the one was Aurora with fingers of roses, and her feet dewy, attired in grey; the other was Vesper, in a robe of azure beset with drops of gold, whose breath he caught whilst it passed over a handle of honeysuckles and tuberoses which he held in his hand. Pan and Ceres followed them with four reapers, who danced a morrice* to the sound of oaten pipes and cymbals. Then came the attendant months. June retained still some small likeness of the spring; but the other two seemed to step with a less vigorous tread, especially August, who seemed almost to faint, whilst, for half the steps he took, the dog-star levelled his rays full at his head. They passed on, and made way for a person that seemed to bend a little under the weight of years; his beard and hair, which were full grown, were composed of an equal number of black and grey; he wore a robe which he had girt round him, of a yellowish cast, not unlike the colour of fallen leaves, which he walked upon. I thought he hardly made amends for expelling the foregoing scene by the large quantity of fruits which he bore in his hands. Plenty walked by his side with an healthy fresh countenance, pouring out from an horn all the various products of the year. Pomona followed with a glass of cyder in her hand, with Bacchus in a chariot drawn by tigers, accompanied by a whole troop of satyrs, fauns, and sylvans. September, who came next, seemed in his looks to promise a new Spring, and wore the livery of those months. The succeeding month was all soiled with the juice of grapes, as if he had just come from the wine-press. November, though he was in this division, yet by the many stops he made seemed rather inclined to the Winter, which followed close at his heels. He advanced in the shape of an old man in the extremity of age: the hair he had was so very white, it seemed a real snow; his eyes were red and piercing, and his beard hung with a great quantity of icicles; he was wrapped up in furs, but yet so pinched with excess of cold, that his limbs were all contracted, and his body bent to the ground, so that he could not have supported himself had it not been for Comus, the god of revels, and Necessity, the mother of Fate, who sustained him on each side. The shape and mantle of Comus was one of the things that most surprised me; as he advanced towards me, his countenance seemed the most desirable I had ever seen. On the fore-part of his mantle was pictured joy, delight, and satisfaction, with a thousand emblems of merriment, and jests with faces looking two ways at once; but as he passed from me, I was amazed at a shape so little correspondent to his face: his head was bald, and all the rest of his limbs appeared old and deformed. On the hinder part of his mantle was represented Murder with dishevelled hair and a dagger all bloody, Anger in a

robe of scarlet, and Suspicion squinting with both eyes; but, above all, the most conspicuous was the battle of the Lapithæ and the Centaurs. I detested so hideous a shape, and turned my eyes upon Saturn, who was stealing away behind him, with a scythe in one hand and an hour-glass in the other, unobserved. Behind Necessity was Vesta, the goddess of fire, with a lamp which was perpetually supplied with oil, and whose flame was eternal. She cheered the rugged brow of Necessity, and warmed her so far as almost to make her assume the features and likeness of Choice. December, January, and February, passed on after the rest, all in furs; there was little distinction to be made amongst them; and they were more or less displeasing, as they discovered more or less haste towards the grateful return of Spring.

[Supposed to be by POPE.]

Z.

No 426. WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1712.

— *Quid non mortalia pectora cogis,
Auri sacra fames?* —

VIRG. Æn. lili. ver. 56.

O sacred hunger of pernicious gold!
What bands of faith can impious lucre hold!
DRYDEN.

A VERY agreeable friend of mine, the other day, carrying me in his coach into the country to dinner, fell into discourse concerning the 'care of parents due to their children,' and the 'piety of children towards their parents.' He was reflecting upon the succession of particular virtues and qualities there might be preserved from one generation to another, if these regards were reciprocally held in veneration: but as he never fails to mix an air of mirth and good-humour with his good sense and reasoning, he entered into the following relation:

'I WILL not be confident in what century, or under what reign it happened, that this want of mutual confidence and right understanding between father and son was fatal to the family of the Valentines in Germany. Basilus Valentinus* was a person who had arrived at the utmost perfection in the hermetic art, and initiated his son Alexandrinus in the same mysteries: but, as you know they are not to be attained but by the painful, the pious, the chaste, and pure of heart, Basilus did not open to him, because of his youth, and the deviations too natural to it, the greatest secrets of which he was master, as well knowing that the operation would fail in the hands of a man so liable to errors in life as Alexandrinus. But believing, from a certain indisposition of mind as well as body, his dissolution was drawing nigh, he called Alexandrinus to him, and as he lay on a couch, over against which his son was seated, and prepared by sending out his servants one after another, and admonition to examine that no one overheard them, he revealed the most important of his secrets with the solemnity and language of an adept. "My son," said he, "many have been the watchings, long the lucubrations, constant the labours, of thy father, not only to gain a great and plentiful estate to his posterity, but also to take care that he should have no posterity. Be not amazed, my child, I do not mean that thou shalt

* An account of the morrice-dance may be seen in Hawkins's History of Music, vol. ii.

* This story of Basilus Valentinus is taken from the Ambassador's Travels of Olearius, book v.

be taken from me, but that I will never leave thee, and consequently cannot be said to have posterity. Behold, my dearest Alexandrinus, the effect of what was propagated in nine months. We are not to contradict nature, but to follow and to help her; just as long as an infant is in the womb of its parent, so long are these medicines of revivification in preparing. Observe this small phial and this little gallipot; in this an unguent, in the other a liquor. In these, my child, are collected such powers, as shall revive the springs of life when they are yet but just ceased, and give new strength, new spirits, and, in a word, wholly restore all the organs and senses of the human body to as great a duration, as it had before enjoyed from its birth to the day of the application of these my medicines. But, my beloved son, care must be taken to apply them within ten hours after the breath is out of the body, while yet the clay is warm with its late life, and yet capable of resuscitation. I find my frame grown crazy with perpetual toil and meditation; and I conjure you, as soon as I am dead, to anoint me with this unguent; and when you see me begin to move, pour into my lips this inestimable liquor, else the force of the ointment will be ineffectual. By this means you will give me life as I have you, and we will from that hour mutually lay aside the authority of having bestowed life on each other, but live as brethren, and prepare new medicines against such another period of time as will demand another application of the same restoratives." In a few days after these wonderful ingredients were delivered to Alexandrinus, Basilus departed this life. But such was the pious sorrow of the son at the loss of so excellent a father, and the first transports of grief had so wholly disabled him from all manner of business, that he never thought of the medicines till the time to which his father had limited their efficacy was expired. To tell the truth, Alexandrinus was a man of wit and pleasure, and considered his father had lived out his natural time; his life was long and uniform, suitable to the regularity of it; but that he himself, poor sinner, wanted a new life, to repent of a very bad one hitherto, and in the examination of his heart, resolved to go on as he did with this natural being of his, but repent very faithfully, and spend very piously the life to which he should be restored by application of these rarities, when time should come, to his own person.

It has been observed, that Providence frequently punishes the self-love of men, who would do immoderately for their own offspring, with children very much below their characters and qualifications; inasmuch that they only transmit their names to be borne by those who give daily proofs of the vanity of the labour and ambition of their progenitors.

It happened thus in the family of Basilus; for Alexandrinus began to enjoy his ample fortune in all the extremities of household expense, furniture, and insolent equipage; and this he pursued till the day of his own departure began, as he grew sensible, to approach. As Basilus was punished with a son very unlike him, Alexandrinus was visited by one of his own disposition. It is natural that ill men should be suspicious; and Alexandrinus, besides that jealousy, had proofs of the vicious disposition of his son Renatus, for that was his name.

Alexandrinus, as I observed, having very good reason for thinking it unsafe to trust the real secret of his phial and gallipot to any man living, projected to make sure work, and hope for his success

depending from the avarice, not the bounty of a benefactor.

With this thought he called Renatus to his bedside, and bespoke him in the most pathetic graces and accent. "As much, my son, as you have been addicted to vanity and pleasure, as I also have been before you, you nor I could escape the favour or the good effects of the profound knowledge of our progenitor, the renowned Basilus. His was a very well known in the philosophic world; and I shall never forget the venerable air of his countenance, when he let me into the profound mysteries of the smaragdine table of Hermes. 'It is true,' said he, 'and far removed from all colour of deceit; that which is inferior is like that which is superior, by which are acquired and perfected the miracles of a certain work. The father is the sun, the mother the moon, the wind is the water, the earth is the nurse of it, and mother of all perfection. All this must be received with modesty and wisdom.'" The chemical people carry on their jargon, a whimsical sort of piety which is not ordinary with great lovers of money, and is no more but deceiving themselves, that their regularity and strictness of manners, for the ends of this world, has some affinity to the innocence of heart which must recommend them to the next. Renatus was ordered to hear his father talk so like an adept, as with such a mixture of piety; while Alexandrinus observing his attention fixed, proceeded. "This phial, child, and this little earthen pot, will add to thy estate so much as to make thee the richest man in the German empire. I am going to my home, but shall not return to common dust. I have resumed a countenance of alacrity, and I beseech thee, that if within an hour after his death thou anointest his whole body, and poured down his throat that liquor which he had from old Basilus, the corpse would be converted into pure gold. I will not pretend to express to you the unaffected tenderness that passed between these two extraordinary persons; but if the father recommended the care of his remains with vehemence and affection, the son was not behind hand in professing that he would not cut the least bit off him, but upon the utmost extremity, or to provide for his young brothers and sisters.

Well, Alexandrinus died, and the heir of his body (as our term is) could not forbear, with wantonness of his heart, to measure the length and breadth of his beloved father, and cast up the resulting value of him before he proceeded to operation. When he knew the immense reward of his pains, he began the work: but lo! when he had anointed the corpse all over, and began to apply the liquor, the body stirred, and Renatus, in a fright, broke the phial.

STEEL.

7.

Nº 427. THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1712.

Quantum a rerum turpitudine abes, tantum te a bonorum libertate sejungas.

TULL.

We should be as careful of our words, as our actions; as far from speaking, as from doing ill.

It is a certain sign of an ill heart to be inclined to defamation. They who are harmless and innocent can have no gratification that way; but it arises from a neglect of what is laudable in a man's self, and an impatience of seeing it in another. Else why should virtue provoke? Why should

uty displeasure in such a degree, that a man in to scandal never lets the mention of either by him, without offering something to the disputation of it? A lady the other day at a visit, attacked somewhat rudely by one whose own character has been very roughly treated, answered a great deal of heat and intemperance very calmly, 'Good madam, spare me, who am none of your ch; I speak ill of nobody, and it is a new thing to me to be spoken ill of.' Little minds think fame consists in the number of votes they get on their side among the multitude, whereas really the inseparable follower of good and virtuous actions. Fame is as natural a follower of it, as a shadow is of a body. It is true, when clouds press upon you, this shadow cannot be seen; but when they separate from around you, it again appears. The lazy, the idle, and the forward, are the persons who are most pleased with the little tales which pass about the town to the disadvantage of the rest of the world. Were it not for the pleasure of speaking ill, there are numbers of people who are too lazy to go out of their own houses, and too ill-natured to open their mouths in conversation. It was not a little diverting the other day to observe a lady reading a postscript, and at these words, 'After all her airs, he heard some story or other, and the match is set off,' give orders in the midst of her reading, 'Put to the horses.' That a young woman of it had missed an advantageous settlement, was not to be delayed, lest somebody else should have given her malicious acquaintance that satisfaction before her. The unwillingness to receive good tidings is a quality as inseparable from a scandal-bearer, as the readiness to divulge bad. 'Alas! how wretchedly low and contemptible is that state of mind, that cannot be pleased but with what is the subject of lamentation. This temper never been, in the highest degree, odious to gossips. The Persian soldier, who was heard telling Alexander the Great, was well admonished by his officer, 'Sir, you are paid to fight against Alexander, and not to raft at him.' Cicero, in one of his pleadings, defending himself from general scandal, says very handsomely, with much reason, 'There are many who have singular engagements to the prosecutor; there are many who are known to have ill-will to him whom I appear; there are many who are naturally addicted to defamation, and envious of any good to any man; who may have contributed to bad reports of this kind: for nothing is so swift as scandal, nothing is more easily sent abroad, not more received with more welcome, nothing diffuses itself so universally. I shall not desire, that if any hurt to our disadvantage has any ground for it, I would overlook or extenuate it: but if there is any thing advanced, without a person who can whence he had it, or which is attested by one who forgot who told him it, or who had it from him, of so little consideration that he did not then think it worth his notice, all such testimonies as these, I know, you will think too slight to have credit against the innocence and honour of my fellow-citizens.' When an ill report is traced, it very often vanishes among such as the orator has just recited. And how despicable a creature must be, who is in pain for what passes among so virtuous a people! There is a town in Warwickshire, of good note, and formerly pretty famous for much animosity and dissension, the chief families of which have now turned all their whispers, slanders, envies, and private malices, into

mirth and entertainment, by means of a peevish old gentlewoman, known by the title of the Lady Bluemantle. This heroine had, for many years together, outdone the whole sisterhood of gossips in invention, quick utterance, and unprovoked malice. This good body is of a lasting constitution, though extremely decayed in her eyes, and decrepit in her feet. The two circumstances of being always at home, for her lameness, and very attentive, from her blindness, make her lodgings the receptacle of all that passes in town, good or bad; but for the latter she seems to have the better memory. There is another thing to be noted of her, which is, that, as it is usual with old people, she has a livelier memory of things which passed when she was very young, than of late years. Add to all this, that she does not only not love any body, but she hates every body. The statue in Rome * does not serve to vent malice half so well, as this old lady does to disappoint it. She does not know the author of any thing that is told her, but can readily repeat the matter itself; therefore, though she exposes all the whole town, she offends no one body in it. She is so exquisitely restless and peevish, that she quarrels with all about her, and sometimes in a freak will instantly change her habitation. To indulge this humour, she is led about the grounds belonging to the same house she is in, and the persons to whom she is to remove, being in the plot, are ready to receive her at her own chamber again. At stated times, the gentlewoman at whose house she supposes she is at the time is sent for to quarrel with, according to her common custom. When they have a mind to drive the jest, she is immediately urged to that degree, that she will board in a family with which she has never yet been; and away she will go this instant, and tell them all that the rest have been saying of them. By this means she has been an inhabitant of every house in the place, without stirring from the same habitation; and the many stories which every body furnishes her with to favour that deceit, make her the general intelligencer of the town of all that can be said by one woman against another. Thus groundless stories die away, and sometimes truths are smothered under the general word, when they have a mind to discountenance a thing, 'Oh! that is in my Lady Bluemantle's Memoirs.'

Whoever receives impressions to the disadvantage of others, without examination, is to be had in no other credit for intelligence than this good Lady Bluemantle, who is subjected to have her ears imposed upon for want of other helps to better information. Add to this, that other scandal-bearers suspend the use of these faculties which she has lost, rather than apply them to do justice to their neighbours; and I think, for the service of my fair readers, to acquaint them, that there is a voluntary Lady Bluemantle at every visit in town.

STEELE.

T.

* A statue of Pasquin in that city, to which the people fixed their papers of satirical observation, and which were thence called Pasquinades.

N^o 428. FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1712.*Occupet extremum scabies*—

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 417.

The devil take the hindmost!

[English Proverb.]

It is an impertinent and unreasonable fault in conversation, for one man to take up all the discourse. It may possibly be objected to me myself, that I am guilty in this kind, in entertaining the town every day, and not giving so many able persons, who have it more in their power, and as much in their inclination, an opportunity to oblige mankind with their thoughts. 'Besides,' said one whom I over-heard the other day, 'why must this paper turn altogether upon topics of learning and morality! Why should it pretend only to wit, humour, or the like? Things which are useful only to amuse men of literature and superior education. I would have it consist also of all things which may be necessary or useful to any part of society; and the mechanic arts should have their place as well as the liberal. The ways of gain, husbandry, and thrift, will serve a greater number of people, than discourses upon what was well said or done by such a philosopher, hero, general, or poet.' I no sooner heard this critic talk of my works, but I minuted what he had said; and from that instant resolved to enlarge the plan of my speculations, by giving notice to all persons of all orders, and each sex, that if they are pleased to send me discourses, with their names and places of abode to them, so that I can be satisfied the writings are authentic, such their labours shall be faithfully inserted in this paper. It will be of much more consequence to a youth, in his apprenticeship, to know by what rules and arts such a one became sheriff of the city of London, than to see the sign of one of his own quality with a lion's heart in each hand. The world, indeed, is enchanted with romantic and improbable achievements, when the plain path to respective greatness and success, in the way of life a man is in, is wholly overlooked. Is it possible that a young man at present could pass his time better, than in reading the history of stocks, and knowing by what secret springs they have had such sudden ascents and falls in the same day? Could he be better conducted in his way to wealth, which is the great article of life, than in a treatise dated from 'Change-alley by an able proficient there? Nothing certainly could be more useful, than to be well instructed in his hopes and fears; to be diffident when others exult, and with a secret joy buy when others think it their interest to sell. I invite all persons who have any thing to say for the profitable information of the public, to take their turns in my paper: they are welcome, from the late noble inventor of the longitude, to the humble author of strops for razors. If to carry ships in safety, to give help to people tossed in a troubled sea, without knowing to what shores they bear, what rocks to avoid, or what coast to pray for in their extremity, be a worthy labour, and an invention that deserves a statue; at the same time, he who has found a means to let the instrument which is to make your visage less horrible, and your person more smug, easy in the operation, is worthy of some kind of good reception. If things of high moment meet with renown, those of little consideration, since of any consideration, are not to be despised. In order that no merit may lie

hid, and no art unimproved, I repeat it, that I call artificers, as well as philosophers, to my assistance in the public service. It would be of great use, if we had an exact history of the successes of every great shop within the city—what tracts of land have been purchased by constant attendance within a walk of thirty miles. If it could also be noted in the equipage of those who are ascended from the successful trade of their ancestors into figure and equipage, such accounts would quicken industry in the pursuit of such acquisitions, and discountenance luxury in the enjoyment of them.

To diversify these kinds of informations, the industry of the female world is not to be unobserved. She to whose household virtues it is owing that men do honour to her husband, should be recorded with veneration; she who has wasted his labours with infamy. When we are come into domestic life in this manner, to awaken caution and attendance to the main point, it would not be amiss to give now and then a touch of tragedy, and describe that most dreadful of all human conditions the case of bankruptcy, how plenty, credit, cheerfulness, full hopes, and easy possessions, are in an instant turned into penury, faint aspects, diffidence, sorrow, and misery; how the man, who with an open hand the day before could administer to the extremities of others, is shunned to-day by the friend of his bosom. It would be useful to show how just this is on the negligent, how lamentable on the industrious. A paper written by a merchant, might give this island a true sense of the worth and importance of his character: it might be visible from what he could say, that no soldier entering a breach adventures more for honour, than the trader does for wealth, to his country. In such cases, the adventurers have their own advantage, but I know no cases wherein every body else is a sharer in the success.

It is objected by readers of history, that the battles in those narrations are scarce ever to be understood. This misfortune is to be ascribed to the ignorance of historians in the methods of drawing up, changing the forms of a battalia, and the enemy retreating from, as well as approaching to the charge. But in the discourses from the correspondents whom I now invite, the danger will be of another kind; and it is necessary to caution them only against using terms of art, and describing things that are familiar to them in an unknown to their reader. I promise myself a great harvest of new circumstances, persons, and things, from this proposal; and a world, who many think they are well acquainted with, discovered as wholly new. This sort of intelligence will give a lively image of the chain and mutual dependance of human society, take off imperious prejudices, enlarge the minds of those whose views are confined to their own circumstances; and in short, if the knowing in several arts, professions, and trades, will exert themselves, it cannot but produce a new field of diversion and instruction more agreeable than has yet appeared.

STEEL.

J.

Nº 429. SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1712.

Populumque falsis dedocet uti
Vocibus

HOR. Od. ii. l. 2. ver. 19.

From cheats of words the crowd she brings
To real estimate of things.

CREECH.

MR. SPECTATOR,

WHEN I gave an account of an agreeable set of company which were gone down into the country, have received advices from thence, that the institution of an infirmary for those who should be t of humour* has had very good effects. My ters mention particular circumstances of two or ee persons, who had the good sense to retire of ir own accord, and notified that they were thdrawn, with the reasons of it, to the company, their respective memorials.

The Memorial of Mrs. Mary Dainty, Spinster,

"Humbly sheweth,

THAT, conscious of her own want of merit, accompanied with a vanity of being admired, she d gone into exile of her own accord.

"She is sensible, that a vain person is the most sferable creature living in a well-bred as- ably.

"That she desired, before she appeared in pub- again, she might have assurances, that though : might be thought handsome, there might not re address of compliment be paid to her, than the rest of the company.

"That she conceived it a kind of superiority, it one person should take upon him to commend other.

"Lastly, That she went into the infirmary, to oid a particular person, who took upon him to ofess an admiration of her.

"She therefore prayed, that to applaud out of e place, might be declared an offence, and pu- ed in the same manner with detraction, in that latter did but report persons defective, and the mer made them so.

"All which is submitted, &c."

There appeared a delicacy and sincerity in this morial very uncommon; but my friend informs , that the allegations of it were groundless, in- uch that this declaration of an aversion to be- praised was understood to be no other than a ret trap to purchase it, for which reason it lies l on the table unanswered.

The humble Memorial of the Lady Lydia Loller,

"Sheweth,

THAT the Lady Lydia is a woman of quality ; rried to a private gentleman.

"That she finds herself neither well, nor ill.

"That her husband is a clown.

"That Lady Lydia cannot see company.

"That she desires the infirmary may be her arment during her stay in the country.

"That they would please to make merry with ir equals.

"That Mr. Loller might stay with them if he thought fit."

"It was immediately resolved, that Lady Lydia was still at London."

The humble Memorial of Thomas Sudden, Esq. of the Inner Temple,

"Sheweth,

THAT Mr. Sudden is conscious that he is too much given to argumentation.

"That he talks loud.

"That he is apt to think all things matter of debate.

"That he stayed behind in Westminster-hall, when the late shake of the roof happened, only because a counsel of the other side asserted it was coming down.

"That he cannot for his life consent to any thing.

"That he stays in the infirmary to forget him- self.

"That as soon as he has forgot himself, he will wait on the company."

"His indisposition was allowed to be sufficient to require a cexation from company."

The Memorial of Frank Jolly,

"Sheweth,

THAT he hath put himself into the infirmary, in regard he is sensible of a certain rustic mirth which renders him unfit for polite conversation.

"That he intends to prepare himself, by absti- nence and thin diet, to be one of the company.

"That at present he comes into a room as if he were an express from abroad.

"That he has chosen an apartment with a matted anti-chamber, to practise motion without being heard.

"That he bows, talks, drinks, eats, and helps himself before a glass, to learn to act with moderation.

"That by reason of his luxuriant health, he is oppressive to persons of composed behaviour.

"That he is endeavouring to forget the word 'pshaw, pshaw.'

"That he is also weaning himself from his cane.

"That when he has learnt to live without his said cane, he will wait on the company, &c."

The Memorial of John Rhubarb, Esq.

"Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner has retired to the infir- mary, but that he is in perfect good health, ex- cept that he has, by long use, and for want of discourse, contracted an habit of complaint that he is sick.

"That he wants for nothing under the sun, but what to say, and therefore has fallen into this un- happy malady of complaining that he is sick.

"That this custom of his makes him, by his own confession, fit only for the infirmary, and therefore he has not waited for being sentenced to it.

"That he is conscious there is nothing more im- proper than such a complaint in good company, in that they must pity, whether they think the la- menter ill or not; and that the complainant must make a silly figure, whether he is pitied or not.

"Your petitioner humbly prays, that he may have time to know how he does, and he will make his appearance."

"The valetudinarian was likewise easily excused: and the society, being resolved not only to make it their business to pass their time agreeably for the present season, but also to commence such habits in themselves as may be of use in their future conduct in general, are very ready to give into a fancied or real incapacity to join with their measures, in order to have no humourist, proud man, impertinent, or sufficient fellow, break in upon their happiness. Great evils seldom happen to disturb company; but indulgence in particularities of humour, is the seed of making half our time hang in suspense, or waste away under real discomposures.

"Among other things it is carefully provided, that there may not be disagreeable familiarities. No one is to appear in the public rooms undressed, or enter abruptly into each other's apartment without intimation. Every one has hitherto been so careful in his behaviour, that there has but one offender, in ten days time, been sent into the infirmary, and that was for throwing away his cards at whist.

"He has offered his submission in the following terms:

"The humble Petition of Jeoffry Hotspur, Esq."

"Showeth,

"Though the petitioner swore, stamped, and threw down his cards, he has all imaginable respect for the ladies, and the whole company.

"That he humbly desires it may be considered, in the case of gaming, there are many motives which provoke the disorder.

"That the desire of gain, and the desire of victory, are both thwarted in losing.

"That all conversations in the world have indulged human infirmity in this case.

"Your petitioner therefore most humbly prays, that he may be restored to the company; and he hopes to bear ill fortune with a good grace for the future, and to demean himself so as to be no more cheerful when he wins, than grave when he loses."

STEELE.

T.

Nº 490. MONDAY, JULY 14, 1712.

Quere peregrinum vicinia rauca reclamation.

HOR. Ep. xvii. l. i. ver. 62.

— The crowd replies,
Go seek a stranger to believe thy lies.
CREECH.

"SIR,

"As you are a Spectator-general, you may with authority censure whatsoever looks ill, and is offensive to the sight; the worst nuisance of which kind, methinks, is the scandalous appearance of poor in all parts of this wealthy city. Such miserable objects affect the compassionate beholder with dismal ideas, discompose the cheerfulness of his mind, and deprive him of the pleasure that he might otherwise take in surveying the grandeur of our metropolis. Who can without remorse see a disabled sailor, the purveyor of our luxury, destitute of necessaries? Who can behold an honest

soldier, that bravely withstood the enemy, prostrate and in want among his friends? It were endless to mention all the variety of wretchedness, and the numberless poor that not only singly, but in companies, implore your charity. Spectacles of this nature every where occur; and it is unaccountable that, amongst the many lamentable cries that are heard in this town, your comptroller-general* should not take notice of the most shocking, viz. those of the needy and afflicted. I can't but think he waxes merely out of good breeding, choosing rather to stifle his resentment, than upbraid his countrymen with inhumanity; however, let not charity be sacrificed to popularity; and if his ears were deaf to their complaint, let not your eyes overlook these persons. There are, I know, many impostors among them. Lameness and blindness are certainly very often acted; but can those that use their sight and limbs employ them better than unknown whether they are counterfeited or not? I know not which of the two misapplies his senses most, he who pretends himself blind to receive compassion, or he who beholds a miserable object without pitying it. But in order to remove such impediments, I wish, Mr. Spectator, you would give us a discourse upon beggars, that we may not pass by true objects of charity, or give to impostors. I looked out of my window the other morning earlier than ordinary, and saw a blind beggar an hour before the passage he stands in is frequented, with a needle and thread, thrifily mending his stockings. My astonishment was still greater, when I beheld a lame fellow, whose legs were too big to walk within an hour after, bring him a pint of ale. I will not mention the shakings, distortions, and convulsions, which many of them practice to gain an alms: but sure I am they ought to be taken care of in this condition, either by the bawle or the magistrate. They, it seems, relieve the poor, according to their talents. There is the voice of an old woman never begins to beg till nine of the evening; and then she is destitute of lodging, turned out for want of rent, and has the same misfortune every night in the year. You should employ an officer to hear the distress of each beggar, that is constant at a particular place, who is ever in the same tone, and succeeds because his assistance is continually changing, though he does not alter his lamentation. If we have nothing else of our money, let us have more invention to be chequered with. All which is submitted to your spectator's vigilance: and

"I am, SIR,

"Your most humble servant."

"SIR,

"I WAS last Sunday highly transported at our parish-church; the gentleman in the pulpit pleading movingly in behalf of the poor children, and for themselves much more forcibly by singing a hymn: and I had the happiness to be a contributor to this little religious institution of innocents. I am sure I never disposed of money more to my satisfaction and advantage. The inward joy I find in myself, and the good-will I bear to mankind, make me heartily wish those pious works may be encouraged, that the present generation may reap the delight, and posterity the benefit of them. But whilst we are building the new edifice, let not the old ruins remain in view to sully the prospect. Whilst we are cultivating and

* See Nº 251.

proving this young hopeful offspring, let not the client and helpless creatures be shamefully neglected. The crowds of poor, or pretended poor, every place, are a great reproach to us, and lisp the glory of all other charity. It is the most reproach to society, that there should be a man unrelieved, or a poor rogue unpunished. I hope you will think no part of human life out of our consideration, but will, at your leisure, give the history of plenty and want, and the natural relations towards them, calculated for the cities of London and Westminster.

'I am, SIR,

'Your most humble servant,

'T. D.'

MR. SPECTATOR,

I BEG you would be pleased to take notice of a very great indecency, which is extremely common, though, I think, never yet under your censure. It is, sir, the strange freedoms some ill-bred married people take in company; the unseasonable fondness of some husbands, and the ill-timed tenderness some wives. They talk and act as if modesty is only fit for maids and bachelors, and that too for both. I was once, Mr. Spectator, where I fault I speak of was so very flagrant, that I, you must know, a very bashful fellow, and several young ladies in the room) I protest I was quite out of countenance. Lucina, it seems, was reading; and she did nothing but entertain the company with a discourse upon the difficulty of coming to a day, and said she knew those who were certain to an hour; then fell a laughing at this silly inexperienced creature, who was a month over her time. Upon her husband's coming in, I put several questions to him; which he not being able to resolve, "Well," cries Lucina, "I shall let 'em all at night."—But lest I should seem guilty of the very fault I write against, I shall intreat Mr. Spectator to correct such misdeanours.

"For higher of the genial bed by far,
And with mysterious reverence, I deem."

'I am, SIR,

'Your humble servant,

'T. MEANWELL.'

TEELE.

T.

Nº 431. TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1712.

*Quid dulcius hominum generi a natura datum est,
quam sui cuique liberi?*

TULL.

What is there in nature so dear to a man as his own children?

I HAVE lately been casting in my thoughts the several unhappinesses of life, and comparing the vicissitudes of old-age to those of infancy. The amities of children are due to the negligence and misconduct of parents; those of age, to the st life which led to it. I have here the history of a boy and girl to their wedding-day, and think I must give the reader a livelier image of the invidious way in which time uncultivated passes, than entertaining him with their authentic epistles, pressing all that was remarkable in their lives, the period of their life above mentioned. The sentence at the head of this paper, which is only a calm interrogation, 'What is there in nature so

dear as a man's own children to him?' is all the reflection I shall at present make on those who are negligent or cruel in the education of them.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM now entering into my one-and-twentieth year, and do not know that I had one day's thorough satisfaction since I came to years of any reflection, till the time they say others lose their liberty, the day of my marriage. I am son to a gentleman of a very great estate, who resolved to keep me out of the vices of the age; and, in order to it, never let me see any thing that he thought could give me the least pleasure. At ten years old I was put to a grammar-school, where my master received orders every post to use me very severely, and have no regard to my having a great estate. At fifteen I was removed to the university, where I lived, out of my father's great discretion, in scandalous poverty and want, till I was big enough to be married, and I was sent for to see the lady who sends you the underwritten. When we were put together, we both considered that we could not be worse than we were in taking one another, and, out of a desire of liberty, entered into wedlock. My father says I am now a man, and may speak to him like another gentleman.

'I am, SIR,

Your most humble servant,

'RICHARD KENTFREE.'

'MR. SPEC,

'I GREW tall and wild at my mother's, who is a gay widow, and did not care for showing me, till about two years and a half ago; at which time my guardian uncle sent me to a boarding-school, with orders to contradict me in nothing, for I had been misused enough already. I had not been there above a month, when, being in the kitchen, I saw some oatmeal on the dresser; I put two or three corns in my mouth, liked it, stole a handful, went into my chamber, chewed it, and for two months after never failed taking toll of every pennyworth of oatmeal that came into the house: but one day playing with a tobacco-pipe between my teeth, it happened to break in my mouth, and the spitting out the pieces left such a delicious roughness on my tongue, that I could not be satisfied till I had champed up the remaining part of the pipe. I forsook the oatmeal, and stuck to the pipes three months, in which time I had dispensed with thirty-seven foul pipes; all to the bowls; they belonged to an old gentleman, father to my governess.—He locked up the clean ones. I left off eating of pipes, and fell to licking of chalk. I was soon tired of this. I then nibbled all the red wax of our last ball-tickets, and three weeks after, the black wax from the burying-tickets of the old gentleman. Two months after this I lived upon thunder-bolts, a certain long round bluish stone which I found among the gravel in our garden. I was wonderfully delighted with this; but thunder-bolts growing scarce, I fastened tooth and nail upon our garden-wall, which I stuck to almost a twelvemonth, and had in that time peeled and devoured half a foot towards our neighbour's yard. I now thought myself the happiest creature in the world; and I believe, in my conscience, I had eaten quite through, had I had it in my chamber; but now I became lazy and unwilling to stir, and was obliged to seek food nearer home. I then took a strange hankering to coals; I fell to scranching 'em, and had already consumed, I am certain, as much as would have dressed my wedding-dinner,

when my uncle came for me home. He was in the parlour with my governess when I was called down. I went in, fell on my knees, for he made me call him father; and when I expected the blessing I asked, the good gentleman, in a surprise, turns himself to my governess, and asks, whether this (pointing to me) was his daughter? "This," added he, "is the very picture of death. My child was a plump-faced, hale, fresh-coloured girl; but this looks as if she was half-starved, a mere skeleton." My governess, who is really a good woman, assured my father I had wanted for nothing; and withal told him I was continually eating some trash or other, and that I was almost eaten up with the green-sickness, her orders being never to cross me. But this magnified but little with my father, who presently, in a kind of pet, paying for my board, took me home with him. I had not been long at home, but one Sunday at church (I shall never forget it), I saw a young neighbouring gentleman that pleased me hugely; I liked him of all men I ever saw in my life, and began to wish I could be as pleasing to him. The very next day he came, with his father, a visiting to our house: we were left alone together, with directions on both sides to be in love with one another, and in three weeks time we were married. I regained my former health and complexion, and am now as happy as the day is long. Now, Mr. Spec, I desire you would find out some name for these craving damsels, whether dignified or distinguished under some or all of the following denominations; to wit, "Trash-eaters, Oatmeal-chewers, Pipe-champers, Chalk-tickers, Wax-nibblers, Coal-scranchers, Wall-peelers, or Gravel-diggers:" and, good sir, do your utmost endeavour to prevent (by exposing) this unaccountable folly, so prevailing among the young ones of our sex, who may not meet with such sudden good luck, as, "SIR,

"Your constant reader,

"and very humble servant,

"SABINA GREEN,

"NOW SABINA RENTFREE."

STEEL.

T.

N° 432. WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1712.

Inter strepit unus olores.

VIRG. Ecl. ix. ver. 36.

He gabbles like a goose, amidst the swan-like quire.
DRYDEN.

"MR. SPECTATOR,

"Oxford, July 14.

"According to a late invitation in one of your papers to every man who pleases to write, I have sent you the following short dissertation against the vice of being prejudiced.

"Your most humble servant."

"MAN is a sociable creature, and a lover of glory; whence it is, that when several persons are united in the same society, they are studious to lessen the reputation of others, in order to raise their own. The wise are content to guide the springs in silence, and rejoice in secret at their regular progress. To prate and triumph is the part allotted to the trifling and superficial. The geese were providentially ordained to save the capitol. Hence it is, that the invention of marks and devices to distinguish parties, is owing to the beaux

and belles of this island. Hats, moulded into different cocks and plinches, have long bid mutual defiance; patches have been set against patches in battle-array; stocks have risen and fallen in proportion to head-dresses; and peace or war been expected, as the white or the red hood hath prevailed. These are the standard-bearers in our contending armies, the dwarfs and squires who carry the impresses of the giants or knights, not born to fight themselves, but to prepare the way for the ensuing combat.

"It is matter of wonder to reflect how far men of weak understanding, and strong fancy, are hurried by their prejudices, even to the believing that the whole body of the adverse party are a band of villains and demons. Foreigners complain that the English are the proudest nation under heaven. Perhaps they too have their share: but he that it will, general charges against bodies of men is the fault I am writing against. It must be owned, to our shame, that our common people, and men who have not travelled, have an irrational contempt for the language, dress, customs, and even the shape and minds, of other nations. Some men, otherwise of sense, have wondered that a great genius should spring out of Ireland; and think you mad in affirming, that fine odes have been written in Lapland.

"This spirit of rivalryship, which heretofore reigned in the two universities, is extinct, and almost over betwixt college and college. In parishes and schools the thirst of glory still obtains. At the seasons of foot-ball and cock-fighting, these little republics renew their national hatred to each other. My tenant in the country is verily persuaded, that the parish of the enemy hath not one honest man in it.

"I always hated satires against women, and satires against men: I am apt to suspect a stranger who laughs at the religion of the faculty: his spleen rises at a dull rogue, who is severe upon mayors and aldermen; and was never better pleased than with a piece of justice executed upon the body of a Templar, who was very arch upon parsons.

"The necessities of mankind require various employments; and whoever excels in his province is worthy of praise. All men are not educated after the same manner, nor have all the same talents. Those who are deficient, deserve our compassion, and have a title to our assistance. All cannot be bred in the same place; but in all places there arise, at different times, such persons as do honour to their society, which may raise envy in little souls, but are admired and cherished by generous spirits.

"It is certainly a great happiness to be educated in societies of great and eminent men. Their instructions and examples are of extraordinary advantage. It is highly proper to instil such a reverence of the governing persons, and concern for the honour of the place, as may spur the growing members to worthy pursuits and honest emulation; but to swell young minds with vain thoughts of the dignity of their own brotherhood, by debasing and vilifying all others, doth them a real injury. By this means I have found that their efforts have become languid, and their prattle troublesome, as thinking it sufficient praise that they are children of so illustrious and ample a family. I should think it a surer as well as a more generous method, to set before the eyes of youth such pre-

as have made a noble progress in fraternities talked of; which seems tacitly to reproach in sloth, who loll so heavily in the seats of his improvement. Active spirits hereby would urge their notions; whereas, by a servile imitation of one, or perhaps two, admired men in their body, they can only gain a secondary and vative kind of fame. These copiers of men, those of authors or painters, run into affectations of some oddness, which perhaps was not disceable in the original, but sits ungracefully on narrow-souled transcriber.

By such early corrections of vanity, while boys growing into men, they will gradually learn to censure superficially; but imbibe those principles of general kindness and humanity, which can make them easy to themselves, and be-
d by others.

Reflections of this nature have expunged all udice out of my heart; inasmuch, that though a firm protestant, I hope to see the pope and inals without violent emotions; and though I naturally grave, I expect to meet good com-
at Paris.

"I am, sir,
"Your obedient servant."

MR. SPECTATOR,

AND you are a general undertaker, and have, our correspondents or self, an insight into most; which makes me apply myself to you at out in the sorest calamity that ever befel man. wife has taken something ill of me, and has not e one word, good or bad, to me, or any body e family, since Friday was seven-night. What a man do in that case? Your advice would great obligation to,

"SIR,
"Your most humble servant,
"RALPH TRIMBLETON."

R. SPECTATOR,

July 15, 1712.
EN you want a trifle to fill up a paper, in in-
g this you will lay an obligation on

"Your humble servant,
"OLIVIA."

EAR OLIVIA,

is but this moment I have had the happiness owing to whom I am obliged for the present eived the second of April. I am heartily it did not come to hand the day before; for not but think it very hard upon people to heir jest, that offer at one but once a year. gratulate myself however upon the earnest me of something further intended in my fa- for I am told, that the man who is thought y by a lady to make a fool of, stands fair h in her opinion to become one day her hus- Till such time as I have the honour of being I, I take leave to subscribe myself,

"DEAR OLIVIA,
"Your fool elect,
"NICODENUNCIO."

BLE.

T.

Nº 433. THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1712.

*Perlege Meonio cantatas carmine ranas,
Et frontem nugis sobole disce meis.*

MART. Epig. clxxxiii. l. 14.

To banish anxious thought, and quiet pain.
Read Homer's frogs, or my more trifling strain.

THE moral world, as consisting of males and fe- males, is of a mixed nature, and filled with several customs, fashions, and ceremonies, which would have no place in it, were there but one sex. Had our species no females in it, men would be quite different creatures from what they are at present: their endeavours to please the opposite sex, polishes and refines them out of those manners which are most natural to them, and often sets them upon modelling themselves, not according to the plans which they approve in their own opinions, but ac- cording to those plans which they think are most agreeable to the female world. In a word, man would not only be an unhappy, but a rude un-
finished creature, were he conversant with none but those of his own make.

Women, on the other side, are apt to form them- selves in every thing with regard to that other half of reasonable creatures, with whom they are here blended and confused: their thoughts are ever turned upon appearing amiable to the other sex; they talk, and move, and smile, with a design upon us; every feature of their faces, every part of their dress, is filled with snares and allurements. There would be no such animals as prudes or coquettes in the world, were there not such an animal as man. In short, it is the male that gives charms to woman- kind, that produces an air in their faces, a grace in their motions, a softness in their voices, and a delicacy in their complexions.

As this mutual regard between the two sexes tends to the improvement of each of them, we may observe, that men are apt to degenerate into rough and brutal natures, who live as if there were no such things as women in the world; as, on the con- trary, women who have an indifference or aversion for their counterparts in human nature, are gen- erally sour and unamiable, sluttish and censorious.

I am led into this train of thoughts by a little manuscript which is lately fallen into my hands, and which I shall communicate to the reader, as I have done some other curious pieces of the same nature, without troubling him with any inquiries about the author of it. It contains a summary ac- count of two different states which bordered upon one another. The one was a commonwealth of Amazons, or women without men*; the other was a republic of males, that had not a woman in their whole community. As these two states bordered upon one another, it was their way, it seems, to meet upon their frontiers at a certain season of the year, where those among the men who had not made their choice in any former meeting, as- oc- iated themselves with particular women, whom they were afterwards obliged to look upon as their wives in every one of these yearly encounters. The children that sprung from this alliance, if males, were sent to their respective fathers; if fe- males, continued with their mothers. By means of this anniversary carnival, which lasted about a week, the commonwealths were recruited from time to time, and supplied with their respective subjects.

These two states were engaged together in a perpetual league, offensive and defensive; so that if any foreign potentate offered to attack either of them, both the sexes fell upon him at once, and quickly brought him to reason. It was remarkable, that for many ages this agreement continued inviolable between the two states, notwithstanding, as was said before, they were husbands and wives; but this will not appear so wonderful, if we consider that they did not live together above a week in a year.

In the account which my author gives of the male republic, there were several customs very remarkable. The men never shaved their beards, or pared their nails, above once in a twelvemonth, which was probably about the time of the great annual meeting upon their frontiers. I find the name of a minister of state in one part of their history, who was fined for appearing too frequently in clean linen; and of a certain great general, who was turned out of his post for effeminacy, it having been proved upon him by several credible witnesses that he washed his face every morning. If any member of the commonwealth had a soft voice, a smooth face, or a supple behaviour, he was banished into the commonwealth of females, where he was treated as a slave, dressed in petticoats, and set a spinning. They had no titles of honour among them, but such as denoted some bodily strength or perfection, as such an one 'the tall,' such an one 'the stocky,' such an one 'the gruff.' Their public debates were generally managed with kicks and cuffs, insomuch that they often came from the council-table with broken shins, black eyes, and bloody noses. When they would reproach a man in the most bitter terms, they would tell him his teeth were white, or that he had a fair skin, and a soft hand. The greatest man I meet with in their history, was one who could lift five hundred weight, and wore such a prodigious pair of whiskers as had never been seen in the commonwealth before his time. These accomplishments it seems had rendered him so popular, that if he had not died very seasonably, it is thought he might have enslaved the republic. Having made this short extract out of the history of the male commonwealth, I shall look into the history of the neighbouring state, which consisted of females; and, if I find any thing in it, will not fail to communicate it to the public.

ADDISON.

C.

N° 434. FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1712.

*Quales Thracia, cum flumina Thermodontis
Pulsant, et pictis bellantur Amazonis armis:
Scu circum Hippolyten, scu cum se Martia curru
Penthesilea refert, magnoque utulante tumultu
Femineæ exultant lunatis ægmina pectis.*

VIRG. Æn. xi. ver. 660.

So march'd the Thracian Amazons of old,
When Thermodon with bloody billows roll'd;
Such troops as these in shining arms were seen,
When Theseus met in fight their maiden queen.
Such to the field Penthesilea led,
From the fierce virgin when the Grecians fled.
With such return'd triumphant from the war,
Her maids with cries attend the lofty car:
They clash with manly force their moony shields;
With female shouts resound the Phrygian fields.

DRYDEN.

HAVING carefully perused the manuscript I mentioned in my yesterday's paper, so far as it relates to the republic of women, I find in it several particulars which may very well deserve the reader's attention.

The girls of quality, from six to twelve years old, were put to public schools, where they learned to box and play at cudgels, with several other accomplishments of the same nature; so that nothing was more usual than to see a little miss returning home at night with a broken pate, or two or three teeth knocked out of her head. They were afterwards taught to ride the great horse, to shoot, dance, and sling, and listed into several companies, in order to perfect themselves in military exercises. No woman was to be married till she had killed a man. The ladies of fashion used to play on young lions instead of lap-dogs; and when they made any parties of diversion, instead of entertaining themselves at ombre and piquet, they would wrestle and pitch the bar for a whole afternoon together. There was never any such thing as a blush seen, or a sigh heard, in the commonwealth. The women never dressed but to look terrible; which end they would sometimes after a battle paint their cheeks with the blood of their enemies. For this reason likewise, the face which had the most scars was looked upon as the most beautiful. If they found lace, jewels, ribbands, or any ornaments in silver or gold, among the booty which they had taken, they used to dress their horses with it, but never entertained a thought of wearing themselves. There were particular rights and privileges allowed to any member of the commonwealth who was a mother of three daughters. The senate was made up of old women; for, by the laws of the country, none was to be a member of state that was not past child-bearing. They used to boast their republic had continued four thousand years, which is altogether improbable, unless we may suppose, what I am very apt to think, that they measured their time by lunar years.

There was a great revolution brought about in this female republic, by means of a neighbouring king, who had made war upon them several years with various success, and at length overthrew them in a very great battle. This defeat they ascribed to several causes; some say that the secretary of state having been troubled with the vapours, had committed some fatal mistakes in several dispatches about that time. Others pretend, that the first minister, being big with child, could not attend to public affairs as so great an exigency of state required; but this I can give no manner of credit to, since it seems to contradict a fundamental maxim in their government, which I have before mentioned. My author gives the most probable reason of this great disaster: for he affirms that the general was brought to bed, or (as others say) miscarried, the very night before the battle; however it was, this single overthrow obliged them to call in the male republic to their assistance; notwithstanding their common efforts to repulse the victorious enemy, the war continued for twenty years before they could entirely bring it to a happy conclusion.

The campaigns which both sexes passed together made them so well acquainted with one another, that at the end of the war they did not care to parting. In the beginning of it they lodged in separate camps, but afterwards, as they grew more familiar, they pitched their tents promiscuously.

From this time, the armies being checked with both sexes, they polished apace. The men used to invite their fellow-soldiers into their quarters, and would dress their tents with flowers and boughs for their reception. If they chanced to like one more than another, they would be cutting her name

the table, or chalking out her figure upon a wall, or talking of her in a kind of rapturous language, which by degrees improved into verse and sonnet. These were as the first rudiments of architecture, painting, and poetry, among this savage people. After any advantage over the enemy, both sexes used to jump together and make a merriment with their swords and shields, for joy, which in a few years produced several regular dances and set dances.

As the two armies romped upon these occasions, the women complained of the thick bushy beards and long nails of their confederates, who therefore took care to prune themselves into such figures as were most pleasing to their female friends and allies.

When they had taken any spoils from the enemy, the men would make a present of every thing that was rich and showy to the women whom they most admired, and would frequently dress the necks, heads, or arms of their mistresses, with any thing which they thought appeared gay or pretty. The men observing that the men took delight in looking upon them when they were adorned with rich trappings and gewgaws, set their heads at work to find out new inventions, and to outshine one another in all councils of war or the like solemn meetings. On the other hand, the men observing how the women's hearts were set upon finery, began to embellish themselves, and look as agreeably as they could in the eyes of their associates. In short, after a few years conversing together, the men had learnt to smile, and the men to ogle, the women grew soft, and the men lively.

When they had thus insensibly formed one another, upon finishing of the war, which concluded their entire conquest of their common enemy, the colonels in one army married the colonels in the other; the captains in the same manner took to captains to their wives; the whole body of common soldiers were matched after the example of their leaders. By this means the two republics incorporated with one another, and became the most flourishing and polite government in the part of the world which they inhabited.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 435. SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1712.

*Nec duo sunt, at forma duplex, nec fœmina dicitur
Nec puer ut possint, neutrumque et utrumque videntur.*
OVID. Metam. l. 4. ver. 378.

both bodies in a single body mix,
a single body with a double sex.

ADDISON.

most of the papers I give the public are written subjects that never vary, but are for ever fixed and immutable. Of this kind are all my more serious essays and discourses; but there is another sort of speculations, which I consider as occasional papers, that take their rise from the folly, extravagance, and caprice, of the present age. For I look upon myself as one set to watch the manners and behaviour of my countrymen and contemporaries, and to mark down every absurd fashion, ridiculous custom, or affected form of speech, that makes its appearance in the world during the use of these my speculations. The petticoat no longer began to swell, but I observed its motions, its party-patches had not time to muster themselves before I detected them. I had intelligence of the coloured hood the very first time it appeared

in a public assembly*. I might here mention several other the like contingent subjects, upon which I have bestowed distinct papers. By this means I have so effectually quashed those irregularities which gave occasion to them, that I am afraid posterity will scarce have a sufficient idea of them to relish those discourses which were in no little vogue at the time when they were written. They will be apt to think that the fashions and customs I attacked were some fantastic conceits of my own; and that their great grandmothers could not be so whimsical as I have represented them. For this reason, when I think on the figure: my several volumes of speculations will make about a hundred years hence, I consider them as so many pieces of old plate, where the weight will be regarded, but the fashion lost.

Among the several female extravagancies I have already taken notice of, there is one which still keeps its ground. I mean that of the ladies who dress themselves in a hat and feather, a riding coat and a periwig, or at least tie up their hair in a bag or ribbon, in imitation of the smart part of the opposite sex. As in my yesterday's paper I gave an account of the mixture of two sexes in one commonwealth, I shall here take notice of this mixture of two sexes in one person. I have already shown my dislike of this immodest custom more than once; but, in contempt of every thing I have hitherto said, I am informed that the highways about this great city are still very much infested with these female cavaliers.

I remember when I was at my friend Sir Roger de Coverley's about this time twelvemonth, an equestrian lady of this order appeared upon the plains which lay at a distance from his house. I was at that time walking in the fields with my old friend; and as his tenants ran out on every side to see so strange a sight, Sir Roger asked one of them who came by us, what it was? To which the country fellow replied, 'Tis a gentlewoman, saying your worship's presence, in a coat and hat.' This produced a great deal of mirth at the knight's house, where we had a story at the same time of another of his tenants, who, meeting this gentleman-like lady on the highway, was asked by her whether that was Coverley-hall? The honest man, seeing only the male part of the querist, replied, 'Yes, sir;' but upon the second question, Whether Sir Roger de Coverley was a married man? having dropped his eye upon the petticoat, he changed his note into 'No, madam.'

Had one of these hermaphrodites appeared in Juvenal's days, with what an indignation should we have seen her described by that excellent satirist! He would have represented her in a riding habit, as a greater monster than the centaur. He would have called for sacrifices of purifying waters, to expiate the appearance of such a prodigy. He would have invoked the shades of Portia or Lucretia, to see into what the Roman ladies had transformed themselves.

For my own part, I am for treating the sex with greater tenderness, and have all along made use of the most gentle methods to bring them off from any little extravagance into which they have sometimes unwarily fallen. I think it, however, absolutely necessary to keep up the partition between the two sexes, and to take notice of the smallest encroachments which the one makes upon the other. I hope therefore, that I shall not hear any more complaints on this subject: I am sure my

* See Nos. 81, 137, and 266.

she-disciples, who peruse these my daily lectures, have profited but little by them, if they are capable of giving into such an amphibious dress. This I should not have mentioned, had not I lately met one of these my female readers in Hyde-park, who looked upon me with a masculine assurance, and cocked her hat full in my face.

For my part, I have one general key to the behaviour of the fair sex. When I see them singular in any part of their dress, I conclude it is not without some evil intention; and therefore question not but the design of this strange fashion is to smite more effectually their male beholders. Now to set them right in this particular, I would fain have them consider with themselves, whether we are not more likely to be struck by a figure entirely female, than with such an one as we may see every day in our glasses. Or, if they please, let them reflect upon their own hearts, and think how they would be affected should they meet a man on horseback, in his breeches and jack-boots, and at the same time dressed up in a comode and a night-galle.

I must observe that this fashion was first of all brought to us from France, a country which has infected all the nations of Europe with its levity. I speak not this in derogation of a whole people, having more than once found fault with those general reflections which strike at kingdoms or commonwealths in the gross: a piece of cruelty, which an ingenious writer of our own compares to that of Caligula, who wished the Roman people had all but one neck, that he might behead them at a blow. I shall therefore only remark, that as liveliness and assurance are in a peculiar manner the qualifications of the French nation, the same habits and customs will not give the same offence to that people, which they produce among those of our own country. Modesty is our distinguishing character, as vivacity is theirs: and when this our national virtue appears in that female beauty, for which our British ladies are celebrated above all others in the universe, it makes up the most amiable object that the eye of man can possibly behold.

ADDISON.

C.

N° 436. MONDAY, JULY 21, 1712.

*Verso pulice vulgi
Quemlibet occidunt populariter.*

JUV. Sat. iii. ver. 36.

With thumbs bent back they popularly kill.
DRYDEN.

BEING a person of insatiable curiosity, I could not forbear going on Wednesday last to a place of no small renown for the gallantry of the lower order of Britons, namely, to the Bear-garden at Hockley in the Hole; where (as a whitish brown paper, put into my hand in the street, informed me) there was to be a trial of skill exhibited between two masters of the noble science of defence, at two of the clock precisely. I was not a little charmed with the solemnity of the challenge, which ran thus:

* I JAMES MILLER, sergeant, (lately come from the frontiers of Portugal) master of the noble science of defence, hearing in most places where I have been of the great fame of Timothy Buck, of London, master of the said science, do invite him to

meet me, and exercise at the several weapons following, viz.

‘ Back sword, Single falchion,
‘ Sword and dagger, Case of falchions,
‘ Sword and buckler, Quarter staff.’

If the generous ardour in James Miller to compute the reputation of Timothy Buck, had anything resembling the old heroes of roman, Timothy Buck returned answer in the same way with the like spirit, adding a little indignation, being challenged, and seeming to connect the fight James Miller, not in regard to Miller himself, but in that, as the fame went about, he fought Parkes, of Coventry. The acceptance of the combat ran in these words:

‘ I TIMOTHY BUCK, of Clage-market, master of the noble science of defence, hearing he did it: Mr. Parkes *, of Coventry, will not fail (willing) to meet this fair inviter at the time and place appointed, desiring a clear stage and behaviour.

‘ *Vivat Regina!*

I shall not here look back on the spectacles the Greeks and Romans of this kind, but must believe this custom took its rise from the agreeable knight-errantry; from those who loved one woman so well, that they hated all men and women but from those who would fight you, whether you were or were not of their mind; from those who commanded the combat of their contemporaries for admiring their mistress or discommending I cannot therefore but lament, that the true part of the ancient fight is preserved, when the amorous side of it is forgotten. We have retained the barbarity, but lost the gallantry of the combatants. I could wish, methinks, these gentlemen had consulted me in the promulgation of this conflict. I was obliged by a fair young man whom I understood to be called Elizabeth Preston, daughter of the keeper of the garden, was a glass of water; who I imagined might have been for form's sake, the general representative of a lady fought for, and from her beauty, the proper Amarillis on these occasions. It would have been better in the challenge, ‘ I James Miller, sergeant who have travelled parts abroad, and came up from the frontiers of Portugal, for the love of Elizabeth Preston, do assert, that the said Elizabeth is the fairest of women. Then the answer ‘ I Timothy Buck, who have staid in Great Britain during all the war in foreign parts, for the sake of Susanna Page, do deny that Elizabeth Preston is so fair as the said Susanna Page. Let Susanna Page look on, and I desire of James Miller to favour.’

This would give the battle quite another turn, and a proper station for the ladies, whose complexion was disputed by the sword, would assist the disputants with a more gallant incentive than

* On a tomb in the great church-yard of Coventry is the following inscription:

‘ To the memory of Mr. John Sparkes, a native of the city. He was a man of a mild disposition, a gladiator by profession, who, after having fought 350 battles in the principal part of Europe with honour and applause, at length quitted the stage, sheathed his sword, and, with Christian resignation, submitted to the grand victor in the 54th year of his age.

‘ *Anno salutis humanæ 1712.*

Sergeant Miller, here mentioned, was afterwards promoted to the rank of a captain in the British army, and served the Duke of Cumberland in Scotland in 1746.

the expectation of money from the spectators; though I would not have that neglected, but down to that fair one whose lover was approved by the donor.

Yet, considering the thing wants such amendment, it was carried with great order. James Miller came on first; preceded by two disabled runners, to show, I suppose, that the prospect of maimed bodies did not in the least deter him. He ascended with the daring Miller a gentleman, whose name I could not learn, with a dogged air, as unsatisfied that he was not principal. This man of anger lowered at the whole assembly, and sighing himself as he marched round from side to side, with a stiff knee and shoulder, he gave intimations of the purpose he smothered till he saw the issue of this encounter. Miller had a blue ribbon tied round the sword arm; which ornament I conceive to be the remain of that custom of wearing a mistress's favour on such occasions of old. Miller is a man of six foot eight inches height, of a kind but bold aspect, well fashioned, and ready of his limbs; and such readiness as spoke his use in them, was obtained from a habit of motion military exercise.

The expectation of the spectators was now alight at its height, and the crowd pressing in, several active persons thought they were placed rather according to their fortune than their merit, and took it in their heads to prefer themselves from the arena or pit to the galleries. The dispute between desert and property brought many to the sound, and raised others in proportion to the best seats by turns, for the space of ten minutes, till Timothy Buck came on, and the whole assembly, giving up their disputes, turned their eyes upon the champions. Then it was that every man's affection turned to one or the other irresistible. A judicious gentleman near me said, 'I could, thinks, be Miller's second, but I had rather see Buck for mine.' Miller had an audacious look, that took the eye; Buck, a perfect composure, that engaged the judgment. Buck came in a plain coat, and kept all his air till the instant of engaging; at which time he undressed to shirt, his arm adorned with a bandage of red bon. No one can describe the sudden concern the whole assembly; the most tumultuous crowd nature was as still and as much engaged as if all their lives depended on the first blow. The combatants met in the middle of the stage, and shaking hands, as removing all malice, they retired with grace to the extremities of it; from whence they immediately faced about, and approached each other, Miller with a heart full of resolution, Buck with a watchful untroubled countenance; each regarding principally his own defence, Miller easily thoughtful of annoying his opponent. It is not easy to describe the many escapes and impenetrable defences between two men of quick wits and ready limbs; but Miller's heat laid him open to the rebuke of the calm Buck, by a large wound on the forehead*. Much effusion of blood entered his eyes in a moment, and the buzzes of the crowd undoubtedly quickened the anguish. The assembly was divided into parties upon their different ways of fighting; while a poor nymph in one of the galleries apparently suffered for Miller, and burst into a flood of tears. As soon as his wound was wrapped up, he came on again with a new rage, which still disabled him further. But that brave man can be wounded into more pa-

tience and caution? The next was a warm eager onset, which ended in a decisive stroke on the left leg of Miller. The lady in the gallery, during this second strife, covered her face; and for my part, I could not keep my thoughts from being mostly employed on the consideration of her unhappy circumstance that moment, hearing the clash of swords, and apprehending life or victory concerned her lover in every blow, but not daring to satisfy herself on whom they fell. The wound was exposed to the view of all who could delight in it, and sewed up on the stage. The surly second of Miller declared at this time, that he would that day fortnight fight Mr. Buck at the same weapons, declaring himself the master of the renowned Gorman; but Buck denied him the honour of that courageous disciple, and, asserting that he himself had taught that champion, accepted the challenge.

There is something in nature very unaccountable on such occasions, when we see the people take a certain painful gratification in beholding these encounters. Is it cruelty that administers this sort of delight? or is it a pleasure which is taken in the exercise of pity? It was, methought, pretty remarkable, that the business of the day being a trial of skill, the popularity did not run so high as one would have expected on the side of Buck. Is it that people's passions have their rise in self-love, and thought themselves (in spite of all the courage they had) liable to the fate of Miller, but could not so easily think themselves qualified like Buck?

Tully speaks of this custom with less horror than one would expect, though he confesses it was much abused in his time, and seems directly to approve of it under its first regulations, when criminals only fought before the people. '*Crudele gladiatorum spectaculum et inhumanum nonnullis videri solet; et haud scio annon ita sit ut nunc fit; cum vero fontes ferro depugnabant, auribus fortasse nulla, oculis quidem nulla, poterat esse fortior contra dolorem et mortem disciplina.*' The shows of gladiators may be thought barbarous and inhuman, and I know not but it is so as it is now practised; but in those times, when only criminals were combatants, the ear perhaps might receive many better instructions, but it is impossible that any thing which affects our eyes, should fortify us so well against pain and death.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 437. TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1712.

*Tunc impune hæc facias? Tunc hic homines adole-
scuntulos,
Imperitos rerum, eductos libere, in fraudem illicitis?
Solicitando et pollicitando eorum animos luctus?
De meretricios amores nuptiis conglutinas?*

TER. Aud. act v. sc. 4.

Shall you escape with impunity; you who lay snares for young men, of a liberal education, but unacquainted with the world, and, by force of importunity and promises, draw them in to marry harlots?

The other day passed by me in her chariot a lady with that pale and wan complexion, which we sometimes see in young people who are fallen into sorrow, and private anxiety of mind, which antecedate age and sickness. It is not three years ago since she was gay, airy, and a little towards liberty in her carriage; but, methought, I easily forgave her that little insolence, which she so severely pays for in her present condition. Flavilla, of whom I am speaking, is married to a sullen fool with wealth. Her beauty and merit are lost upon

* See the last letter in Nº 440.

the dolt, who is insensible of perfection in any thing. Their hours together are either painful or insipid. The minutes she has to herself in his absence are not sufficient to give vent at her eyes, to the grief and torment of his last conversation. This poor creature was sacrificed with a temper (which, under the cultivation of a man of sense, would have made the most agreeable companion) into the arms of this loathsome yoke-fellow by Sempronia. Sempronia is a good lady, who supports herself in an affluent condition, by contracting friendship with rich young widows, and maids of plentiful fortunes at their own disposal, and bestowing her friends upon worthless indigent fellows; on the other side, she ensnares inconsiderate and rash youths of great estates into the arms of vicious women. For this purpose, she is accomplished in all the arts which can make her acceptable at impertinent visits; she knows all that passes in every quarter, and is well acquainted with all the favourite servants, busy bodies, dependants, and poor relations, of all persons of condition in the whole town. At the price of a good sum of money, Sempronia, by the instigation of Flavilla's mother, brought about the match for the daughter; and the reputation of this, which is apparently, in point of fortune, more than Flavilla could expect, has gained her the visits and frequent attendance of the crowd of mothers, who had rather see their children miserable in great wealth, than the happiest of the race of mankind in a less conspicuous state of life. When Sempronia is so well acquainted with a woman's temper and circumstances, that she believes marriage would be acceptable to her, and advantageous to the man who shall get her, her next step is to look out for some one, whose condition has some secret wound in it, and wants a sum, yet, in the eye of the world, not unsuitable to her. If such is not easily had, she immediately adorns a worthless fellow with what estate she thinks convenient, and adds as great a share of good humour and sobriety as is requisite. After this is settled, no importunities, arts, and devices, are omitted, to hasten the lady to her happiness. In the general, indeed, she is a person of so strict justice, that she marries a poor gallant to a rich wench, and a moneyless girl to a man of fortune. But then she has no manner of conscience in the disparity, when she has a mind to impose a poor rogue for one of an estate: she has no remorse in adding to it, that he is illiterate, ignorant, and unfashioned; but makes these imperfections arguments of the truth of his wealth; and will, on such an occasion, with a very grave face, charge the people of condition with negligence in the education of their children. Exception being made 'other day against an ignorant booby of her own clothing, whom she was putting off for a rich heir, 'Madam,' said she, 'you know there is no making children, who know they have estates, attend their books.'

Sempronia, by these arts, is loaded with presents, importuned for her acquaintance, and admired by those who do not know the first taste of life, as a woman of exemplary good breeding. But sure, to murder and rob are less iniquities, than to raise profit by abuses as irreparable as taking away life; but more grievous, as making it lastingly unhappy. To rob a lady at play of half her fortune, is not so ill as giving the whole and herself to an unworthy husband. But Sempronia can administer consolation to an unhappy fair at home, by leading her to an agreeable gallant elsewhere. She then can preach the general condition of all the

married world; and tell an unexperienced young woman the methods of softening her affliction, and laugh at her simplicity and want of knowledge, with an 'Oh! my dear, you will know better.'

The wickedness of Sempronia, one would think, should be superlative; but I cannot but esteem that of some parents equal to it: I mean such a sacrifice the greatest endowments and qualifications to base bargains. A parent who forces a child of a liberal and ingenious spirit into the arms of a clown or a blockhead, obliges her to a crime too odious for a name. It is in a degree the unnatural conjunction of rational and brutal beings. Yet what is there so common, as the bestowing an accomplished woman with such a disparity? And I could name crowds who lead miserable lives for want of knowledge in their parents, of this maxim, that good sense and good nature always go together. That which is attributed to fools, and called good nature, is only an inability of observing what is faulty, which turns, in marriage, into a suspicion of every thing as such, from a consciousness of that inability.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM entirely of your opinion with relation to the equestrian females, who affect both the masculine and feminine air at the same time; and cannot forbear making a presentment against another order of them, who grow very numerous and powerful; and since our language is not very capable of good compound words, I must be contented to call them only "the naked shouldered." These beauties are not contented to make love wherever they appear, but they must make rivals at the same time. Were you to see Gatty walk the Part at high mall, you would expect those who followed her and those who met her would immediately draw their swords for her. I hope, sir, you will provide for the future, that women may stick to their face for doing any further mischief, and not allow any but direct traders in beauty to expose more than the fore part of the neck, unless you please to allow this after-game to those who are very defective in the charms of the countenance. I can say to my sorrow, the present practice is very unfair: when to look back is death; and it may be said of our beauties as a great poet did of ballets,

"They kill and wound like Parthians as they fly."

'I submit this to your animadversion; and am, for the little while I have left,

'Your humble servant,

'The languishing

PHILASTEUR.

'P. S. Suppose you mended my letter, and made a simile about the "porcupine;" but I submit that also.'

STEELE.

T.

N^o 438. WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1712.

— Animam regere, qui, non parat,
Imperat —

MOR. Ep. li. l. i. vs. 8.

— Curb thy soul,
And check thy rage, which must be re'd or rule.
CREECH.

It is a very common expression, that such a one is very good-natured, but very passionate. The expression, indeed, is very good-natured, to allow a passionate people so much quarter: but I think a passionate man deserves the least indulgence in

nable. It is said, it is soon over; that is, all the mischief he does is quickly dispatched, which, I think, is no great recommendation to favour. I have known one of those good-natured passionate men say in a mixed company, even to his own wife or child, such things as the most inveterate enemy of his family would not have spoken, even in imagination. It is certain that quick sensibility is inseparable from a ready understanding; but why should not that good understanding call to it all its force on such occasions, to master that sudden inclination to anger? One of the greatest evils now in the world* is the most subject by nature to anger, and yet so famous for a conquest of himself this way, that he is the known example when you talk of temper and command of a man's self. To contain the spirit of anger is the worthiest discipline we can put ourselves to. When a man has made any progress this way, a frivolous fellow is a passion is to him as contemptible as a froward child. It ought to be the study of every man, for his own quiet and peace. When he stands combustible and ready to flame upon every thing that touches him, life is as uneasy to himself as it is to those about him. Syncropius leads, of all men living, the most ridiculous life; he is ever offending, and requiring pardon. If his man enters the room without what he sent for—'That blockhead,' begins—'Gentleman, I ask your pardon, but servants wait a-days—' The wrong plates are laid, they are thrown into the middle of the room; his wife is pained by in pain for him, which he sees in her face, and answers as if he had heard all she was saying:—'Why? what the devil! Why don't you take care to give orders in these things?' His ends sit down to a tasteless plenty of every thing, every minute expecting new insults from his pertinent passions. In a word, to eat with, or to be with Syncropius, is no other than going to see him exercise his family, exercise their patience, and his own anger.

It is monstrous that the shame and confusion in which this good-natured angry man must needs behold his friends, while he thus lays about him, does not give him so much reflection as to create an amendment. This is the most scandalous abuse of reason imaginable; all the harmless part of him is more than that of a bull-dog, they are tame no longer than they are not offended. One of these good-natured angry men shall, in an instant, assemble together so many allusions to secret circumstances, as are enough to dissolve the peace of all the families and friends he is acquainted with, in the quarter of an hour, and yet the next moment be the best-natured man in the whole world. If you could see passion in its purity, without mixture of reason, behold it represented in a mad hero, drawn by a mad poet. Nat. Lee makes his Alexander say thus:

Away! begone! and give a whirlwind room,
Or I will blow you up like dust! Avaunt!
Madness but meanly represents my toil,
Eternal discord!

Fury! revenge! disdain and indignation!
Tear my swollen breast, make way for fire and tempest.
My brain is burst, debate and reason quenched;
The storm is up, and my hot bleeding heart
Spits with the rack, while passions, like the wind,
Rise up to heav'n, and put out all the stars.'

Every passionate fellow in town talks half the way with as little consistency, and threatens things much out of his power.

* Lord Somers.

The next disagreeable person to the outrageous gentleman, is one of a much lower order of anger, and he is what we commonly call a peevish fellow. A peevish fellow is one who has some reason in himself for being out of humour, or has a natural incapacity for delight, and therefore disturbs all who are happier than himself with pishes and pshawes, or other well-bred interjections, at every thing that is said or done in his presence. There should be physic mixed in the food of all which these fellows eat in good company. This degree of anger passes, forsooth, for a delicacy of judgment, that won't admit of being easily pleased; but none above the character of wearing a peevish man's livery ought to bear with his ill manners. All things among men of sense and condition should pass the censure, and have the protection of the eye of reason.

No man ought to be tolerated in an habitual humour, whim, or particularity of behaviour, by any who do not wait upon him for bread. Next to the peevish fellow is the snarler. This gentleman deals mightily in what we call the irony; and as those sort of people exert themselves most against those below them, you see their humour best in their talk to their servants. 'That is so like you; you are a fine fellow; thou art the quickest head-piece;' and the like. One would think the hectoring, the storming, the sullen, and all the different species and subordinations of the angry should be cured, by knowing they live only as pardoned men; and how pitiful is the condition of being only suffered! But I am interrupted by the pleasantest scene of anger and the disappointment of it that I have ever known, which happened while I was yet writing, and I overheard as I sat in the back-room at a French bookseller's. There came into the shop a very learned man, with an erect solemn air; and, though a person of great parts otherwise, slow in understanding any thing which makes against himself. The composure of the faulty man, and the whimsical perplexity of him that was justly angry, is perfectly new. After turning over many volumes, said the seller to the buyer, 'Sir, you know I have long asked you to send me back the first volume of French sermons I formerly lent you.'—'Sir,' said the chapman, 'I have often looked for it, but cannot find it; it is certainly lost, and I know not to whom I lent it, it is so many years ago.'—'Then, sir, here is the other volume; I'll send you home that, and please to pay for both.'—'My friend,' replied he, 'canst thou be so senseless as not to know that one volume is as imperfect in my library as in your shop?'—'Yes, sir, but it is you have lost the first volume; and, to be short, I will be paid.'—'Sir,' answered the chapman, 'you are a young man, your book is lost, and learn by this little loss to bear much greater adversities, which you must expect to meet with.'—'Yes, sir, I'll bear when I must, but I have not lost now, for I say you have it, and shall pay me.'—'Friend, you grow warm; I tell you the book is lost; and I foresee, in the course even of a prosperous life, that you will meet afflictions to make you mad, if you cannot bear this trifle.'—'Sir, there is, in this case, no need of bearing, for you have the book.'—'I say, sir, I have not the book; but your passion will not let you hear enough to be informed that I have it not. Learn resignation of yourself to the distresses of this life: nay, do not fret and fume; it is my duty to tell you, that you are of an impatient spirit, and an impatient spirit is never without woe.'—'Was ever any thing like this?'—'Yes, sir,

there have been many things like this; the loss is but a trifle, but your temper is wanton, and incapable of the least pain; therefore let me advise you, be patient; the book is lost, but do not you for that reason lose yourself.'

STEEL.

T.

N° 439. THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1712.

*Hi narrata ferunt alio: mensuraque fletii
Crescit; et auditis aliquid novus adjicit auctor.*
OVID. Met. xii. ver. 57.

Some tell what they have heard, or tales devise;
Each fiction still improv'd with added lies.

OVID describes the palace of Fame as situated in the very centre of the universe, and perforated with so many windows and avenues as gave her the sight of every thing that was done in the heavens, in the earth, and in the sea. The structure of it was contrived in so admirable a manner, that it echoed every word which was spoken in the whole compass of nature; so that the palace, says the poet, was always filled with a confused hubbub of low, dying sounds, the voices being almost spent and worn out before they arrived at this general rendezvous of speeches and whispers.

I consider courts with the same regard to the governments which they superintend, as Ovid's palace of Fame with regard to the universe. The eyes of a watchful minister run through the whole people. There is scarce a murmur or complaint that does not reach his ears. They have newsgatherers and intelligencers distributed into their several walks and quarters, who bring in their respective quotas, and make them acquainted with the discourse and conversation of the whole kingdom or commonwealth where they are employed. The wisest of kings, alluding to these invisible and unsuspected spies, who are planted by kings and rulers over their fellow-citizens, as well as to those voluntary informers that are buzzing about the ears of a great man, and making their court by such secret methods of intelligence, has given us a very prudent caution: 'Curse not the king, no not in thy thought, and curse not the rich in thy bed-chamber; for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter *.'

As it is absolutely necessary for rulers to make use of other people's eyes and ears, they should take particular care to do it in such a manner, that it may not bear too hard on the person whose life and conversation are inquired into. A man who is capable of so infamous a calling as that of a spy, is not very much to be relied upon. He can have no great ties of honour, or checks of conscience, to restrain him in those covert evidences, where the person accused has no opportunity of vindicating himself. He will be more industrious to carry that which is grateful than that which is true. There will be no occasion for him if he does not hear and see things worth discovery; so that he naturally inflames every word and circumstance, aggravates what is faulty, perverts what is good, and misrepresents what is indifferent. Nor is it to be doubted but that such ignominious wretches let their private passions into these their clandestine informations, and often wreak their particular spite and malice against the person whom they are set to watch. It is a pleasant scene enough, which an

Italian author describes between a spy and a cardinal who employed him. The cardinal is represented as minuting down every thing that is told him. The spy begins with a low voice, 'Such an one, the advocate, whispered to one of his friends, within my hearing, that your eminence was a very great poltroon;' and, after having given his pains time to take it down, adds that another called to a mercenary rascal in a public conversation. The cardinal replies, 'Very well,' and bids him go on. The spy proceeds, and loads him with reports of the same nature, till the cardinal rises in great wrath, calls him an impudent scoundrel, and kicks him out of the room.

It is observed of great and heroic minds, that they have not only shown a particular disregard to those unmerited reproaches which have been cast upon them, but have been altogether free from that impertinent curiosity of inquiring after them, or the poor revenge of resenting them. The histories of Alexander and Cæsar are full of this kind of instances. Vulgar souls are of a quite contrary character. Dionysius, the tyrant of Sicily, had a dungeon, which was a very curious piece of architecture; and of which, as I am informed, there are still to be seen some remains in that island. It was called Dionysius's Ear, and built with several little windings and labyrinths, in the form of a real ear. The structure of it made it a kind of whispering place, but such a one as gathered the voice of him who spoke into a funnel which was placed at the very top of it. The tyrant used to lodge all the state criminals, or those whom he supposed to be engaged together in any evil designs upon him, in this dungeon. He had at the same time an apartment over it, where he used to apply himself to the funnel, and by that means overheard every thing that was whispered in the dungeon. I believe one may venture to affirm, that a Cæsar or an Alexander would have rather died by the treason, than have used such disingenuous means for the detecting of it.

A man who in ordinary life is very inquisitive after every thing which is spoken ill of him, passes his time but very indifferently. He is wounded by every arrow that is shot at him, and puts it to the power of every insignificant enemy to disquiet him. Nay, he will suffer from what has been said of him, when it is forgotten by those who said or heard it. For this reason I could never bear one of those officious friends, that would be telling every malicious report, every idle censure that passed upon me. The tongue of man is so perulant, and his thoughts so variable, that one should not lay too great a stress upon any present speech and opinions. Praise and obloquy proceed very frequently out of the same mouth upon the same person, and upon the same occasion. A generous enemy will sometimes bestow commendations, as the dearest friend cannot sometimes refrain from speaking ill. The man who is indifferent in either of these respects, gives his opinion at random, and praises or disapproves as he finds himself in humour.

I shall conclude this essay with part of a character, which is finely drawn by the Earl of Clarendon, in the first book of his history, and which gives us the lively picture of a great man teasing himself with an absurd curiosity.

'He had not that application and submission, and reverence for the queen, as might have been expected from his wisdom and breeding; and she crossed her pretences and desires with a more business than was natural to him. Yet he was impa-

rently solicitous to know what her majesty said him in private, and what resentments she had wards him. And when by some confidants, who d their ends upon him from those offices, he was formed of some bitter expressions fallen from r majesty, he was so exceedingly afflicted and mented with the sense of it, that sometimes by sionate complaints and representations to the g; sometimes by more dutiful addresses and postulations with the queen in bewailing his mis- tune; he frequently exposed himself, and left condition worse than it was before, and the circisement commonly ended in the discovery the persons from whom he had received his most ret intelligence.'

DDRON.

C.

Nº 440. FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1712.

Figure et recte necis, discere peritis.

HOR. Ep. li. l. 2. ver. 213.

Learn to live well, or fairly make your will.

POPE.

AVE already given my reader an account of a of merry fellows who are passing their summer ther in the country, being provided of a great se, where there is not only a convenient apart- it for every particular person, but a large in- ary for the reception of such of them as are way indisposed, or out of humour *. Having ly received a letter from the secretary of this ty, by order of the whole fraternity, which aints me with their behaviour during the last k, I shall here make a present of it to the lic.

MR. SPECTATOR,

WE are glad to find that you approve the esta- ment which we have here made for the retir- of good manners and agreeable conversation, shall use our best endeavours so to improve our- s in this our summer retirement, that we may winter serve as patterns to the town. But to nd that this our institution may be no less ad- ageous to the public than to ourselves, we shall nunicate to you one week of our proceedings, ing you at the same time, if you see any thing y in them, to favour us with your admonitions: you must know, sir, that it has been proposed ight us to choose you for our visitor; to which t further add, that one of the college having red last week he did not like the Spectator e day, and not being able to assign any just as for such his dislike, he was sent to the in- ury, *nemine contradicente*.

On Monday the assembly was in very good ur, having received some recruits of French t that morning; when, unluckily, towards the le of the dinner, one of the company swore at rvant in a very rough manner, for having put uch water in his wine. Upon which the pre- it of the day, who is always the mouth of the any, after having convinced him of the im- nence of his passion, and the insult he had : upon the company, ordered his man to take : from the table, and convey him to the infir- . There was but one more sent away that this was a gentleman, who is reckoned by persons one of the greatest wit, and by others

one of the greatest boobies about town. This you will say is a strange character, but what makes it stranger yet, is a very true one, for he is perpetually the reverse of himself, being always merry or dull to excess. We brought him hither to divert us, which he did very well upon the road, having lavished away as much wit and laughter upon the hackney-coachman as might have served him during his whole stay here, had it been duly managed. He had been lumpsish for two or three days, but was so far convalesced at, in hopes of recovery, that we dispatched one of the briskest fellows among the brotherhood into the infirmary for having told him at table he was not merry. But our president observing that he indulged himself in this long fit of stupidity, and construing it as a contempt of the college, ordered him to retire into the place prepared for such companions. He was no sooner got into it, but his wit and mirth returned upon him in so violent a manner, that he shook the whole infirmary with the noise of it, and had so good an effect upon the rest of the patients, that he brought them all out to dinner with him the next day.

'On Tuesday we were no sooner sat down, but one of the company complained that his head ached; upon which another asked him, in an insolent manner, what he did there then: this insensibly grew into some warm words; so that the president, in order to keep the peace, gave directions to take them both from the table, and lodge them in the infirmary. Not long after, another of the company telling us he knew, by a pain in his shoulder, that we should have some rain, the president ordered him to be removed, and placed as a weather-glass in the apartment above mentioned.

'On Wednesday a gentleman, having received a letter written in a woman's hand, and changing colour twice or thrice as he read it, desired leave to retire into the infirmary. The president consented, but dealt him the use of pen, ink, and paper, till such time as he had slept upon it. One of the company being seated at the lower end of the table, and discovering his secret discontent, by finding fault with every dish that was served up, and refusing to laugh at any thing that was said, the president told him, that he found he was in an uneasy seat, and desired him to accommodate himself better in the infirmary. After dinner, a very honest fellow chancing to let a pun fall from him; his neighbour cried out, "To the infirmary;" at the same time pretending to be sick at it, as having the same natural antipathy to a pun, which some have to a cat. This produced a long debate. Upon the whole the punster was acquitted, and his neighbour sent off.

'On Thursday there was but one delinquent, This was a gentleman of strong voice, but weak understanding. He had unluckily engaged himself in a dispute with a man of excellent sense, but of a modest elocation. The man of heat replied to every answer of his antagonist with a louder voice than ordinary, and only raised his voice when he should have enforced his argument. Finding himself at length driven to an absurdity, he still reasoned in a more clamorous and confused manner; and, to make the greater impression upon his hearers, concluded with a loud thump upon the table. The president immediately ordered him to be carried off, and dieted with water-gruel, till such time as he should be sufficiently weakened for conversation.

'On Friday there passed very little remarkable, saving only that several petitions were read of the

* See Nos. 423 and 429.

persons in custody, desiring to be released from their confinement, and vouching for one another's good behaviour for the future.

'On Saturday we received many excuses from persons who had found themselves in an unsocial temper, and had voluntarily shut themselves up. The infirmary was, indeed, never so full as on this day, which I was at some loss to account for, till, upon my going abroad, I observed that it was an easterly wind. The retirement of most of my friends has given me opportunity and leisure of writing you this letter, which I must not conclude without assuring you, that all the members of our college, as well those who are under confinement, as those who are at liberty, are your very humble servants, though none more than,

'&c.'

C.

ADDISON.

N^o 441. SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1712.

*Si fractus illabatur orbis
Impavidum ferient ruinae.*

HOR. Od. iii. l. 3. ver. 7.

Should the whole frame of nature round him break,
In ruin and confusion hurl'd,
He, unconcern'd, would bear the mighty crack,
And stand secure amidst a falling world.

ANON.

MAN, considered in himself, is a very helpless and a very wretched being. He is subject every moment to the greatest calamities and misfortunes. He is beset with dangers on all sides; and may become unhappy by numberless casualties, which he could not foresee, nor have prevented had he foreseen them.

It is our comfort, while we are obnoxious to so many accidents, that we are under the care of one who directs contingencies, and has in his hands the management of every thing that is capable of annoying or offending us; who knows the assistance we stand in need of, and is always ready to bestow it on those who ask it of him.

The natural homage which such a creature bears to so infinitely wise and good a being, is a firm reliance on him for the blessings and conveniences of life, and an habitual trust in him for deliverance out of all such dangers and difficulties as may befall us.

The man who always lives in this disposition of mind, has not the same dark and melancholy views of human nature, as he who considers himself abstractedly from this relation to the Supreme Being. At the same time that he reflects upon his own weakness and imperfection, he comforts himself with the contemplation of those divine attributes, which are employed for his safety and his welfare. He finds his want of foresight made up by the omniscience of him who is his support. He is not sensible of his own want of strength, when he knows that his helper is almighty. In short, the person who has a firm trust on the Supreme Being is powerful in his power, wise by his wisdom, happy by his happiness. He reaps the benefit of every divine attribute, and loses his own insufficiency in the fulness of infinite perfection.

To make our lives more easy to us, we are commanded to put our trust in Him, who is thus able to relieve and succour us; the divine goodness having made such a reliance a duty, notwithstanding we should have been miserable had it been forbidden us.

Among several motives which might be made use

of to recommend this duty to us, I shall only take notice of those that follow.

The first and strongest is, that we are promised, he will not fail those who put their trust in him.

But, without considering the supernatural blessing which accompanies this duty, we may observe that it has a natural tendency to its own reward, or, in other words, that this firm trust and confidence in the great Disposer of all things, contributes very much to the getting clear of any affliction, or to the bearing it manfully. A person who believes he has his succour at hand, and that he acts in the sight of his friend, often exerts himself beyond his abilities, and does wonders that are not to be matched by one who is not animated with such a confidence of success. I could produce instances from history, of generals, who, out of a belief that they were under the protection of some invisible assistant, did not only encourage their soldiers to do their utmost, but have acted themselves beyond what they would have done, had they not been inspired by such a belief. I may in the same manner show how such a trust is the assistance of an Almighty Being naturally produces patience, hope, cheerfulness, and all other dispositions of mind that alleviate those calamities which we are not able to remove.

The practice of this virtue administers great comfort to the mind of man in times of poverty and affliction, but most of all in the hour of death. When the soul is hovering in the last moments of its separation, when it is just entering on another state of existence, to converse with scenes, and objects, and companions that are altogether new, what can support her under such trembling thoughts, such fear, such anxiety, such apprehensions, but the casting of all her cares upon Him who first gave her being, who has conducted her through one stage of it, and will be always with her to guide and comfort her in her progress through eternity?

David has very beautifully represented the steady reliance on God Almighty in his twenty-third psalm, which is a kind of pastoral hymn, and filled with those allusions which are usual in this kind of writing. As the poetry is very exquisite, I shall present my reader with the following translation of it:

'The Lord my pasture shall prepare,
And feed me with a shepherd's care:
His presence shall my wants supply,
And guard me with a watchful eye;
My noon-day walks he shall attend,
And all my midnight hours defend.

'When in the sultry glebe I faint,
Or on the thirsty mountain pant;
To fertile vales and dewy meads
My weary, wand'ring steps he leads;
Where peaceful rivers, soft and slow,
Amid the verdant landscape flow.

'Though in the paths of death I tread,
With gloomy horrors overspread,
My steadfast heart shall fear no ill,
For thou, O Lord, art with me still;
Thy friendly crook shall give me aid,
And guide me through the dreadful shade.

'Though in a bare and rugged way,
Through deserts, lonely wilds I stray,
Thy bounty shall my pains beguile:
The barren wilderness shall smile,
With sudden greens and herbage crown'd,
And streams shall murmur all around.'

ADDISON.

1.

N^o 442. MONDAY, JULY 28, 1712.

Scribimus indocti doctique

HOR. Ep. l. 1. 2. ver. 117.

— Those who cannot write, and those who can,
All rhyme, and scrawl, and scribble, to a man.

POPE.

do not know whether I enough explained myself the world, when I invited all men to be assistant me in this my work of speculation*; for I have yet acquainted my readers that, besides the ters and valuable hints I have from time to time received from my correspondents, I have by several curious and extraordinary papers sent with design (as no one will doubt when they are published) that they may be printed entire, and without any alteration, by way of Spectator. I must know also, that I myself being the first object of the paper, thought I had a right to make them my own, by dressing them in my own style, by leaving out what would not appear like me, and by adding whatever might be proper to adapt them to the character and genius of my paper, with which it was almost impossible these could exactly correspond, it being certain that hardly two men think alike; and, therefore, so any men, so many Spectators. Besides, I must own my weakness for glory is such, that, if I contented that only, I might be so far swayed by it, almost to wish that no one could write a Spectator besides myself; nor can I deny but, upon the perusal of those papers, I felt some secret inclinations of ill-will towards the persons who wrote them. This was the impression I had upon the first adding them; but, upon a late review (more for the sake of entertainment than use), regarding them with another eye than I had done at first (for converting them as well as I could to my own use, I thought I had utterly disabled them from ever offending me again as Spectators), I found myself moved by a passion very different from that of envy; sensibly touched with pity, the softest and most generous of all passions, when I reflected at a cruel disappointment the neglect of those persons must needs have been to the writers who patiently longed to see them appear in print, and who, no doubt, triumphed to themselves in the prospect of having a share with me in the applause of the public; a pleasure so great, that none but those who have experienced it can have a sense of it.

In this manner of viewing those papers, I really find I had not done them justice, there being nothing so extremely natural and peculiarly odd in some of them, that I will appeal to the world whether it was possible to alter a word in them without doing them a manifest hurt and violence; and whether they can ever appear rightly, dressed as they ought, but in their own native dress and colours. And therefore I think I should not only wrong them, but deprive the world of a considerable satisfaction, should I any longer delay the making them public.

After I have published a few of these Spectators, I doubt not but I shall find the success of them to equal, if not surpass, that of the best of my own. An author should take all methods to make himself in the opinion he has of his own performances. When these papers appear to the world, I doubt not but they will be followed by

many others; and I shall not repine, though I myself shall have left me but a very few days to appear in public: but preferring the general weal and advantage to any considerations of myself, I am resolved for the future to publish any Spectator that deserves it entire, and without any alteration; assuring the world (if there can be need of it) that it is none of mine; and if the authors think fit to subscribe their names, I will add them.

I think the best way of promoting this generous and useful design, will be by giving out subjects or themes of all kinds whatsoever, on which (with a preamble of the extraordinary benefit and advantage that may accrue thereby to the public) I will invite all manner of persons, whether scholars, citizens, courtiers, gentlemen of the town or country, and all beaux, rakes, smart, pruders, coquettes, housewives, and all sorts of wits, whether male or female, and however distinguished, whether they be true wits, whole or half wits, or whether arch, dry, natural, acquired, genuine, or depraved wits; and persons of all sorts of tempers and complexions, whether the severe, the delightful, the impertinent, the agreeable, the thoughtful, busy, or careless, the serene or cloudy, jovial or melancholy, untowardly or easy, the cold, temperate, or sanguine; and of what manners or dispositions soever, whether the ambitious or humble-minded, the proud or pitiful, ingenuous or base-minded, good or ill natured, public-spirited or selfish; and under what fortune or circumstance soever, whether the contented or miserable, happy or unfortunate, high or low, rich or poor (whether so through want of money, or desire of more), healthy or sickly, married or single; nay, whether tall or short, fat or lean; and of what trade, occupation, profession, station, country, faction, party, persuasion, quality, age, or condition soever; who have ever made thinking a part of their business or diversion, and have any thing worthy to impart on these subjects to the world according to their several and respective talents or geniuses; and, as the subject given out hits their tempers, humours, or circumstances, or may be made profitable to the public by their particular knowledge or experience in the matter proposed, to do their utmost on them by such a time, to the end they may receive the inexpressible and irresistible pleasure of seeing their essays allowed of and relished by the rest of mankind.

I will not prepossess the reader with too great expectation of the extraordinary advantages which must redound to the public by these essays, when the different thoughts and observations of all sorts of persons, according to their quality, age, sex, education, professions, humours, manners, and conditions, &c. shall be set out by themselves in the clearest and most genuine light, and as they themselves would wish to have them appear to the world.

The thesis proposed for the present exercise of the adventurers to write Spectators, is *MONEY*; on which subject all persons are desired to send in their thoughts within ten days after the date hereof.

FINIS.

T.

* See N^o 438.

N^o 443. TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1712.*Sublatam ex oculis querimus invidi.*

HOR. Od. XLIV. l. 3. ver. 86.

Snatch'd from our sight, we eagerly pursue,
And fondly would recal her to our view.

CAMILLA * TO THE SPECTATOR.

'MR. SPECTATOR, Venice, July 10, N.S.
'I TAKE it extremely ill, that you do not reckon conspicuous persons of your nation are within your cognizance, though out of the dominions of Great Britain. I little thought, in the green years of my life, that I should ever call it an happiness to be out of dear England; but as I grew to woman, I found myself less acceptable in proportion to the increase of my merit. Their ears in Italy are so differently formed from the make of yours in England, that I never come upon the stage, but a general satisfaction appears in every countenance of the whole people. When I dwell upon a note, I behold all the men accompanying me with heads inclining and falling of their persons on one side, as dying away with me. The women too do justice to my merit, and no ill-natured worthless creature cries, "The vain thing," when I am rapt up in the performance of my part, and sensibly touched with the effect my voice has upon all who hear me. I live here distinguished as one whom nature has been liberal to in a graceful person, an exalted mien, and heavenly voice. These particularities in this strange country, are arguments for respect and generosity to her who is possessed of them. The Italians see a thousand beauties I am sensible I have no pretence to, and abundantly make up to me the injustice I received in my own country, of disallowing me what I really had. The humour of hissing, which you have among you, I do not know any thing of; and their applauses are uttered in sighs, and bearing a part at the cadences of voice with the persons who are performing. I am often put in mind of those complaisant lines of my own countryman†, when he is calling all his faculties together to hear Arabella.

"Let all be hush'd, each softest motion cease,
Be ev'ry loud tumultuous thought at peace;
And ev'ry ruder gasp of breath
Be calm, as in the arms of death:
And thou, most fickle, most uneasy part,
Thou restless wanderer, my heart,
Be still; gently, ah! gently leave,
Thou busy, idle thing, to heaven:
Stir not a pulse; and let my blood,
That turbulent, unruly flood,
Be softly staid;
Let me be all, but my attention, dead."

The whole city of Venice is as still when I am singing, as this polite hearer was to Mrs. Hunt. But when they break that silence, did you know the pleasure I am in, when every man utters his applause, by calling me aloud, "The dear creature! The angel! The Venus! What attitude she moves with!—Hush, she sings again!" We have no boisterous wits who dare disturb an audience, and break the public peace merely to show they dare. Mr. Spectator, I write this to you thus in haste, to tell you I am so very much at ease here,

* Mrs. Tuff, who performed the character of Camilla in the opera so named.

† Congreve.

that I know nothing but joy; and I will not return, but leave you in England to him all merit of your own growth off the stage. I know, sir, you were always my admirer, and therefore I am yours,

CAMILLA.

'P. S. I am ten times better dressed than ever I was in England.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'The project in yours of the 11th instant*, of furthering the correspondence and knowledge of that considerable part of mankind, the trading world, cannot but be highly commendable. Good lectures to young traders may have very good effects on their conduct; but beware you propagate a false notions of trade: let none of your correspondents impose on the world by putting forth base methods in a good light, and glazing them over with improper terms. I would have no means of profit set for copies to others, but such as are laudable in themselves. Let not noise be called industry, nor impudence courage. Let not good fortune be imposed on the world for good management, nor poverty be called folly: impute not always bankruptcy to extravagance, nor an estate to foresight. Niggardiness is not good husbandry, nor generosity profusion.

'Honestus is a well-meaning and judicious trader, hath substantial goods, and trades with his own stock, husbands his money to the best advantage, without taking all the advantages of the necessities of his workmen, or grinding the face of the poor. Fortunatus is stocked with ignorance, and consequently with self-opinion; the quality of his goods cannot but be suitable to that of his judgment. Honestus pleases discerning people, and keeps their custom by good usage; makes modest profit by modest means to the decent support of his family: while Fortunatus, blustering always, pushes on, promising much, and performing little; with obsequiousness offensive to people of sense, strikes at all, catches much the greater part; raises a considerable fortune by imposition on others, to the discouragement and ruin of those who trade fair, in the same way.

'I give here but loose hints, and beg you to be very circumspect in the province you have now undertaken: if you perform it successfully, it will be a very great good; for nothing is more wanting than that mechanic industry were set forth with the freedom and greatness of mind which ought always to accompany a man of a liberal education.

Your humble servant,

B. C.

'From my shop under
the Royal Exchange, July 14.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

July 26, 1712.

'NOTWITHSTANDING the repeated censures that your Spectatorial wisdom has passed upon people more remarkable for impudence than wit, there are yet some remaining, who pass with the giddy part of mankind for sufficient sharers of the latter, who have nothing but the former qualification to recommend them. Another timely animadversion is absolutely necessary: be pleased therefore, ever for all, to let these gentlemen know, that there is neither mirth nor good humour in hosting a young fellow out of countenance; nor that it will ever constitute a wit, to conclude a tart piece of buffoonery with a "What makes you blush?" Pray

* See N^o 428.

se to inform them again, that to speak what they see is shocking, proceeds from ill-nature and a lity of brain, especially when the subject will admit of railleury, and their discourse has no preon to satire but what is in their design to disage. I should be very glad too if you would notice, that a daily repetition of the same bearing insolence is yet more insupportable, a confirmation of very extraordinary dulness. sudden publication of this may have an effect a notorious offender of this kind, whose relation would redound very much to the satisfaction and quiet of

‘Your most humble servant,

‘F. R.’

EELE.

T.

1044. WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1712.

Parturiunt montes—

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 139.

The mountain labours, and is brought to bed.

gives me much despair in the design of reformthe world by my speculations, when I find e always arise, from one generation to another, essive cheats and bubbles, as naturally as us of prey, and those which are to be their l. There is hardly a man in the world, one dd think, so ignorant, as not to know that the nary quack-doctors, who publish their great ities in little brown billets, distributed to all pass by, are to a man impostors and murers; yet such is the credulity of the vulgar, and impudence of these professors, that the affair goes on, and new promises, of what was never e before, are made every day. What aggras the jest is, that even this promise has been le as long as the memory of man can trace it, yet nothing performed, and yet still prevails. I was passing along to-day, a paper given into band by a fellow without a nose, tells us as owa what good news is come to town, to wit, t there is now a certain cure for the French ase, by a gentleman just come from his travels.

In Russel-court, over against the Cannon-ball, the Surgeon's-arms, in Drury-lane, is lately e from his travels, a surgeon who hath pracd surgery and physic, both by sea and land, e twenty-four years. He (by the blessing) cures yellow jaundice, green-sickness, scurvy, dropsy, feits, long sea-voyages, campaigns, and women's earriages, lying-in, &c. as some people that *has* en lame these thirty years can testify; in short, cureth all diseases incident to men, women, or idren.

If a man could be so indolent as to look over havoc of the human species, which is made by e and ignorance, it would be a good ridiculous rk to comment upon the declaration of this complished traveller. There is something unacutably taking among the vulgar in those who me from a great way off. Ignorant people of ality, as many there are of such, doat excessively is way; many instances of which every man will gress to himself, without my enumeration of em. The ignorants of lower order, who cannot, ce the upper ones, be profuse of their money to e recommended by coming from a distance,

are no less complaisant than the others, for they venture their lives from the same admiration.

‘The doctor is lately come from his travels,’ and has ‘practised both by sea and land,’ and therefore cures ‘the green-sickness, long sea-voyages, campaigns, and lyings-in.’ Both by sea and land! —I will not answer for the distempers called sea-voyages and campaigns; but I dare say those of green-sickness and lying-in might be as well taken care of if the doctor stayed ashore. But the art of managing mankind is only to make them stare a little, to keep up their astonishment, to let nothing be familiar to them, but ever to have something in your sleeve, in which they must think you are deeper than they are. There is an ingenious fellow, a barber, of my acquaintance, who, besides his broken fiddle and a dried sea-monster, has a twine-cord, strained with two nails, at each end, over his window, and the words ‘rainy, dry, wet,’ and so forth, written to denote the weather, according to the rising or falling of the cord. We very great scholars are not apt to wonder at this; but I observed a very honest fellow, a chance customer, who sat in the chair before me to be shaved, fix his eye upon this miraculous performance during the operation upon his chin and face. When those and his head also were cleared of all incumbrances and excrescences, he looked at the fish, then at the fiddle, still grubbling in his pockets, and casting his eye again at the twine, and the words writ on each side; then altered his mind as to farthings, and gave my friend a silver sixpence. The business, as I said, is to keep up the amazement; and, if my friend had had only the skeleton and kit, he must have been contented with a less payment. But the doctor we were talking of, adds to his long voyages, the testimony of some people ‘that *has* been thirty years lame.’ When I received my paper, a sagacious fellow took one at the same time, and read till he came to the thirty years confinement of his friends, and went off very well convinced of the doctor's sufficiency. You have many of those prodigious persons, who have had some extraordinary accident at their birth, or a great disaster in some part of their lives. Any thing, however foreign from the business the people want of you, will convince them of your ability in that you profess. There is a doctor in Mouse-alley, near Wapping, who sets up for curing cataracts, upon the credit of having, as his bill sets forth, lost an eye in the emperor's service. His patients come in upon this, and he shows the muster-roll, which confirms that he was in his imperial majesty's troops; and he puts out their eyes with great success. Who would believe that a man should be a doctor for the cure of bursten children, by declaring that his father and grandfather were born bursten? But Charles Ingolston, next door to the Harp, in Barbican, has made a pretty penny by that asseveration. The generality go upon their first conception, and think no further; all the rest is granted. They take it, that there is something uncommon in you, and give you credit for the rest. You may be sure it is upon that I go, when sometimes, let it be to the purpose or not, I keep a Latin sentence in my front; and I was not a little pleased, when I observed one of my readers say, casting his eye upon my twentieth paper, ‘More Latin still? What a prodigious scholar is this man!’ But as I have here taken much liberty with this learned doctor, I must make up all I have said by repeating what he seems to be in earnest in, and honestly promises to those who will

not receive him as a great man; to wit, that 'from eight to twelve, and from two to six, he attends for the good of the public to bleed for three-pence.'

STEEL.

T.

N^o 445. THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1712.

Tanti non es, ais. Sapis, Luperce.

MART. Epig. 118. l. 1. v. ult.

You say, Luperceus, what I write

I'n't worth so much: you're in the right.

This is the day on which many eminent authors will probably publish their last words. I am afraid that few of our weekly historians, who are men that above all others delight in war, will be able to subsist under the weight of a stamp*, and an approaching peace. A sheet of blank paper that must have this new imprimatur clapped upon it, before it is qualified to communicate any thing to the public, will make its way in the world but very heavily. In short, the necessity of carrying a stamp, and the improbability of notifying a bloody battle, will, I am afraid, both concur to the sinking of those thin folios, which have every other day retailed to us the history of Europe for several years last past. A facetious friend of mine, who loves a pun, calls this present mortality among authors, 'The fall of the leaf.'

I remember, upon Mr. Baxter's death, there was published a sheet of very good sayings, inscribed, 'The last words of Mr. Baxter.' The title sold so great a number of these papers, that about a week after there came out a second sheet, inscribed, 'More last words of Mr. Baxter.' In the same manner I have reason to think, that several ingenious writers, who have taken their leave of the public, in farewell papers, will not give over so, but intend to appear again, though perhaps under another form, and with a different title. Be that as it will, it is my business, in this place, to give an account of my own intentions, and to acquaint my reader with the motives by which I act, in this great crisis of the republic of letters.

I have been long debating in my own heart, whether I should throw up my pen, as an author that is cashiered by the act of parliament which is to operate within these four and twenty hours, or whether I should still persist in laying my speculations, from day to day, before the public. The argument which prevails with me most on the first side of the question is, that I am informed by my bookseller he must raise the price of every single paper to two-pence, or that he shall not be able to pay the duty of it. Now, as I am very desirous my readers should have their learning as cheap as possible, it is with great difficulty that I comply with him in this particular.

However, upon laying my reasons together in the balance, I find that those who plead for the continuance of this work, have much the greater weight. For, in the first place, in recompence for the expense to which this will put my readers,

* The stamp-duty here alluded to took place on the 1st of August, 1712; and every single half-sheet paid a halfpenny to the queen.—'The Observer is fallen; the Medleys are jumbled together with the Flying-Post; the Examiner is deadly sick; the Spectator keeps up, and doubles its price. I know not how long it will hold. Have you seen the red stamp the papers are marked with? Methinks the stamping it is worth a halfpenny.' Swift's Works, vol. xv. p. 319. 8vo. edit. 1801.

it is to be hoped they may receive from every paper so much instruction as will be a very good equivalent. And, in order to this, I would advise any one to take it in, who, after the perusal of it, does not find himself two-pence the wiser or the better man for it; or who, upon examination, does not believe that he has had two-penny worth of mirth or instruction for his money.

But I must confess there is another motive which prevails with me more than the former. I consider that the tax on paper was given for the support of the government; and, as I have enemies who are apt to pervert every thing I do or say, I fear they would ascribe the laying down my paper, on any occasion, to a spirit of malcontentedness. Now, I am resolved none shall ever justly upbraid me with. No, I shall glory in contributing my efforts to the public weal; and, if my country receives five or six pounds a day by my labours, I shall be very well pleased to find myself so useful a member. It is a received maxim, that no honest man should enrich himself by methods that are prejudicial to the community in which he lives; and, in the same rule, I think we may pronounce the person to deserve very well of his countrymen, whose labours bring more into the public coffers than into his own pocket.

Since I have mentioned the word enemies, I must explain myself so far as to acquaint my reader, that I mean only the insignificant party-zealots on both sides: men of such poor narrow souls, that they are not capable of thinking on any thing but with an eye to whig or tory. During the course of this paper, I have been accused by the despicable wretches of trimming, time-serving, personal reflection, secret satire, and the like. Now, though in these my compositions it is visible to any reader of common sense that I consider nothing but my subject, which is always of an indifferent nature; how is it possible for me to write so clear of party, as not to lie open to the censure of those who will be applying every sentence, and finding out persons and things in it, which it has no regard to?

Several paltry scribblers and declaimers have done me the honour to be dull upon me in reflections of this nature; but, notwithstanding my name has been sometimes traduced by this contemptible tribe of men, I have hitherto avoided all animadversions upon them. The truth of it is, I am afraid of making them appear considerable by taking notice of them, for they are like those imperceptible insects which are discovered by the microscope, and cannot be made the subject of observation without being magnified.

Having mentioned those few who have abused themselves the enemies of this paper, I should be very ungrateful to the public, did I not at the same time testify my gratitude to those who are my friends, in which number I may reckon many of the most distinguished persons of all conditions, parties, and professions, in the isle of Great Britain. I am not so vain as to think this approbation is so much due to the performance as to the design. There is, and ever will be, justice enough in the world, to afford patronage and protection for those who endeavour to advance truth and virtue, without regard to the passions and prejudices of any particular cause or faction. If I have any other merit in me, it is that I have new-pointed all the batteries of ridicule. They have been generally planted against persons who have appeared serious rather than absurd: or at best, have aimed

er at what is unfashionable than what is vicious. For my own part, I have endeavoured to make nothing ridiculous that is not in some measure criminal. I have set up the immoral man as object of derision. In short, if I have not used a new weapon against vice and irreligion, we at least shown how that weapon may be to a right use which has so often fought the battles of impiety and profaneness.

DISON.

C.

N^o 446. FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1712.

uid debeat, quid non; quo virtus, quo ferat error.
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 308.

What fit, what not; what excellent, or ill.
ROSCOMMON.

Two or three writers of comedy, who are now living, have taken their farewell of the stage; and those who succeed them, finding themselves incapable of rising up to their wit, humour, and good sense, have only imitated them in some of those unguarded strokes, in which they complied with the corrupt taste of the more vicious part of the audience. When persons of a low genius attempt this kind of writing, they know no difference between being merry and being lewd. It is with an eye to some of these degenerate compositions that I have written the following discourse. Were our English stage but half so virtuous as the Greek or Roman, we should quickly feel the influence of it in the behaviour of all the better part of mankind. It would not be fashionable to ridicule religion, or its professors; the man of pleasure would not be the complete gentleman; civility would be out of countenance; and every thing which is ornamental to human nature, would meet with that esteem which is due to it. If the English stage were under the same regulations the Athenian was formerly, it would have the same effect that had, in recommending the religion, the government, and public worship of its country. Were our plays subject to proper inspection and limitations, we might not only pass away several of our vacant hours in the highest entertainment, but should always rise from them wiser and better than we sat down to them.

It is one of the most unaccountable things in our country, that the lewdness of our theatre should be so much complained of, so well exposed, and so little repressed. It is to be hoped that some time or other we may be at leisure to restrain the licentiousness of the theatre, and make it contribute its assistance to the advancement of morality, and to the reformation of the age. As matters stand at present, multitudes are shut out from this noble diversion, by reason of those abuses and corruptions that accompany it. A father is often afraid that his daughter should be ruined by those entertainments, which were invented for the accomplishment and refining of human nature. The Athenian Roman plays were written with such a regard to morality, that Socrates used to frequent the theatre, and Cicero the other.

It happened once, indeed, that Cato dropped out of the Roman theatre, when the Floralia were to be represented; and, as in that performance, which was a kind of religious ceremony, there were several indecent parts to be acted, the people were desired to see them whilst Cato was present. Marcellus, on this hint, made the following epigram,

which we must suppose was applied to some grave friend of his, that had been accidentally present at some such entertainment.

*'Nosces jocose dulces cum sacrum Flare,
Festosque lusus, et siccum vulgi,
Curr in theatrum, Cato secret, venisti?
An ideo tantum veneras, ut exires?'*

Epig. l. l. 1.

'Why dost thou come, great censor of the age,
To see the loose diversions of the stage?
With awful countenance, and brow severe,
What in the name of goodness dost thou here?
See the mix'd crowd! how giddy, lewd, and vain!
Didst thou come in, but to go out again?'

An accident of this nature might happen once in an age among the Greeks or Romans; but they were too wise and good to let the constant nightly entertainment be of such a nature, that people of the most sense and virtue could not be at it. Whatever vices are represented upon the stage, they ought to be so marked and branded by the poet, as not to appear either laudable or amiable in the person who is tainted with them. But if we look into the English comedies above mentioned, we would think they were formed upon a quite contrary maxim, and that this rule, though it held good upon the heathen stage, was not to be regarded in Christian theatres. There is another rule likewise, which was observed by authors of antiquity, and which these modern geniuses have no regard to, and that was, never to choose an improper subject for ridicule. Now a subject is improper for ridicule, if it is apt to stir up horror and compassion rather than laughter. For this reason, we do not find any comedy, in so polite an author as Terence, raised upon the violations of the marriage-bed. The falsehood of the wife or husband has given occasion to noble tragedies; but a Scipio and Lelius would have looked upon incest or murder to have been as proper subjects for comedy. On the contrary, cuckoldom is the basis of most of our modern plays. If an alderman appears upon the stage, you may be sure it is in order to be cuckolded. An husband that is a little grave or elderly, generally meets with the same fate. Knights and baronets, country squires, and justices of the quorum, come up to town for no other purpose. I have seen poor Dogget cuckolded in all these capacities. In short, our English writers are as frequently severe upon this innocent unhappy creature, commonly known by the name of a cuckold, as the ancient comic writers were upon an eating parasite, or a vain-glorious soldier.

At the same time the poet so contrives matters, that the two criminals are the favourites of the audience. We sit still, and wish well to them through the whole play, are pleased when they meet with proper opportunities, and out of humour when they are disappointed. The truth of it is, the accomplished gentleman upon the English stage is the person that is familiar with other men's wives, and indifferent to his own; as the fine woman is generally a composition of sprightliness and falsehood, I do not know whether it proceeds from barrenness of invention, depravation of manners, or ignorance of mankind, but I have often wondered that our ordinary poets cannot frame to themselves the idea of a fine man who is not a whoremaster, or of a fine woman that is not a jilt.

I have sometimes thought of compiling a system of ethics, out of the writings of those corrupt poets, under the title of Stage Morality. But I have been diverted from this thought by a project

which has been executed by an ingenious gentleman of my acquaintance. He has composed, it seems, the history of a young fellow who has taken all his notions of the world from the stage, and who has directed himself in every circumstance of his life and conversation, by the maxims and examples of the fine gentleman in English comedies. If I can prevail upon him to give me a copy of this new-fashioned novel, I will bestow on it a place in my works, and question not but it may have as good an effect upon the drama as Don Quixote had upon romance.

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 447. SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1712.

Φίλοι πολλὴν ὀφείλει μαλιστα ἡμῶν, φίλοι καὶ ὅν
ταύτην ἀνθρώποις τελευτῶσαν φύσιν ἔχει.

Long exercise, my friend, injures the mind;
And what we once dislik'd, we pleasing find.

THERE is not a common saying which has a better turn of sense in it, than what we often hear in the mouths of the vulgar, that 'custom is a second nature.' It is indeed able to form the man anew, and to give him inclinations and capacities altogether different from those he was born with. Dr. Plot, in his history of Staffordshire, tells us of an idiot that, chancing to live within the sound of a clock, and always amusing himself with counting the hour of the day whenever the clock struck, the clock being spoiled by some accident, the idiot continued to strike and count the hour without the help of it, in the same manner as he had done when it was entire. Though I dare not vouch for the truth of this story, it is very certain that custom has a mechanical effect upon the body, at the same time that it has a very extraordinary influence upon the mind.

I shall in this paper consider one very remarkable effect which custom has upon human nature, and which, if rightly observed, may lead us into very useful rules of life. What I shall here take notice of in custom, is its wonderful efficacy in making every thing pleasant to us. A person who is addicted to play or gaming, though he took but little delight in it at first, by degrees contracts so strong an inclination towards it, and gives himself up so entirely to it, that it seems the only end of his being. The love of a retired or busy life will grow upon a man insensibly, as he is conversant in the one or the other, till he is utterly unqualified for relishing that to which he has been for some time disused. Nay, a man may smoke, or drink, or take snuff, till he is unable to pass away his time without it; not to mention how our delight in any particular study, art, or science, rises and improves, in proportion to the application which we bestow upon it. Thus what was at first an exercise, becomes at length an entertainment. Our employments are changed into our diversions. The mind grows fond of those actions she is accustomed to, and is drawn with reluctance from those paths in which she has used to walk.

Not only such actions as were at first indifferent to us, but even such as are painful, will by custom and practice become pleasant. Sir Francis Bacon observes in his natural philosophy, that our taste is never pleased better than with those things which at first created a disgust in it. He gives particular instances of claret, coffee, and other liquors, which the palate seldom approves upon the first taste;

but when it has once got a relish of them, generally retains it for life. The mind is constituted after the same manner, and, after having habituated herself to any particular exercise or employment, not only loses her first aversion towards it, but conceives a certain fondness and affection for it. I have heard one of the greatest geniuses this age has produced*, who had been trained up in all the polite studies of antiquity, assure me, upon being obliged to search into several rolls and records, that, notwithstanding such an employment was at first very dry and irksome to him, he at last took an incredible pleasure in it, and presented it even to the reading of Virgil or Cicero. The reader will observe, that I have not here considered custom as it makes things easy, but as it renders them delightful; and though others have often made the same reflections, it is possible they may not have drawn those uses from it, with which I intend to fill the remaining part of this paper.

If we consider attentively this property of human nature, it may instruct us in very fine maxims. In the first place, I would have no man discouraged with that kind of life, or series of actions in which the choice of others, or his own necessities, may have engaged him. It may perhaps be very disagreeable to him at first; but use and application will certainly render it not only less painful, but pleasing and satisfactory.

In the second place, I would recommend to every one that admirable precept which Pythagoras is said to have given to his disciples, and which that philosopher must have drawn from observation I have enlarged upon, *Optimum vir genus eligit, nam consuetudo facit iudicium*. 'Pitch upon that course of life which is the most excellent, and custom will render it the most delightful.' Men, whose circumstances will permit them to choose their own way of life, are inexcusable if they do not pursue that which their judgment tells them is the most laudable. The voice of reason is more to be regarded than the bent of any present inclination, since, by the rule above mentioned, inclination will at length come over to reason, though we can never force reason to comply with inclination.

In the third place, this observation may teach the most sensual and irreligious man to overlook those hardships and difficulties which are apt to discourage him from the prosecution of a virtuous life. 'The gods,' said Hesiod, 'have placed labour before virtue; the way to her is at first rough and difficult; but grows more smooth and easy the further you advance in it.' The man who proceeds in it with steadiness and resolution, will in a little time find that 'her ways are ways of pleasantness, and that all her paths are peace.'

To enforce this consideration, we may further observe, that the practice of religion will not only be attended with that pleasure which naturally accompanies those actions to which we are habituated, but with those supernumerary joys of heart that rise from the consciousness of such a pleasure, from the satisfaction of acting up to the dictates of reason, and from the prospect of an happy immortality.

In the fourth place, we may learn from this observation which we have made on the mind of man, to take particular care, when we are once settled in a regular course of life, how we too frequently indulge ourselves in any the most in-

* Dr. Atterbury.

† Τὴν δ' ἀρετὴν ἰδέσθαι θεοὶ στεφανώσουσιν.

diversions and entertainments; since the mind insensibly fall off from the relish of virtuous ones, and, by degrees, exchange that pleasure which it takes in the performance of its duty, for delights of a much more inferior and unprofitable sort.

The last one which I shall make of this remark: property in human nature, of being delighted in those actions to which it is accustomed, is, to show absolutely necessary, it is for us to gain its virtue in this life, if we would enjoy the sweets of the next. The state of bliss we call heaven will not be capable of affecting those who are not thus qualified for it; we must, in this world, gain a relish of truth and virtue, if we would be able to taste that knowledge and affection, which are to make us happy in the next. The seeds of those spiritual joys and raptures, which are to rise up and flourish in the soul to eternity, must be planted in her during this present state of probation. In short, Heaven is to be looked upon only as the reward, but as a natural effect of a religious life.

On the other hand, those evil spirits, who, by custom, have contracted in the body habits of lust and sensuality, malice and revenge, an aversion to every thing that is good, just, or laudable, naturally seasoned and prepared for pain and misery. Their torments have already taken root in them; they cannot be happy when divested of the world, unless we may suppose, that Providence will in some manner create them anew, and work a miracle in the rectification of their faculties. They will, indeed, taste a kind of malignant pleasure in those actions to which they are accustomed, whilst in this life; but when they are removed from all those objects which are here apt to gratify them, will naturally become their own tormentors, cherish in themselves those painful habits of sin which are called in scripture phrase, 'the worm which never dies.' This notion of heaven and hell is so very conformable to the light of nature, that it was discovered by several of the most enlightened heathens. It has been finely improved by eminent divines of the last age, as in particular by Archbishop Tillotson and Dr. Sherlock: here is now one who has raised such noble speculations upon it as Dr. Scott, in the first book of his *Christian Life*, which is one of the finest and most natural schemes of divinity that is written in our age, or in any other. That excellent author has shown how every particular custom and habit of the will, in its own nature, produce the heaven, state of happiness, in him who shall hereafter use it: as, on the contrary, how every custom and habit of vice will be the natural hell of him in whom it subsists.

DISON.

C.

Nº 448. MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1712.

Fœdus hoc aliquid quandoque audebis.

JUV. Sat. li. ver. 82.

In time to greater baseness you'll proceed.

First steps towards ill are very carefully to be led, for men insensibly go on when they are entered, and do not keep up a lively abhorrence of the least unworthiness. There is a certain dangerous falsehood that people indulge themselves which ought to be had in greater detestation which commonly meets with. What I mean is, a

neglect of promises made on small and indifferent occasions, such as parties of pleasure, entertainments, and sometimes meetings out of curiosity, in men of like faculties, to be in each other's company. There are many causes to which one may assign this light infidelity. Jack Sippet never keeps the hour he has appointed to come to a friend's to dinner; but he is an insignificant fellow who does it out of vanity. He could never, he knows, make any figure in company, but by giving a little disturbance at his entry, and therefore takes care to drop in when he thinks you are just seated. He takes his place after having discomposed every body, and desires there may be no ceremony; then does he begin to call himself the saddest fellow, in disappointing so many places as he was invited to elsewhere. It is the fop's vanity to name houses of better cheer, and to acquaint you that he chose yours out of ten dinners which he was obliged to be at that day. The last time I had the fortune to eat with him, he was imagining how very fat he should have been had he eaten all he had ever been invited to. But it is impertinent to dwell upon the manners of such a wretch as obliges all whom he disappoints, though his circumstances constrain them to be civil to him. But there are those that every one would be glad to see, who fall into the same detestable habit. It is a merciless thing that any one can be at ease, and suppose a set of people who have a kindness for him, at that moment waiting out of respect to him, and refusing to taste their food or conversation, with the utmost impatience. One of these promisers sometimes shall make his excuses for not coming at all, so late that half the company have only to lament, that they have neglected matters of moment to meet him whom they find a trifle. They immediately repent of the value they had for him; and such treatment repeated, makes company never depend upon his promises any more; so that he often comes at the middle of a meal, where he is secretly slighted by the persons with whom he eats, and cursed by the servants, whose dinner is delayed by his prolonging their master's entertainment. It is wonderful that men guilty this way could never have observed, that the whiling time, and gathering together, and waiting a little before dinner, is the most awkwardly passed away of any part in the four-and-twenty hours. If they did think at all, they would reflect upon their guilt, in lengthening such a suspension of agreeable life. The constant offending this way, has in a degree an effect upon the honesty of his mind who is guilty of it, as common swearing is a kind of habitual perjury. It makes the soul unattentive to what an oath is, even while it utters it at the lips. Phocion beholding a wordy orator, while he was making a magnificent speech to the people, full of vain promises; 'Methinks,' said he, 'I am now fixing my eyes upon a cypress-tree; it has all the pomp and beauty imaginable in its branches, leaves, and height, but, alas! it bears no fruit.'

Though the expectation which is raised by impertinent promises is thus barren, their confidence, even after failures, is so great, that they subsist by still promising on. I have heretofore discoursed of the insignificant liar, the boaster, and the castle-builder*, and treated them as no ill-designing men (though they are to be placed among the frivolously false ones), but persons who fall into that way purely to recommend themselves by their vivacities; but indeed I cannot let heedless promisers,

* See Nos. 136 and 167.

though in the most minute circumstances, pass with so slight a censure. If a man should take a resolution to pay only sums above an hundred pounds, and yet contract with different people debts of five and ten, how long can we suppose he will keep his credit? This man will as long support his good name in business, as he will in conversation, who without difficulty makes assignations which he is indifferent whether he keeps or not.

I am the more severe upon this vice, because I have been so unfortunate to be a very great criminal myself. Sir Andrew Freeport, and all my other friends who are scrupulous to promises of the meanest consideration imaginable, from an habit of virtue that way, have often upbraided me with it. I take shame upon myself for this crime, and more particularly for the greatest I ever committed of the sort, that when as agreeable a company of gentlemen and ladies as ever were got together, and I forsooth, Mr. Spectator, to be of the party with women of merit, like a booby as I was, mistook the time of meeting, and came the night following, I wish every fool, who is negligent in this kind, may have as great a loss as I had in this; for the same company will never meet more, but are dispersed into various parts of the world, and I am left under the compunction that I deserve, in so many different places to be called a trifier.

This fault is sometimes to be accounted for, when desirable people are fearful of appearing precise and reserved by denials; but they will find the apprehension of that imputation will betray them into a childish impotence of mind, and make them promise all who are so kind to ask it of them. This leads such soft creatures into the misfortune of seeming to return overtures of good-will with ingratitude. The first steps in the breach of a man's integrity are much more important than men are aware of. The man who scruples not breaking his word in little things, would not suffer in his own conscience so great pain for failures of consequence, as he who thinks every little offence against truth and justice a disparagement. We should not make any thing we ourselves disapprove habitual to us, if we would be sure of our integrity.

I remember a falsehood of the trivial sort, though not in relation to assignations, that exposed a man to a very uneasy adventure. Will Trap and Jack Stint were chamber-fellows in the Inner Temple about twenty-five years ago. They one night sat in the pit together at a comedy, where they both observed and liked the same young woman in the boxes. Their kindness for her entered both hearts deeper than they imagined. Stint had a good faculty in writing letters of love, and made his address privately that way; while Trap proceeded in the ordinary course, by money and her waiting-maid. The lady gave them both encouragement, receiving Trap into the utmost favour, and answering at the same time Stint's letters, and giving him appointments at third places. Trap began to suspect the epistolary correspondence of his friend, and discovered also that Stint opened all his letters which came to their common lodgings, in order to form his own assignations. After much anxiety and restlessness, Trap came to a resolution, which he thought would break off their commerce with one another without any hazardous explanation. He therefore writ a letter in a feigned hand to Mr. Trap, at his chambers in the Temple. Stint, according to custom, seized and opened it, and was not a little surprised to find the inside directed

to himself, when, with great perturbation of spirit he read as follows:

'MR. STINT,

'You have gained a slight satisfaction at the expense of doing a very heinous crime. At the price of a faithful friend you have obtained an impatient mistress. I rejoice in this expedient I have thought of to break my mind to you, and tell you you are a base fellow, by a means which does not expose you to the affront except you deserve it. I know, sir, as criminal as you are, you have not shame enough to avenge yourself against the baseness of any one that should publicly tell you of it. I therefore, who have received so many new hurts from you, shall take satisfaction with silence to myself. I call you base, and you must bear or acknowledge it; I triumph over you though cannot come at me; nor do I think it dishonourable to come in armour to assault him, who was ambuscaded when he wounded me.

'What need more be said to convince you of being guilty of the basest practice imaginable, than that it is such as has made you liable to be treated after this manner, while you yourself cannot on your own conscience but allow the justice of the upbraidings of

'Your injured friend,

'W. TRAP.'

STEELE.

I.

Nº 449. TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1712.

— Tibi scriptus, matrona libellus.

MART.

A book the chastest matron may peruse.

WHEN I reflect upon my labours for the public, I cannot but observe, that part of the species, of which I profess myself a friend and guardian, sometimes treated with severity; that in, there are in my writings many descriptions given of ill persons, and not any direct encomium made of those who are good. When I was convinced of this error, I could not but immediately call to mind several of the fair sex of my acquaintance, whose characters deserve to be transmitted to posterity in writings which will long outlive mine. And I do not think that a reason why I should not place them their place in my diurnal as long as it is. last. For the service therefore of my female readers, I shall single out some characters of married wives, and widows, which deserve the imitation of the sex. She who shall lead this small virtuous number of heroines shall be the amiable Fidelia.

Before I enter upon the particular parts of her character, it is necessary to preface, that she is the only child of a decrepit father, whose life is bound up in hers. This gentleman has used Fidelia from her cradle with all the tenderness imaginable, and has viewed her growing perfections with the partiality of a parent, that soon thought her accomplished above the children of all other men, and never thought she was come to the utmost improvement of which she herself was capable. This fondness has had very happy effects upon his own happiness; for she reads, she dances, she sings, she spins, and lute to the utmost perfection: and the lady's use of all these excellencies is, to divert the old man in his easy chair, when he is out of the pangs of a chronic distemper. Fidelia is now

e twenty-third year of her age; but the application of many lovers, her vigorous time of life, her sense of all that is truly gallant and elegant in the enjoyment of a plentiful fortune, are not to draw her from the side of her good old father. Certain it is, that there is no kind of affection so pure and angelic as that of a father to a daughter. He beholds her both with, and without, regard to her sex. In love to our wives there is love, to our sons there is ambition; but in that regard to our daughters, there is something which there are no words to express. Her life is designedly domestic, and she is so ready a friend and companion, that every thing that passes about a daughter is accompanied with the idea of her presence. Her sex also is naturally so much exposed to hazard, both as to fortune and innocence, that there is perhaps a new cause of fondness arising from that consideration also. None but fathers can have a true sense of these sort of pleasures and affections; but my familiarity with the father of Fidelia, makes me let drop the words which I have to him speak, and observe upon his tenderness towards her.

Fidelia, on her part, as I was going to say, as accomplished as she is, with all her beauty, wit, and mien, employs her whole time in care and attendance upon her father. How have I been tempted to see one of the most beautiful women of my age has produced, on her knees, helping on an old man's slipper! Her filial regard to him is such that she makes her diversion, her business, and glory. When she was asked by a friend of her father's mother to admit of the courtship of her son, she answered, that she had a great respect and gratitude to her for the overture in behalf of one so near to her, but that during her father's life she would admit into her heart no value for any thing that should interfere with her endeavour to make the remains of life as happy and easy as could be expected in his circumstances. The lady admonished her of the prime of life with a smile; which she answered with a frankness that always attends unfeigned virtue: 'It is true, madam, there are to be sure very great satisfactions to be expected from the commerce of a man of honour, whom one dearly loves; but I find so much satisfaction in reflection, how much I mitigate a good man's miseries, whose welfare depends upon my assiduity about him, that I willingly exclude the loose gratifications of passion for the solid reflections of duty. I know not whether any man's wife would be allowed, and (what I still more fear) I know not whether I, a wife, should be willing to be as useless as I am at present about my parent.' The worthy father has her declaration that she will not marry during his life, and the pleasure of seeing that resolution not uneasy to her. Were one to find filial affection in its utmost beauty, he could not have a more lively idea of it than in beholding Fidelia serving her father at his hours of rising, eating, and rest.

When the general crowd of female youth are insulting their glasses, preparing for balls, assemblies, or plays; for a young lady, who could be regarded among the foremost in those places, either for her person, wit, fortune, or conversation, and yet condemn all these entertainments, to sweeten the heavy hours of a decrepit parent, is a resignation truly heroic. Fidelia performs the duty of a nurse with all the beauty of a bride; nor does she neglect her person, because of her attendance on him, when he is too ill to receive company to whom she may make an appearance.

Fidelia, who gives him up her youth, does not think it any great sacrifice to add to it the spoiling of her dress. Her care and exactness in her habit, convince her father of the alacrity of her mind; and she has of all women the best foundation for affecting the praise of a seeming negligence. What adds to the entertainment of the good old man is, that Fidelia, where merit and fortune cannot be overlooked by epistolary lovers, reads over the accounts of her conquests, plays on her spinet the gayest airs (and while she is doing so, you would think her formed only for gallantry), to intimate to him the pleasures she despises for his sake.

Those who think themselves the pattern of good-breeding and gallantry would be astonished to hear that, in those intervals when the old gentleman is at ease, and can bear company, there are at his house, in the most regular order, assemblies of people of the highest merit; where there is conversation without mention of the faults of the absent, benevolence between men and women without passion, and the highest subjects of morality treated of as natural and accidental discourse; all which is owing to the genius of Fidelia, who at once makes her father's way to another world easy, and herself capable of being an honour to his name in this.

MR. SPECTATOR,

'I WAS the other day at the Bear-garden in hopes to have seen your short face *; but not being so fortunate, I must tell you, by way of letter, that there is a mystery among the gladiators which has escaped your spectatorial penetration. For, being in a box at an alehouse near that renowned seat of honour above mentioned, I overheard two masters of the science agreeing to quarrel on the next opportunity. This was to happen in a company of a set of the fraternity of basket-hilts, who were to meet that evening. When this was settled, one asked the other, "Will you give cuts or receive?" The other answered, "Receive." It was replied, "Are you a passionate man?"—"No, provided you cut no more nor no deeper than we agree." I thought it my duty to acquaint you with this, that the people may not pay their money for fighting, and be cheated.

Your humble servant,

'SCARBARD RUSTY.'

STEELE.

T.

Nº 450. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1712.

— *Querenda pecunia primum
Virtus post nummos.*

HOR. Ep. l. l. 1. ver. 53.

— Get money, money still:
And then let virtue follow, if she will.

POPE.

MR. SPECTATOR,

'ALL men, through different paths, make at the same common thing, money †; and it is to her we owe the politician, the merchant, and the lawyer; nay, to be free with you, I believe to that also we are beholden for our Spectator. I am apt to think, that could we look into our own hearts, we should see money engraven in them in more lively and moving characters than self-preservation; for who can reflect upon the merchant hoisting sail in a doubtful pursuit of her, and all mankind sacrificing their quiet to her, but must perceive that the cha-

* See Nº 436.

† See Nº 442.

racters of self-preservation (which were doubtless originally the brightest) are sullied, if not wholly defaced; and that those of money (which at first was only valuable as a mean to security) are of late so brightened, that the characters of self-preservation, like a less light set by a greater, are become almost imperceptible? Thus has money got the upper-hand of what all mankind formerly thought most dear, viz. security: and I wish I could say she had here put a stop to her victories; but, alas! common honesty fell a sacrifice to her. This is the way scholastic men talk of the greatest good in the world: but I, a tradesman, shall give you another account of this matter in the plain narrative of my own life. I think it proper, in the first place, to acquaint my readers that, since my setting out in the world, which was in the year 1660, I never wanted money; having begun with an indifferent good stock in the tobacco trade, to which I was bred; and by the continual successes it has pleased Providence to bless my endeavours with, I am at last arrived at what they call a plumb*. To uphold my discourse in the manner of your wits or philosophers, by speaking fine things, or drawing inferences, as they pretend, from the nature of the subject, I account it vain; having never found any thing in the writings of such men, that did not savour more of the invention of the brain, or what is styled speculation, than of sound judgment or profitable observation. I will readily grant indeed, that there is what the wits call natural in their talk; which is the utmost these curious authors can assume to themselves, and is indeed all they endeavour at, for they are but lamentable teachers. And what, I pray, is natural? That which is pleasing and easy? And what are pleasing and easy? Forsooth, a new thought or conceit dressed up in smooth quaint language, to make you smile and wag your head, as being what you never imagined before, and yet wonder why you had not; mere frothy amusements, fit only for boys or silly women to be caught with!

‘It is not my present intention to instruct my readers in the methods of acquiring riches; that may be the work of another essay: but to exhibit the real and solid advantages I have found by them in my long and manifold experience; nor yet all the advantages of so worthy and valuable a blessing, (for who does not know or imagine the comforts of being warm, or living at ease, and that power and pre-eminence are their inseparable attendants?) but only to instance the great supports they afford us under the severest calamities and misfortunes; to show that the love of them is a special antidote against immorality and vice; and that the same does likewise naturally dispose men to actions of piety and devotion. All which I can make out by my own experience, who think myself no ways particular from the rest of mankind, nor better nor worse by nature than generally other men are.

‘In the year 1665, when the sickness† was, I lost by it my wife and two children, which were all my stock. Probably I might have had more, considering I was married between four and five years; but finding her to be a teeming woman, I was careful, as having then little above a brace of thousand pounds to carry on my trade, and maintain a family with. I loved them as usually men do their wives and children, and therefore could not resist the first impulses of nature on so wounding a loss; but I quickly roused myself, and found

means to alleviate, and at last conquer, my affliction, by reflecting how that she and her children having been no great expense to me, the best part of her fortune was still left; that my charge being reduced to myself, a journeyman, and a maid. I might live far cheaper than before; and thus being now a childless widower, I might perhaps marry a no less deserving woman, and with a more better fortune than she brought, which was but 800*l*. And, to convince my readers that such considerations as these were proper and apt to produce such an effect, I remember it was the constant observation, at that deplorable time when many hundreds were swept away daily, that the rich ever bore the loss of their families and relations far better than the poor; the latter, having little or nothing before-hand, and living from hand to mouth, placed the whole comfort and satisfaction of their lives in their wives and children, and were therefore inconsolable.

‘The following year happened the fire; at what time, by good providence, it was my fortune to have converted the greatest part of my effects into ready money, on the prospect of an extraordinary advantage which I was preparing to lay hold of. This calamity was very terrible and astonishing, the fury of the flames being such, that whole streets, at several distant places, were destroyed: one and the same time; so that (as it is well known) almost all our citizens were burnt out of what they had. But what did I then do? I did not stand gaze on the ruins of our noble metropolis; I did not shake my head, wring my hands, sigh and shed tears; I considered with myself what could be my avail: I felt a plodding what advantages might be made of the ready cash I had; and immediately bethought myself that wonderful pennyworth might be bought of the goods that were saved out of the fire. In short, with about 2,000*l*. and a little credit, I bought as much tobacco as raised my estate to the value of 10,000*l*. I then looked on the ashes of our city, and the misery of its late inhabitants, as an effect of the just wrath and indignation of heaven towards a sinful and perverse people.

‘After this I married again; and that wife dying, I took another; but both proved to be idle baggage: the first gave me a great deal of plague and vexation by her extravagancies, and I became one of the by-words of the city. I knew it would be to no manner of purpose to go about to curb the fancies and inclinations of women, which they do the more for being restrained; but what I could I did; I watched her narrowly, and by good luck found her in the embraces (for which I had two witnesses with me) of a wealthy spark of the court end of the town; of whom I recovered 15,000 pounds, which made me amends for what she had idly squandered, and put a silence to all my neighbours, taking off my reproach by the gain they saw I had by it. The last died about two years after I married her, in labour of three children. I conjecture they were begot by a country kinsman of hers, whom, at her recommendation, I took into my family, and gave wages to as a journeyman. What this creature expended in delicacies and high diet for her kinsman (as well as I could compute by the poulterer’s, fishmonger’s, and grocer’s bills), amounted in the said two years to one hundred eighty-six pounds four shillings and five-pence half-penny. The fine apparel, brooches, lockets, and treats, &c. of the other, according to the best calculation, came, in three years and about three quarters, to seven hundred forty-four pounds seven shillings and nine-pence. After this I resolved never

* 100,000*l*.

† The plague.

marry more, and found I had been a gainer by my marriages, and the damages granted me for the uses of my bed, (all charges deducted) eight hundred and three hundred pounds within a trifle.

'I come now to show the good effects of the love money on the lives of men, towards rendering them honest, sober, and religious. When I was a young man, I had a mind to make the best of my life, and over-reached a country-chap in a parcel of unsound goods; to whom, upon his upbraiding, I threatening to expose me for it, I returned the equivalent of his loss; and upon his good advice, wherein he clearly demonstrated the folly of such artifices, which can never end but in shame, and ruin of all correspondence, I never after ingressed. Can your courtiers, who take bribes, your lawyers or physicians in their practice, or even the divines who intermeddle in worldly affairs, boast of making but one slip in their lives, and of such a thorough and lasting reformation? Since my coming into the world I do not remember I was ever overtaken in drink, save nine times, once at the christening of my first child, thrice at city feasts, and five times at driving of bachelors. My reformation I can attribute to nothing so much as the love and esteem of money; and I found myself to be extravagant in my drink, and apt to turn projector, and make rash bargains. As for women, I never knew any except my wives: for my reader must know, and it is what he may confide in as an excellent recipe, that the love of business and money is the greatest antidote of inordinate desires imaginable, as employing the mind continually in the careful oversight of what one has, in the eager quest after more, in looking after the negligencies and debts of servants, in the due entering and stating of accounts, in hunting after chaps, and in the exact knowledge of the state of markets; which things whoever thoroughly attends to, will find enough to do enough to employ his thoughts on every moment of the day; so that I cannot call to mind, in all the time I was a husband, which, off and on, was about twelve years, I ever once thought my wives but in bed. And, lastly, for religion, I have ever been a constant churchman, both forenoon and afternoons on Sundays, never forgetting to be thankful for any gain or advantage I had that day; and on Saturday nights, upon casting up my accounts, I always was grateful for the sum of my week's profits, and at Christmas for that of the whole year. It is true, perhaps, that my devotion has not been the most fervent; which, I think, ought to be imputed to the evenness and lateness of my temper, which never would admit of any impetuosities of any sort: and I can remember that in my youth and prime of manhood, when my blood ran brisker, I took greater pleasure in religious exercises than at present, or any years past, and that my devotion sensibly declined, as age, which is dull and unwieldy, came on me.

'I have, I hope, here proved, that the love of money prevents all immorality and vice; which if you will not allow, you must, that the pursuit of it obliges men to the same kind of life as they would follow if they were really virtuous; which is all I have to say at present, only recommending to you, what you would think of it, and turn ready wit into ready money as fast as you can. I conclude,

Your servant,

'EPHRAIM WREED.'

STABLE.

T.

Nº 451. THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1712.

*Jam sævus apertam
In rabiem caput verti jocus, et per honestas
Ire minax impune domos*

HOR. Ep. l. 1. 2. ver. 148.

*Times corrupt, and nature ill-inclin'd,
Produce'd the point that left a sting behind;
Till friend with friend, and families at strife,
Triumphant malice rag'd through private life.*
POPE.

THERE is nothing so scandalous to a government, and detestable in the eyes of all good men, as defamatory papers and pamphlets; but at the same time there is nothing so difficult to tame as a satirical author. An angry writer, who cannot appear in print, naturally vents his spleen in libels and lampoons. A gay old woman, says the fable, seeing all her wrinkles represented in a large looking-glass, threw it upon the ground in a passion, and broke it into a thousand pieces; but as she was afterwards surveying the fragments with a spiteful kind of pleasure, she could not forbear uttering herself in the following soliloquy. 'What have I got by this revengeful blow of mine? I have only multiplied my deformity, and see an hundred ugly faces, where before I saw but one.'

It has been proposed, to oblige every person that writes a book, or a paper, to swear himself the author of it, and enter down in a public register his name and place of abode.

This indeed would have effectually suppressed all printed scandal, which generally appears under borrowed names, or under none at all. But it is to be feared, that such an expedient would not only destroy scandal, but learning. It would operate promiscuously, and root up the corn and tares together. Not to mention some of the most celebrated works of piety, which have proceeded from anonymous authors who have made it their merit to convey to us so great a charity in secret; there are few works of genius that come out at first with the author's name. The writer generally makes a trial of them in the world before he owns them; and, I believe, very few, who are capable of writing, would set pen to paper, if they knew beforehand that they must not publish their productions but on such conditions. For my own part, I must declare, the papers I present the public are like fairy favours, which shall last no longer than while the author is concealed.

That which makes it particularly difficult to restrain these sons of calumny and defamation is, that all sides are equally guilty of it, and that every dirty scribbler is countenanced by great names, whose interest he propagates by such vile and infamous methods. I have never yet heard of a ministry who have inflicted an exemplary punishment on an author that has supported their cause with falsehood and scandal, and treated in a most cruel manner the names of those who have been looked upon as their rivals and antagonists. Would a government set an everlasting mark of their displeasure upon one of those infamous writers, who makes his court to them by tearing to pieces the reputation of a competitor, we should quickly see an end put to this race of vermin, that are a scandal to government, and a reproach to human nature. Such a proceeding would make a minister of state shine in history, and would fill all mankind with a just abhorrence of persons who should treat him unworthily, and employ against him those arms

which he scorned to make use of against his enemies.

I cannot think that any one will be so unjust as to imagine, what I have here said is spoken with respect to any party or faction. Every one who has in him the sentiments either of a Christian or gentleman, cannot but be highly offended at this wicked and ungenerous practice, which is so much in use among us at present, that it is become a kind of national crime, and distinguishes us from all the governments that lie about us. I cannot but look upon the finest strokes of satire which are aimed at particular persons, and which are supported even with the appearances of truth, to be the marks of an evil mind, and highly criminal in themselves. Infamy, like other punishments, is under the direction and distribution of the magistrate, and not of any private person. Accordingly we learn, from a fragment of Cicero, that though there were very few capital punishments in the twelve tables, a libel or lampoon, which took away the good name of another, was to be punished by death. But this is far from being our case. Our satire is nothing but ribaldry and Billingsgate. Scurrility passes for wit; and he who can call names in the greatest variety of phrases, is looked upon to have the shrewdest pen. By this means the honour of families is ruined, the highest posts and greatest titles are rendered cheap and vile in the sight of the people, the noblest virtues and most exalted parts exposed to the contempt of the vicious and the ignorant. Should a foreigner, who knows nothing of our private factions, or one who is to act his part in the world when our present heats and animosities are forgot, should, I say, such an one form to himself a notion of the greatest men of all sides in the British nation, who are now living, from the characters which are given them in some or other of those abominable writings which are daily published among us, what a nation of monsters must we appear!

As this cruel practice tends to the utter subversion of all truth and humanity among us, it deserves the utmost detestation and discouragement of all who have either the love of their country, or the honour of their religion, at heart. I would therefore earnestly recommend it to the consideration of those who deal in these pernicious arts of writing, and of those who take pleasure in the reading of them. As for the first, I have spoken of them in former papers, and have not stuck to rank them with the murderer and assassin. Every honest man sets as high a value upon a good name, as upon life itself; and I cannot but think that those who privily assault the one, would destroy the other, might they do it with the same security and impunity.

As for persons who take pleasure in the reading and dispersing of such detestable libels, I am afraid they fall very little short of the guilt of the first composers. By a law of the emperors Valentinian and Valens, it was made death for any person not only to write a libel, but, if he met with one by chance, not to tear or burn it. But because I would not be thought singular in my opinion of this matter, I shall conclude my paper with the words of Monsieur Bayle, who was a man of great freedom of thought, as well as of exquisite learning and judgment?

I cannot imagine, that a man who disperses a libel, is less desirous of doing mischief than the author himself. But what shall we say of the pleasure which a man takes in the reading of a defamatory libel? Is it not an heinous sin in the sight

of God? We must distinguish in this point. The pleasure is either an agreeable sensation we are affected with, when we meet with a witty thought which is well expressed, or it is a joy which we conceive from the dishonour of the person who is defamed. I will say nothing to the first of these cases; for perhaps some would think that morality is not severe enough, if I should affirm that a man is not master of those agreeable sensations any more than of those occasioned by sugar or honey, when they touch his tongue; but as to the second, every one will own that pleasure to be a heinous sin. The pleasure in the first case is of its continuance: it prevents our reason and reflection, and may be immediately followed by a secret grief, to see our neighbour's honour blasted. If it does not cease immediately, it is a sign that we are displeased with the ill-nature of the satirist, but are glad to see him defame his enemy by all kinds of stories; and then we deserve the punishment to which the writer of the libel is subject. I shall here add the words of a modern author. St. Gregory, upon excommunicating those writers who had dishonoured Castorius, does not except those who read their works; because, says he, if calumnies have always been the delight of their hearts, and a gratification of those persons who have no other advantage over honest men, is not he who takes pleasure in reading them as guilty as he who composed them? It is an uncontested maxim, that they who approve an action, would certainly do it if they could; that is, if some reason of self-love did not hinder them. There is no difference, says Cicero, between advising a crime, and approving it when committed. The Roman law conferred this maxim, having subjected the approvers and authors of this evil to the same penalty. We may therefore conclude, that those who are pleased with reading defamatory libels, so far as to approve the authors and dispersers of them, are as guilty as if they had composed them; for if they do so write such libels themselves, it is because they have not the talent of writing, or because they will run no hazard.

The author produces other authorities to confirm his judgment in this particular.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 452. FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1712.

Est natura hominum novitatis avida.
PLIN. apud Liliam.

Human nature is fond of novelty.

There is no humour in my countrymen which I am more inclined to wonder at, than their general thirst after news. There are about half a dozen ingenious men, who live very plentifully upon the curiosity of their fellow subjects. They all of them receive the same advices from abroad, and very often in the same words; but their way of cooking it is so different, that there is no citizen who has an eye to the public good, that can leave the coffee-house with peace of mind before he has given every one of them a reading. These several dishes of news are so very agreeable to the palate of my countrymen, that they are not only pleased with them when they are served up hot, but when they are again set cold before them, by those penetrating politicians who oblige the public with their reflections and observations upon every part of intelligence that is sent us from abroad. The

text is given us by one set of writers, and the comment by another.

But notwithstanding we have the same tale told in so many different papers, and, if occasion requires, in so many articles of the same paper, notwithstanding in a scarcity of foreign posts we hear the same story repeated by different advices from Paris, Brussels, the Hague, and from every great town in Europe; notwithstanding the multitude of annotations, explanations, reflections, and various readings which it passes through, our time lies heavy on our hands till the arrival of a fresh nail: we long to receive further particulars, to hear what will be the next step, or what will be the consequences of that which has been already taken. A westerly wind keeps the whole town in suspense, and puts a stop to conversation.

This general curiosity has been raised and inflamed by our late wars, and, if rightly directed, might be of good use to a person who has such a thirst awakened in him. Why should not a man, who takes delight in reading every thing that is new, apply himself to history, travels, and other writings of the same kind, where he will find perpetual fuel for his curiosity, and meet with much more pleasure and improvement than in these papers of the week? An honest tradesman, who languishes a whole summer in expectation of a battle, and perhaps is balked at last, may here meet with half a dozen in a day. He may read the news of a whole campaign in less time than he now bestows upon the productions of a single post. Fights, conquests, and revolutions, lie thick together. The reader's curiosity is raised and satisfied every moment, and his passions disappointed or gratified, without being detained in a state of uncertainty from day to day, or lying at the mercy of sea and wind; in short, the mind is not here kept in a perpetual gape after knowledge, nor punished with that eternal thirst which is the portion of all our modern news-mongers and coffee-house politicians.

All matters of fact, which a man did not know before, are news to him; and I do not see how my haberdasher in Cheapside is more concerned in the present quarrel of the Cantons, than he was in that of the League. At least, I believe every one will allow me, it is of more importance to an Englishman to know the history of his ancestors, than that of his contemporaries who live upon the banks of the Danube or the Boristhenes. As for those who are of another mind, I shall recommend to them the following letter from a projector who is willing to turn a penny by this remarkable curiosity of his countrymen.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

You must have observed, that men who frequent coffee-houses, and delight in news, are pleased with every thing that is matter of fact, so it be what they have not heard before. A victory, or a defeat, are equally agreeable to them. The shutting of a cardinal's mouth pleases them one post, and the opening of it another. They are glad to hear the French court is removed to Marli, and are afterwards as much delighted with its return to Versailles. They read the advertisements with the same curiosity as the articles of public news; and are as pleased to hear of a piebald horse that is strayed out of a field near Islington, as of a whole troop that have been engaged in any foreign adventure. In short, they have a relish for every thing that is news, let the matter of it be what it will; or, to speak more properly, they are men of

a voracious appetite, but no taste. Now, sir, since the great fountain of news, I mean the war, is very near being dried up; and since these gentlemen have contracted such an inextinguishable thirst after it; I have taken their case and my own into consideration, and have thought of a project which may turn to the advantage of us both, I have thoughts of publishing a daily paper, which shall comprehend in it all the most remarkable occurrences in every little town, village, and hamlet, that lie within ten miles of London, or, in other words, within the verge of the penny-post. I have pitched upon this scene of intelligence for two reasons; first, because the carriage of letters will be very cheap; and secondly, because I may receive them every day. By this means my readers will have their news fresh and fresh, and many worthy citizens, who cannot sleep with any satisfaction at present, for want of being informed how the world goes, may go to bed contentedly, it being my design to put out my paper every night at nine o'clock precisely. I have already established correspondences in these several places, and received very good intelligence.

'By my last advices from Knightsbridge I hear, that a horse was clapped into the pound on the third instant, and that he was not released when the letters came away.

'We are informed from Pankridge*, that a dozen weddings were lately celebrated in the mother church of that place, but are referred to their next letters for the names of the parties concerned.

'Letters from Brumpton advise, that the widow Blight had received several visits from John Mildew, which affords great matter of speculation in those parts.

'By a fisherman who lately touched at Hammer-smith, there is advice from Putney, that a certain person, well known in that place, is like to lose his election for church-warden; but this being boat-news, we cannot give entire credit to it.

'Letters from Paddington bring little more, than that William Squeak, the sow-gelder, passed through that place the fifth instant.

'They advise from Fulham, that things remained there in the same state they were. They had intelligence, just as the letters came away, of a tub of excellent ale just set abroad at Parson's Green; but this wanted confirmation.

'I have here, sir, given you a specimen of the news with which I intend to entertain the town, and which, when drawn up regularly in the form of a newspaper, will, I doubt not, be very acceptable to many of those public-spirited readers, who take more delight in acquainting themselves with other people's business than their own. I hope a paper of this kind, which lets us know what is done near home, may be more useful to us than those which are filled with advices from Zug and Bender, and make some amends for that dearth of intelligence, which we may justly apprehend from times of peace. If I find that you receive this project favourably, I will shortly trouble you with one or two more; and in the mean time am, most worthy sir, with all due respect,

'Your most obedient,
'and most humble servant.'

ADDISON.

C.

* Pancras; which was then a fashionable place for weddings.

Nº 453. SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1712.

*Non usitata nec tenui ferar
Penna*

HOR. Od. xx. l. 2. ver. 1.

No weak, no common wing shall bear,
My rising body through the air.
CREECH.

THERE is not a more pleasing exercise of the mind than gratitude. It is accompanied with such an inward satisfaction, that the duty is sufficiently rewarded by the performance. It is not, like the practice of many other virtues, difficult and painful, but attended with so much pleasure, that were there no positive command which enjoined it, nor any recompence laid up for it hereafter, a generous mind would indulge in it, for the natural gratification that accompanies it.

If gratitude is due from man to man, how much more from man to his Maker! The Supreme Being does not only confer upon us these bounties which proceed more immediately from his hand, but even those benefits which are conveyed to us by others. Every blessing we enjoy, by what means soever it may be derived upon us, is the gift of Him who is the great Author of good, and Father of mercies.

If gratitude, when exerted towards one another, naturally produces a very pleasing sensation in the mind of a grateful man; it exalts the soul into rapture, when it is employed on this great object of gratitude, on this beneficent Being who has given us every thing we already possess, and from whom we expect every thing we yet hope for.

Most of the works of the pagan poets were either direct hymns to their deities, or tended indirectly to the celebration of their respective attributes and perfections. Those who are acquainted with the works of the Greek and Latin poets which are still extant, will upon reflection find this observation so true, that I shall not enlarge upon it. One would wonder that more of our Christian poets have not turned their thoughts this way, especially if we consider, that our idea of the Supreme Being is not only infinitely more great and noble than what could possibly enter into the heart of an heathen, but filled with every thing that can raise the imagination, and give an opportunity for the sublimest thoughts and conceptions.

Plutarch tells us of a heathen who was singing an hymn to Diana, in which he celebrated her for her delight in human sacrifices, and other instances of cruelty and revenge; upon which a poet, who was present at this piece of devotion, and seems to have had a truer idea of the divine nature, told the votary, by way of reproof, that, in recompence for his hymn, he heartily wished he might have a daughter of the same temper with the goddess he celebrated. It was indeed impossible to write the praises of one of those false deities, according to the pagan creed, without a mixture of impertinence and absurdity.

The Jews, who before the time of Christianity were the only people that had the knowledge of the true God, have set the Christian world an example how they ought to employ this divine talent of which I am speaking. As that nation produced men of great genius, without considering them as inspired writers, they have transmitted to us many hymns and divine odes, which excel those that are delivered down to us by the ancient Greeks and Romans, in the poetry, as much as in the subject

to which it was consecrated. This I think might easily be shown, if there were occasion for it.

I have already communicated to the public some pieces of divine poetry*; and, as they have met with a very favourable reception, I shall from time to time publish any work of the same nature, which has not yet appeared in print, and may be acceptable to my readers.

'When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys;
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise:

'O how shall words with equal warmth
The gratitude declare,
That glows within my ravish'd heart?
But Thou canst read it there.

'Thy providence my life sustain'd,
And all my wants redress'd,
When in the silent womb I lay,
And hung upon the breast.

'To all my weak complaints and cries,
Thy mercy lent an ear,
Ere yet my feeble thoughts had learnt
To form themselves in prayer.

'Unnumber'd comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestow'd,
Before my infant heart conceiv'd
From whom those comforts flow'd.

'When in the slipp'ry paths of youth
With heedless steps I ran,
Thine arm unseen convey'd me safe,
And led me up to man.

'Through hidden dangers, toils, and deaths,
It gently clear'd my way,
And through the pleasing snares of vice,
More to be fear'd than they.

'When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou
With health renew'd my face,
And when in sins and sorrows sunk,
Reviv'd my soul with grace.

'Thy bounteous hand with worldly bliss
Has made my cup run o'er,
And in a kind and faithful friend
Has doubled all my store.

'Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart,
That tastes those gifts with joy.

'Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue;
And after death in distant worlds
The glorious theme renew.

'When nature fails, and day and night
Divide thy works no more,
My ever grateful heart, O Lord,
Thy mercy shall adore.

'Through all eternity to Thee
A joyful song I'll raise,
For oh! eternity's too short
To utter all Thy praise.'

ADDISON.

C

Nº 454. MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1712.

*Sine me vacuum tempus ne quod dem mihi
Laboris.*

TER. Heaut. Act. 1. Sc. 1.

Give me leave to allow myself no respite from labour

It is an inexpressible pleasure to know a little of the world, and be of no character or significance in it.

* See Nos 378, 388, 410, and 441.

To be ever unconcerned, and ever looking on new objects with an endless curiosity, is a delight known only to those who are turned for speculation; nay, they who enjoy it must value things only as they are the objects of speculation, without drawing any worldly advantage to themselves from them, but just as they are what contribute to their amusement, or the improvement of the mind. I lay one night last week at Richmond; and being restless, not out of dissatisfaction, but a certain busy inclination one sometimes has, I rose at four in the morning and took boat for London, with a resolution to rove by boat and coach for the next four-and-twenty hours*, till the many different objects I must needs meet with should tire my imagination, and give me an inclination to a repose more profound than I was at that time capable of. I beg people's pardon for an odd humour I am guilty of, and was often that day, which is satiating any person whom I like, whether I know him or not. This is a particularity would be tolerated in me, if they considered that the greatest pleasure I know I receive at my eyes, and that I am obliged to an agreeable person for coming broad into my view, as another is for a visit of conversation at their own houses.

The hours of the day and night are taken up in the cities of London and Westminster, by people so different from each other as those who are born in different centuries. Men of six o'clock give way to those of nine, they of nine to the generation of twelve; and they of twelve disappear, and make room for the fashionable world, who have made no o'clock the noon of the day.

When we first put off from shore, we soon fell in with a fleet of gardeners, bound for the several market-ports of London; and it was the most pleasing scene imaginable to see the cheerfulness with which those industrious people plied their way to a certain sale of their goods. The banks on each side are as well peopled, and beautified with agreeable plantations, as any spot on the earth; but the Thames itself, loaded with the produce of each shore, added very much to the landscape. It was very easy to observe by their sailing, and the countenances of the ruddy virgins who were supercargoes, the part of the town to which they were bound. There was an air in the purveyors for Covent-garden, who frequently converse with morning rakes, very unlike the seeming society of those bound for Stocks-market.

Nothing remarkable happened in our voyage; but I lauded with ten sail of apricot boats, at Strand-bridge, after having put in at Nine Elms, and taken in melons, consigned by Mr. Cuffe, of that place, to Sarah Sewell and company, at their all in Covent-garden. We arrived at Strand-ridge at six of the clock, and were unloading; when the hackney-coachmen of the foregoing night took their leave of each other at the Dark-house, and I went to bed before the day was too far spent. Himney-weepers passed by us as we made up to the market, and some raillery happened between one of the fruit wenches and those black men, about the Devil and Eve, with allusion to their several professions. I could not believe any place more entertaining than Covent-garden; where I rolled from one fruit-shop to another, with crowds of agreeable young women around me, who were purchasing fruit for their respective families. It was almost eight of the clock before I could leave that variety of objects. I took coach and followed

a young lady, who tripped into another just before me, attended by her maid. I saw immediately she was of the family of the Vainloves. There are a set of these who, of all things, affect the play of blindman's-buff, and leading men into love for they know not whom, who are fled they know not where. This sort of woman is usually a janty slattern: she hangs on her clothes, plays her head, varies her posture, and changes place incessantly, and all with the appearance of striving at the same time to hide herself, and yet give you to understand she is in humour to laugh at you. You must have often seen the coachmen make signs with their fingers, as they drive by each other, to intimate how much they have got that day. They can carry on that language to give intelligence where they are driving. In an instant my coachman took the wink to pursue; and the lady's driver gave the hint that he was going through Long-acre towards St. James's: while he whipped up James-street, we drove for King-street, to save the pass at St. Martin's-lane. The coachmen took care to meet, jostle, and threaten each other for way, and be entangled at the end of Newport-street and Long-acre. The fright, you must believe, brought down the lady's coach-door, and obliged her, with her mask off, to inquire into the bustle, when she sees the man she would avoid. The tackle of the coach-window is so bad she cannot draw it up again, and she drives on sometimes wholly discovered, and sometimes half escaped, according to the accident of carriages in her way. One of these ladies keeps her seat in a hackney-coach, as well as the best rider does on a managed horse. The laced shoe on her left foot, with a careless gesture, just appearing on the opposite cushion, held her both firm, and in a proper attitude to receive the next jolt.

As she was an excellent coach-woman, many were the glances at each other which we had for an hour and an half, in all parts of the town, by the skill of our drivers; till at last my lady was conveniently lost, with notice from her coachman to ours to make off, and he should hear where she went. This chase was now at an end; and the fellow who drove her came to us, and discovered that he was ordered to come again in an hour, for that she was a Silk-worm. I was surprised with this phrase, but found it was a cant among the hackney fraternity for their best customers, women who ramble twice or thrice a week from shop to shop, to turn over all the goods in town without buying any thing. The Silk-worms are, it seems, indulged by the tradesmen; for though they never buy, they are ever talking of new silks, laces, and ribbons, and serve the owners in getting them customers, as their common dunners do in making them pay.

The day of people of fashion began now to break, and carts and hacks were mingled with equipages of show and vanity; when I resolved to walk it, out of cheapness; but my unhappy curiosity is such, that I find it always my interest to take coach; for some odd adventure among beggars, ballad-singers, or the like, detains and throws me into expense. It happened so immediately; for at the corner of Warwick-street, as I was listening to a new ballad, a ragged rascal, a beggar who knew me, came up to me, and began to turn the eyes of the good company upon me, by telling me he was extreme poor, and should die in the street for want of drink, except I immediately would have the charity to give him sixpence to go into the next ale-house and save his life. He urged, with a melancholy face, that all his family had

* See N^o 403.

died of thirst. All the mob have humour, and two or three began to take the jest; by which Mr. Sturdy carried his point, and let me sneak off to a coach. As I drove along it was a pleasing reflection to see the world so prettily chequered since I left Richmond, and the scene still filling with children of a new hour. This satisfaction increased as I moved towards the city; and gay signs, well-disposed streets, magnificent public structures, and wealthy shops, adorned with contented faces, made the joy still rising till we came into the centre of the city, and centre of the world of trade, the Exchange of London. As other men in the crowds about me were pleased with their hopes and bargains, I found my account in observing them, in attention to their several interests. I, indeed, looked upon myself as the richest man that walked the Exchange that day; for my benevolence made me share the gains of every bargain that was made. It was not the least of my satisfactions in my survey, to go up stairs, and pass the shops of agreeable females: to observe so many pretty hands busy in the folding of ribbons, and the utmost eagerness of agreeable faces in the sale of patches, pins, and wires, on each side the counters, was an amusement in which I could longer have indulged myself, had not the dear creatures called to me, to ask what I wanted, when I could not answer, only 'To look at you.' I went to one of the windows which opened to the area below, where all the several voices lost their distinction, and rose up in a confused humming; which created in me a reflection that could not come into the mind of any but of one a little too studious; for I said to myself, with a kind of pun in thought, 'What nonsense is all the hurry of this world to those who are above it?' In these, or not much wiser thoughts, I had liked to have lost my place at the chop-house, where every man, according to the natural bashfulness or sullenness of our nation, eats in a public room a mess of broth, or chop of meat, in dumb silence, as if they had no pretence to speak to each other on the foot of being men, except they were of each other's acquaintance.

I went afterwards to Robin's, and saw people, who had dined with me at the five-penny ordinary just before, give bills for the value of large estates; and could not but behold with great pleasure, property lodged in, and transferred in a moment from such as would never be masters of half as much as is seemingly in them, and given from them every day they live. But before five in the afternoon I left the city, came to my common scene of Covent-garden, and passed the evening at Will's in attending the discourses of several sets of people, who relieved each other within my hearing on the subjects of cards, dice, love, learning, and politics. The last subject kept me till I heard the streets in the possession of the bell-man, who had now the world to himself, and cried, 'Past two o'clock.' This roused me from my seat; and I went to my lodging, led by a light, whom I put into the discourse of his private economy, and made him give me an account of the charge, hazard, profit, and loss of a family that depended upon a link, with a design to end my trivial day with the generosity of sixpence, instead of a third part of that sum. When I came to my chambers, I writ down these minutes; but was at a loss what instruction I should propose to my reader from the enumeration of so many insignificant matters and occurrences; and I thought it of great use, if they could learn with me to keep their minds open to gratification, and ready to receive it from any thing it meets with.

This one circumstance will make every face you see give you the satisfaction you now take in beholding that of a friend; will make every object a pleasing one; will make all the good which arrives to any man, an increase of happiness to yourself.

STEELE.

T.

N^o 455. TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1712.

— *Ego apia matine*
Mortuodoque,
Grata carpentis thyma per laborem
Plurimum—

HOR. Od. ii. l. 4. var. P

— My timorous muse
 Unambitious tracts pursues;
 Does with weak unballast wings,
 About the mossy brooks and springs,
 Like the laborious bee,
 For little drops of honey fly,
 And there with humble sweets contents her industry
 COWLEY.

THE following letters have in them reflections which will seem of importance both to the learned world, and to domestic life. There is in the first an allegory so well carried on, that it cannot but be very pleasing to those who have a taste of good writing; and the other billets may have their use in common life.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘As I walked the other day in a fine garden, and observed the great variety of improvement in plants and flowers, beyond what they otherwise would have been, I was naturally led into a reflection upon the advantages of education, or modern culture: how many good qualities in the mind are lost, for want of the like due care in nursing and skillfully managing them; how many virtues are choked by the multitude of weeds that are suffered to grow among them; how excellent parts are often starved and useless, by being planted in a wrong soil; and how very seldom do the moral seeds produce the noble fruits which may be expected from them, by a neglect of proper manuring, necessary pruning, and an artful management of our tender inclinations and first sprouts of life. These obvious speculations made me at length conclude, that there is a sort of vegetable principle in the mind of every man when he comes into the world. In infants, the seeds lie buried and undiscovered, till after a while they spring forth in a kind of rational leaves, which are weak and in due season the flowers begin to appear: a variety of beautiful colours, and all the gay pictures of youthful fancy and imagination; as do the fruit knits and is formed, which is green perhaps first, and sour, unpleasant to the taste, and not fit to be gathered; till, ripened by due care and application, it discovers itself in all the productions of philosophy, mathematics, close reasoning, and handsome argumentation. These fruits when they arrive at just maturity, and are of a good kind, afford the most vigorous nourishment to the minds of men. I reflected further on the intellectual leaves before mentioned, and found almost as great a variety among them, as in the vegetable world. I could easily observe the smooth shining Italian leaves, the nimble French aspen always in motion, the Greek and Latin evergreens, the

* This word seems to be erroneously used, *as a moral*, which the meaning obviously requires.

ish myrtle, the English oak, the Scotch thistle, the Irish shambroque, the prickly German and Dutch holly, the Polish and Russian nettle, besides a vast number of exotics imported from Asia, Africa, and America. I saw several barren plants, which bore only leaves, without any hopes of flower or fruit. The leaves of some were fragrant and well-shaped, and others ill-scented and irregular.

Wondered at a set of old whimsical botanists, who spent their whole lives in the contemplation of some withered Egyptian, Coptic, Armenian, or Chinese leaves; while others made it their business to collect, in voluminous herbals, all the several leaves of some one tree. The flowers afford a most diverting entertainment, in a wonderful variety of hues, colours, and scents; however, most of them wither soon, or at best are but annuals. Some professed florists make them their constant study and employment, and despise all fruit; and now and then a few fanciful people spend all their time in the cultivation of a single tulip, or a carnation. At the most agreeable amusement seems to be the ell choosing, mixing, and binding together these flowers in pleasing nosegays, to present to ladies. The scent of Italian flowers is observed, like their other perfumes, to be too strong, and to hurt the rain; that of the French with glaring gaudy colours, yet faint and languid: German and northern flowers have little or no smell, or sometimes an unpleasant one. The ancients had a secret to give lasting beauty, colour, and sweetness, to some of their choicest flowers, which flourish to this day, and which few of the moderns can effect. These are becoming enough and agreeable in their season, and do often handsomely adorn an entertainment; but an over-fondness of them seems to be a disease. It rarely happens to find a plant vigorous enough to have (like an orange-tree) at once beautiful and lasting leaves, fragrant flowers, and delicious, nourishing fruit.

SIR,
'Yourn, &c.'

'DEAR SPEC,
You have given us, in your Spectator of Saturday st *, a very excellent discourse upon the force of stom, and its wonderful efficacy in making every ing pleasant to us. I cannot deny but that I received above twopenny-worth of instruction from our paper †, and in the general was very well eased with it; but I am, without a compliment, sorely troubled that I cannot exactly be of your opinion, that it makes every thing pleasing to us. In short, I have the honour to be yoked to a young dy, who is, in plain English, for her standing, a very eminent scold. She began to break her mind freely both to me and to her servants, about six months after our nuptials; and, though I have been accustomed to this humour of hers these three years, yet I do not know what's the matter with e, but I am no more delighted with it than I was the very first. I have advised with her relations about her, and they all tell me that her mother and her grandmother before her were both taken much after the same manner; so that, since it ruins in the blood, I have but small hopes of her recovery. I should be glad to have a little of your advice in this matter. I would not willingly trouble you to contrive how it may be a pleasure to me; if you will but put me in a way that I may bear it with difference, I shall rest satisfied.

'DEAR SPEC,
'Your very humble servant.

'P. S. I must do the poor girl the justice to let you know, that this match was none of her own choosing (or indeed of mine either); in consideration of which I avoid giving her the least provocation; and indeed we live better together than usually folks do who hated one another when they were first joined. To evade the sin against parents, or at least to extenuate it, my dear rails at my father and mother, and I curse hers for making the match.'

'MR. SPECTATOR, August 8, 1712.
'I LIKE the theme you lately gave out * extremely, and should be as glad to handle it as any man living. But I find myself no better qualified to write about money than about my wife; for, to tell you a secret, which I desire may go no further, I am master of neither of those subjects.

'Yours,
'MILL GARLICK.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I DESIRE you would print this in italic, so as it may be generally taken notice of. It is designed only to admonish all persons, who speak either at the bar, pulpit, or any public assembly whatsoever, how they discover their ignorance in the use of similies. There are, in the pulpit itself, as well as in other places, such gross abuses in this kind, that I give this warning to all I know. I shall bring them for the future before your spectatorial authority. On Sunday last, one, who shall be nameless, reproving several of his congregation for standing at prayers, was pleased to say, "One would think, like the elephant, you had no knees." Now I myself saw an elephant, in Bartholomew-fair, kneel down to take on his back the ingenious Mr. William Penkethman †.

'Your most humble servant.'

STEELE.

T.

N^o 456. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1712.

De quo libelli in celeberrimis locis proponuntur, hunc ne perire quidem tacite conceditur.

TULL.

The man, whose conduct is publicly arraign'd, is not suffer'd even to be ruin'd quietly.

OTWAY, in his tragedy of *Venice Preserved*, has described the misery of a man whose effects are in the hands of the law with great spirit. The bitterness of being the scorn and laughter of base minds, the anguish of being insulted by men hardened beyond the sense of shame or pity, and the injury of a man's fortune being wasted, under pretence of justice, are excellently aggravated in the following speech of Pierre to Jaffier:

'I pass'd this very moment by thy doors,
And found them guarded by a troop of villains:
The sons of public rapine were destroying.
They told me, by the sentence of the law,
They had commission to seize all thy fortune:
Nay more, Priuli's cruel hand had sign'd it.
Here stood a ruffian with a horrid face,
Lording it o'er a pile of massy plate,
Tumbled into a heap for public sale.
There was another making villanous jests
At thy undoing. He had ta'en possession
Of all thy ancient most domestic ornaments:
Rich hangings intermix'd and wrought with gold;

* See Nos. 442 and 450.

† See Nos. 31 and 379.

The very bed, which on thy wedding-night
 Receiv'd thee to the arms of Belvidera,
 The scene of all thy joys, was violated
 By the coarse hands of filthy dungeon villains,
 And thrown amongst the common lumber.'

Nothing indeed can be more unhappy than the condition of bankruptcy. The calamity which happens to us by ill fortune, or by the injury of others, has in it some consolation; but what arises from our own misbehaviour, or error, is the state of the most exquisite sorrow. When a man considers not only an ample fortune, but even the very necessities of life, his pretence to food itself, at the mercy of his creditors, he cannot but look upon himself in the state of the dead, with his case thus much worse, that the last office is performed by his adversaries instead of his friends. From this hour the cruel world does not only take possession of his whole fortune, but even of every thing else, which had no relation to it. All his indifferent actions have new interpretations put upon them; and those whom he has favoured in his former life, discharge themselves of their obligations to him, by joining in the reproaches of his enemies. It is almost incredible that it should be so; but it is too often seen that there is a pride mixed with the impatience of the creditor; and there are who would rather recover their own by the downfall of a prosperous man, than be discharged to the common satisfaction of themselves and their creditors. The wretched man, who was lately master of abundance, is now under the direction of others; and the wisdom, economy, good sense, and skill in human life before, by reason of his present misfortune, are of no use to him in the disposition of any thing. The incapacity of an infant or a lunatic is designed for his provision and accommodation; but that of a bankrupt, without any mitigation in respect of the accidents by which it arrived, is calculated for his utter ruin, except there be a remainder ample enough, after the discharge of his creditors, to bear also the expense of rewarding those by whose means the effect of all his labour was transferred from him. The man is to look on and see others giving directions upon what terms and conditions his goods are to be purchased; and all this usually done, not with an air of trustees to dispose of his effects, but destroyers to divide and tear them to pieces.

There is something sacred in misery to great and good minds; for this reason all wise lawgivers have been extremely tender how they let loose even the man who has right on his side, to act with any mixture of resentment against the defendant. Virtuous and modest men, though they be used with some artifice, and have it in their power to avenge themselves, are slow in the application of that power, and are ever constrained to go into rigorous measures. They are careful to demonstrate themselves not only persons injured, but also that to bear it no longer would be a means to make the offender injure others, before they proceed. Such men clap their hands upon their hearts, and consider what it is to have at their mercy the life of a citizen. Such would have it to say to their own souls, if possible, that they were merciful, when they could have destroyed, rather than when it was in their power to have spared a man they destroyed. This is a due to the common calamity of human life, due in some measure to our very enemies. They who scruple doing the least injury, are cautious of exacting the utmost justice.

Let any one who is conversant in the variety of human life reflect upon it, and he will find the

man who wants mercy has a taste of no enjoyment of any kind. There is a natural disrelish of every thing which is good in his very nature, and he is born an enemy to the world. He is ever extreme partial to himself in all his actions, and has a sense of iniquity but from the punishment which shall attend it. The law of the land is his guide, and all his cases of conscience are determined by his attorney. Such men know not what it is to gladden the heart of a miserable man, that men are the instruments of serving the purposes of heaven or hell, according to the disposition of the possessor. The wealthy can torment or gratify who are in their power, and choose to do one or other, as they are affected with love or hatred to mankind. As for such who are insensible of the concerns of others, but merely as they affect themselves, these men are to be valued only for their mortality, and as we hope better things from their heirs. I could not but read with great delight a letter from an eminent citizen, who has failed, to one who was intimate with him in his better fortune, and able by his countenance to retrieve his lost condition.

'SIR,

'It is in vain to multiply words and make apologies for what is never to be defended by the advocate in the world, the guilt of being unfortunate. All that a man in my condition can do, say, will be received with prejudice by the generality of mankind, but I hope not with you: you have been a great instrument in helping me to get what I have lost; and I know (for that reason, as well as kindness to me) you cannot but be in pain to see me undone. To show you I am not a man incapable of bearing calamity, I will, though a poor man, lay aside the distinction between us, and talk with the frankness we did when we were nearer to an equality: as all I do will be received with prejudice, all you do will be looked upon with partiality. What I desire of you is, that you, who are courted by all, would smile upon me, whom am shunned by all. Let that grace and favour which your fortune throws upon you, be turned to make up the coldness and indifference that is used towards me. All good and generous men will have an eye of kindness for me for my own sake, and the rest of the world will regard me for yours. There is a happy contagion in riches, as well as a destructive one in poverty: the rich can make rich without parting with any of their store; and the conversation of the poor makes men poor, though they borrow nothing of them. How this is to be accounted for I know not; but men's estimation follows us according to the company we keep. If you are what you were to me, you can go a great way towards my recovery; if you are not, my good fortune, if ever it returns, will return by slower approaches.

'I am, sir,

'Your affectionate friend,
 'and humble servant.'

This was answered with a condescension that did not, by long impertinent professions of kindness, insult his distress, but was as follows:

'DEAR TOM,

'I AM very glad to hear that you have been enough to begin the world a second time. I assure you, I do not think your numerous family at all diminished, in the gift of nature for which I have ever so much admired them, by what has so hap-

upposed to you. I shall not only countenance our affairs with my appearance for you, but shall commodate you with a considerable sum at common interest for three years. You know I could ake more of it; but I have so great a love for ou, that I can wave opportunities of gain to help ou; for I do not care whether they say of me, 'ter I am dead, that I had an hundred or fifty ousand pounds more than I wanted when I was viag.

'Your obliged humble servant.'

STEELE.

T.

N^o 457. THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1712.

——— *Multa et præclara minuitis.*

HOR. Sat. iiii. l. 2. ver. 9.

Seeming to promise something wondrous great.

SHALL this day lay before my readers a letter ritten by the same hand with that of last Friday*, hich contained proposals for a printed newspaper at should take in the whole circle of the penny-nt.

'SIR,
THE kind reception you gave my last Friday's lter, in which I broached my project of a news-aper, encourages me to lay before you two or ree more; for you must know, sir, that we look on you to be the Lowndest† of the learned world, d cannot think any scheme practicable or rational before you have approved of it, though all e money we raise by it is in our own funds, and r our private use.

'I have often thought that a news-letter of whis-ers, written every post, and sent about the king-om, after the same manner as that of Mr. Dyer, r. Dawkes, or any other epistolary historian, ight be highly gratifying to the public, as well beneficial to the author. By whispers I mean ose pieces of news which are communicated as crets, and which bring a double pleasure to the arer; first, as they are private history; and, in e next place, as they have always in them a dash scandal. These are the two chief qualifications an article of news, which recommend it, in a ore than ordinary manner, to the ears of the cu-ur. Sickness of persons in high posts, twilight its paid and received by ministers of state, clau-rtine courtships and marriages, secret amours, ses at play, applications for places, with their pective successes and repulses, are the materials which I chiefly intend to deal. I have two per-ns, that are each of them the representative of a ecies, who are to furnish me with those whispers hich I intend to convey to my correspondents. e first of these is Peter Hush, descended from e ancient family of the Hushes. The other is the d Lady Blast, who has a very numerous tribe of ughters in the two great cities of London and Westminster. Peter Hush has a whispering-hole most of the great coffee-houses about town. If ou are alone with him in a wide room, he carries ou up into a corner of it, and speaks in your ear. have seen Peter seat himself in a company of ven or eight persons, whom he never saw before his life; and, after having looked about to see

there was no one that overheard him, has commu-icated to them in a low voice, and under the seal of secrecy, the death of a great man in the coun-try, who was, perhaps, a fox-hunting the very mo-ment this account was given of him. If upon your entering into a coffee-house you see a circle of heads bending over the table, and lying close by one another, it is ten to one but my friend Peter is among them. I have known Peter publishing the whisper of the day by eight o'clock in the morning at Garraway's, by twelve at Will's, and before two at the Smyrna. When Peter has thus effectually launched a secret, I have been very well pleased to hear people whispering it to one another at second hand, and spreading it about as their own; for you must know, sir, the great incen-tive to whispering is the ambition which every one has of being thought in the secret, and being looked upon as a man who has access to greater people than one would imagine. After having given you this account of Peter Hush, I proceed to that vir-tuous lady, the old Lady Blast, who is to commu-nicate to me the private transactions of the crimp-table, with all the arcana of the fair sex. The Lady Blast, you must understand, has such a par-ticular malignity in her whisper, that it blights like an easterly wind, and withers every reputation that it breathes upon. She has a particular knack at making private weddings, and last winter mar-ried about five women of quality to their footmen. Her whisper can make an innocent young woman big with child, or fill an healthful young fellow with distempers that are not to be named. She can turn a visit into an intrigue, and a distant salute into an assignation. She can beggar the wealthy, and degrade the noble. In short, she can whisper men base or foolish, jealous or ill-natured; or, if occasion requires, can tell you the slips of their great grandmothers, and traduce the memory of honest coachmen that have been in their graves above these hundred years. By these and the like helps, I question not but I shall furnish out a very handsome news-letter. If you approve my project, I shall begin to whisper by the very next post, and question not every one of my customers will be very well pleased with me, when he considers that every piece of news I send him is a word in his ear, and lets him into a secret.

'Having given you a sketch of this project, I shall, in the next place, suggest to you another for a monthly pamphlet, which I shall likewise submit to your spectatorial wisdom. I need not tell you, sir, that there are several authors in France, Ger-many, and Holland, as well as in our own country, who publish every month what they call "An Ac-count of the Works of the Learned," in which they give us an abstract of all such books as are printed in any part of Europe. Now, sir, it is my design to publish every month, "An Account of the Works of the Unlearned." Several late pro-ductions of my own countrymen, who many of them make a very eminent figure in the illiterate world, encourage me in this undertaking. I may, in this work, possibly make a review of several pieces which have appeared in the foreign ac-counts above mentioned, though they ought not to have been taken notice of in works which bear such a title. I may, likewise, take into considera-tion such pieces as appear, from time to time, under the names of those gentlemen who compli-ment one another in public assemblies, by the title of "The learned Gentlemen." Our party-authors will also afford me a great variety of subjects, not to mention the editors, commentators, and others,

* N^o 452.

† At that time secretary of the treasury, and director of the mint.

who are often men of no learning, or, what is as bad, of no knowledge. I shall not enlarge upon this hint; but, if you think any thing can be made of it, I shall set about it with all the pains and application that so useful a work deserves.

'I am ever,

'Most worthy sir, &c.'

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 458. FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1712.

Αἰδώς καὶ ὑπόκρισις —

HES.

— Pudor malus —

HOR.

False modesty.

I COULD not but smile at the account that was yesterday given me of a modest young gentleman, who, being invited to an entertainment, though he was not used to drink, had not the confidence to refuse his glass in his turn, when on a sudden he grew so flustered, that he took all the talk of the table into his own hands, abused every one of the company, and flung a bottle at the gentleman's head who treated him. This has given me occasion to reflect upon the ill effects of a vicious modesty, and to remember the saying of Brutus, as it is quoted by Plutarch, that 'the person has had but an ill education, who has not been taught to deny any thing.' This false kind of modesty has, perhaps, betrayed both sexes into as many vices as the most abandoned impudence; and is the more inexorable to reason, because it acts to gratify others rather than itself, and is punished with a kind of remorse, not only like other vicious habits when the crime is over, but even at the very time that it is committed.

Nothing is more admirable than true modesty, and nothing is more contemptible than the false. The one guards virtue, the other betrays it. True modesty is ashamed to do any thing that is repugnant to the rules of right reason: false modesty is ashamed to do any thing that is opposite to the humour of the company. True modesty avoids every thing that is criminal, false modesty every thing that is unfashionable. The latter is only a general undetermined instinct; the former is that instinct, limited and circumscribed by the rules of prudence and religion.

We may conclude that modesty to be false and vicious which engages a man to do any thing that is ill or indiscreet, or which restrains him from doing any thing that is of a contrary nature. How many men, in the common concerns of life, lend sums of money which they are not able to spare, are bound for persons whom they have but little friendship for, give commendatory characters of men whom they are not acquainted with, bestow places on those whom they do not esteem, live in such manner as they themselves do not approve, and all this merely because they have not the confidence to resist solicitation, importunity, or example?

Nor does this false modesty expose us only to such actions as are indiscreet, but very often to such as are highly criminal. When Xenophanes was called timorous, because he would not venture his money in a game at dice; 'I confess,' said he, 'that I am exceeding timorous, for I dare not do any ill thing.' On the contrary, a man of vicious modesty complies with every thing, and is only

fearful of doing what may look singular in the company where he is engaged. He falls in with the torrent, and lets himself go to every action or discourse, however unjustifiable in itself, so it be in vogue among the present party. This, though one of the most common, is one of the most ridiculous dispositions in human nature, that men should not be ashamed of speaking or acting in a foolish or irrational manner, but that one who is in the company should be ashamed of governing himself by the principles of reason and virtue.

In the second place, we are to consider false modesty, as it restrains a man from doing what is good and laudable. My reader's own thoughts suggest to him many instances and examples on this head. I shall only dwell upon one reflection, which I cannot make without a secret concern. We have in England a particular bashfulness in every thing that regards religion. A well-bred man is obliged to conceal any serious sentiment of this nature, and very often to appear a great libertine than he is, that he may keep himself in countenance among the men of mode. Our exercise of modesty makes us shame-faced in all the exercises of piety and devotion. This humour prevails upon us daily; inasmuch that, at many well-bred tables, the master of the house is so very modest a man, that he has not the confidence to sit in grace at his own table: a custom which is not only practised by all the nations about us, but was never omitted by the heathens themselves. English gentlemen, who travel into Roman-catholic countries are not a little surprised to meet with people of the best quality kneeling in their churches, and engaged in their private devotions, though it is not at the hours of public worship. An officer in the army, or a man of wit and pleasure, in these countries, would be afraid of passing not only for an irreligious, but an ill-bred man, should he be seen to go to bed, or sit down at table, without offering up his devotions on such occasions. The same show of religion appears in all the foreign reformed churches, and enters so much into the ordinary conversation, that an Englishman is apt to term them hypocritical and precise.

This little appearance of a religious deportment in our nation, may proceed in some measure from that modesty which is natural to us; but the greater occasion of it is certainly this. Those swarms of sectaries that overran the nation in the time of the great rebellion, carried their hypocrisy so high that they had converted our whole language into a jargon of enthusiasm; inasmuch that, upon the restoration, men thought they could not recede so far from the behaviour and practice of those persons who had made religion a cloak to so many villanies. This led them into the other extreme: every appearance of devotion was looked upon as puritanical, and falling into the hands of those 'ridiculous' who flourished in that reign, and attacked every thing that was serious, it has ever since been out of countenance among us. By this means we are gradually fallen into that vicious modesty, which has in some measure worn out from among us the appearance of Christianity in ordinary life and conversation, and which distinguishes us from all our neighbours.

Hypocrisy cannot indeed be too much detested, but at the same time is to be preferred to open impiety. They are both equally destructive to the person who is possessed with them; but, in regard to others, hypocrisy is not so pernicious as barefaced irreligion. The due mean to be observed is to be sincerely virtuous, and at the same time to

the world see we are so.' I do not know a more dreadful menace in the holy writings, than which is pronounced against those who have perverted modesty, to be ashamed before men a particular of such unspeakable importance.

ADDISON.

C.

10 459. SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1712.

— *Quicquid dignum sapiente bonoque est.*
HOR. Ep. 4. l. 1. ver. 5.

— What befits the wise and good.
CREECH.

UNION may be considered under two general heads. The first comprehends what we are to be, the other what we are to practise. By those things which we are to believe, I mean whatever revealed to us in the holy writings, and which could not have obtained the knowledge of by light of nature; by the things which we are to do, I mean all those duties to which we are acted by reason or natural religion. The first these I shall distinguish by the name of faith, the second by that of morality.

If we look into the more serious part of mankind, we find many who lay so great a stress upon faith, that they neglect morality; and many who rely so much upon morality, that they do not pay due regard to faith. The perfect man should be active in neither of these particulars, as will be evident to those who consider the benefits which arise from each of them, and which I shall take the subject of this day's paper.

Notwithstanding this general division of Christianity into morality and faith, and that they have their peculiar excellencies, the first has the pre-eminence in several respects.

First, Because the greatest part of morality (as we have stated the notion of it) is of a fixed eternal nature, and will endure when faith shall fail, and is lost in conviction.

Secondly, because a person may be qualified to do greater good to mankind, and become more beneficial to the world, by morality without faith, than by faith without morality.

Thirdly, Because morality gives a greater perfection to human nature, by quieting the mind, moderating the passions, and advancing the happiness of every man in his private capacity.

Fourthly, Because the rule of morality is much more certain than that of faith, all the civilized nations of the world agreeing in the great points of morality, as much as they differ in those of faith.

Fifthly, Because infidelity is not of so malignant a nature as immorality; or, to put the same reason in another light, because it is generally owned, there may be salvation for a virtuous infidel (particularly in the case of invincible ignorance), but none for a vicious believer.

Sixthly, Because faith seems to draw its principle, if not all its excellency, from the influence it has upon morality; as we shall see more at large, when we consider wherein consists the excellency of faith, or the belief of revealed religion; and this I think is,

First, In explaining, and carrying to greater lights, several points of morality.

Secondly, In furnishing new and stronger motives to enforce the practice of morality.

Thirdly, In giving us more amiable ideas of the

Supreme Being, more endearing notions of one another, and a truer state of ourselves, both in regard to the grandeur and vileness of our natures.

Fourthly, By showing us the blackness and deformity of vice, which in the Christian system is so very great, that he who is possessed of all perfection, and the sovereign judge of it, is represented by several of our divines as hating sin to the same degree that he loves the sacred person who was made the propitiation of it.

Fifthly, In being the ordinary and prescribed method of making morality effectual to salvation.

I have only touched on these several heads, which every one who is conversant in discourses of this nature will easily enlarge upon in his own thoughts, and draw conclusions from them which may be useful to him in the conduct of his life. One I am sure is so obvious, that he cannot miss it, namely, that a man cannot be perfect in his scheme of morality, who does not strengthen and support it with that of the Christian faith.

Besides this, I shall lay down two or three other maxims which I think we may deduce from what has been said.

First, That we should be particularly cautious of making any thing an article of faith, which does not contribute to the confirmation or improvement of morality.

Secondly, That no article of faith can be true and authentic, which weakens or subverts the practical part of religion, or what I have hitherto called morality.

Thirdly, That the greatest friend of morality or natural religion, cannot possibly apprehend any danger from embracing Christianity, as it is preserved pure and uncorrupt in the doctrines of our national church.

There is likewise another maxim which I think may be drawn from the foregoing considerations, which is this, that we should, in all dubious points, consider any ill consequences that may arise from them, supposing they should be erroneous, before we give up our assent to them.

For example, In that disputable point of prosecuting men for conscience sake, besides the imbiting their minds with hatred, indignation, and all the vehemence of resentment, and insinuating them to profess what they do not believe; we cut them off from the pleasures and advantages of society; afflict their bodies, distress their fortunes, hurt their reputations, ruin their families, make their lives painful, or put an end to them. Sure when I see such dreadful consequences rising from a principle, I would be as fully convinced of the truth of it, as of a mathematical demonstration, before I would venture to act upon it, or make it a part of my religion.

In this case the injury done our neighbour is plain and evident; the principle that puts us upon doing it, of a dubious and disputable nature. Morality seems highly violated by the one; and whether or no a zeal for what a man thinks the true system of faith may justify it, is very uncertain. I cannot but think, if our religion produces charity as well as zeal, it will not be for showing itself by such cruel instances. But to conclude with the words of an excellent author *, 'We have just enough religion to make us hate but not enough to make us love one another.'

ADDISON.

C.

* Supposed to be Archbishop Tillotson.

N° 460. MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1712.

Decipimur specie recti

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 25.

Deluded by a seeming excellence.

ROSCOMMON.

Our defects and follies are too often unknown to us; nay, they are so far from being known to us, that they pass for demonstrations of our worth. This makes us easy in the midst of them, fond to show them, fond to improve in them, and to be esteemed for them. Then it is that a thousand unaccountable conceits, gay inventions, and extravagant actions, must afford us pleasures, and display us to others in the colours which we ourselves take a fancy to glory in. Indeed there is something so amusing for the time in this state of vanity and ill-grounded satisfaction, that even the wiser world has chosen an exalted word to describe its enchantments, and called it, 'The Paradise of Fools.'

Perhaps the latter part of this reflection may seem a false thought of some, and bear another turn than what I have given; but it is at present none of my business to look after it, who am going to confess that I have been lately amongst them in a vision.

Methought I was transported to a hill, green, flowery, and of an easy ascent. Upon the broad top of it resided squint-eyed Error, and Popular Opinion with many heads; two that dealt in sorcery, and were famous for bewitching people with the love of themselves. To these repaired a multitude from every side, by two different paths which lead towards each of them. Some who had the most assuming air, went directly of themselves to Error, without expecting a conductor; others of a softer nature went first to Popular Opinion, from whence, as she influenced and engaged them with their own praises, she delivered them over to his government.

When we had ascended to an open part of the summit where Opinion abode, we found her entertaining several who had arrived before us. Her voice was pleasing; she breathed odours as she spoke. She seemed to have a tongue for every one: every one thought he heard of something that was valuable in himself, and expected a paradise which she promised as the reward of his merit. Thus were we drawn to follow her, till she should bring us where it was to be bestowed: and it was observable, that all the way we went, the company was either praising themselves for their qualifications, or one another for those qualifications which they took to be conspicuous in their own characters, or dispraising others for wanting theirs, or vying in the degrees of them.

At last we approached a bower, at the entrance of which Error was seated. The trees were thick woven, and the place where he sat artfully contrived to darken him a little. He was disguised in a whitish robe, which he had put on, that he might appear to us with a nearer resemblance to Truth: and as she has a light whereby she manifests the beauties of nature to the eyes of her adorers, so he had provided himself with a magical wand, that he might do something in imitation of it, and please with delusions. This he lifted solemnly, and muttering to himself, bid the glories which he kept under enchantment to appear before us. Immediately we cast our eyes on that part of

the sky to which he pointed, and observed a blue prospect, which cleared as mountains in summer morning when the mists go off, and the place of Vanity appeared to sight.

The foundation hardly seemed a foundation, a set of curling clouds, which it stood upon by magical contrivance. The way by which we ascended was painted like a rainbow; and as we went, a breeze that played about us bewitched the scene. The walls were gilded all for show; the lowest of pillars were of the slight fine Corinthian order, and the top of the building being rounded, bore the resemblance of a bubble.

At the gate the travellers neither met with a porter, nor waited till one should appear; every one thought his merits a sufficient passport, and pressed forward. In the hall we met with several portraits, that roved amongst us, and ranged the company according to their sentiments. There was a decreasing Honour, that had nothing to show but an old coat of his ancestor's achievement. There was Ostentation, that made himself his constant subject, and Gallantry strutting upon tip-toes. At the upper end of the hall stood a throne, whose canopy glittered with all the riches that Gaiety could contrive to lavish on, and between the gilded arms sat Vanity, decked in the peacock's feathers, and acknowledged by another Venus by her votaries. The boy who sat beside her for a Cupid, and who made the way to bow before her, was called Self-conceit. His eyes had every now and then a cast inward, to neglect of all objects about him; and the arrows which he made use of for conquest, were borrowed from those against whom he had a design. Flattery which he shot at the soldier, was fed from his own plume of feathers; the dart he directed against the man of wit, was winged from the quills he writ with; and that which he cast against those who presumed upon their riches, was headed with gold out of their treasuries. He sent for statesmen from their own contrivance, he took fire from the eyes of ladies, with which he melted their hearts; and lightning from the tongue of the eloquent, to inflame them with their own glories. At the foot of the throne sat three fair graces; Flattery with a shell of paint; Affectation with a mirror to practise at, and Fashion not changing the posture of her clothes. They supplied themselves to secure the conquests which Self-conceit had gotten, and had each of them particular politics. Flattery gave new colours to complexions to all things; Affectation new airs to appearances, which, as she said, were not worn; and Fashion both concealed some home defects, and added some foreign external beauties.

As I was reflecting upon what I saw, I heard a voice in the crowd bemoaning the condition of mankind, which is thus managed by the breath of Opinion, deluded by Error, fired by Self-conceit, and given up to be trained in all the courses of Vanity, till Scorn or Poverty come upon us. These expressions were no sooner heard, but I immediately saw a general disorder, till at last there was a parting in one place, and a grey old man, decent and resolute, was led forward to be punished for the words he had uttered. He appeared inclined to have spoken in his own defence, but I could not observe that any one was willing to hear him. Vanity cast a scornful smile on him. Self-conceit was angry; Flattery, who had been for Plain-dealing, put on a vizard, and turned away; Affectation tossed her fan, made music, and called him Envy or Slander; and I ab-

would have it, that at least he must be ill-manners. Thus slighted and despised by all, he was driven out for abusing people of merit and figure; and I heard it firmly resolved, that he should be used no better wherever they met with him hereafter.

I had already seen the meaning of most part of that warning which he had given, and was considering how the latter words should be fulfilled, when a mighty noise was heard without, and the door was blackened by a numerous train of harpies crowding in upon us. Folly and Broken-creed were seen in the house before they entered. Trouble, Shame, Infamy, Scorn, and Poverty, brought up the rear. Vanity, with her Cupid and Graces, disappeared; her subjects ran into holes and corners; but many of them were found and carried off (as I was told by one who stood near me) either to prisons or cellars, solitude or little company, the mean arts or the viler crafts of life.

But these, added he with a disdainful air, 'are such who would fondly live here, when their merits neither matched the lustre of the place, nor their riches its expenses. We have seen such scenes as these before now; the glory you saw will all return when the hurry is over.' I thanked him for his information, and believing him so incorrigible as that he would stay till it was his turn to be taken, I made off to the door, and overtook some few, who, though they would not hearken to Plain-dealing, were now terrified to good purpose by the example of others. But when they had touched the threshold, it was a strange shock to them to find that the delusion of Error was gone, and they plainly discerned the building to hang a little up in the air without any real foundation. At first we saw nothing but a desperate leap remained for us, and I a thousand times blamed my unmeaning curiosity that had brought me into so much danger. But as they began to sink lower in their own minds, I thought the palace sunk along with us, till they were arrived at the due point of esteem which they ought to have for themselves; then the part of the building in which they stood touched the earth, and we departing out, it retired from our eyes. Now, whether they who stayed in the palace were sensible of this descent, I cannot tell; it was then my opinion that they were not. However it is, my dream broke up at it, and has given me occasion all my life to reflect upon the fatal consequences of following the suggestions of Vanity*.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

I WRITE to you to desire, that you would again touch upon a certain enormity, which is chiefly in use among the politer and better-bred part of mankind; I mean the ceremonies, bows, curtsies, whistlings, smiles, winks, nods, with other familiar arts of salutation, which take up in our churches so much time, that might be better employed, and which seem so utterly inconsistent with the duty and true intent of our entering into those religious assemblies. The resemblance which this bears to our indeed proper behaviour in theatres, may be some instance of its incongruity in the above-mentioned places. In Roman catholic churches and chapels abroad, I myself have observed, more than once, persons of the first quality, of the nearest relation, and intimatest acquaintance, passing by one another unknowing as it were, and unknown, and with so little notice of each other, that it looked like having their minds more suitably and

more solemnly engaged; at least it was an acknowledgment that they ought to have been so. I have been told the same even of the Mahometans, with relation to the propriety of their demeanour in the conventions of their erroneous worship; and I cannot but think either of them sufficient and laudable patterns of our imitation in this particular.

I cannot help, upon this occasion, remarking on the excellent memories of those devotionists, who, upon returning from church, shall give a particular account how two or three hundred people were dressed: a thing, by reason of its variety, so difficult to be digested and fixed in the head, that it is a miracle to me how two poor hours of divine service can be time sufficient for so elaborate an undertaking, the duty of the place too being jointly, and no doubt oft pathetically, performed along with it. Where it is said in sacred writ, that "the woman ought to have a covering on her head because of the angels," that last word is by some thought to be metaphorically used, and to signify young men. Allowing this interpretation to be right, the text may not appear to be wholly foreign to our present purpose.

When you are in a disposition proper for writing on such a subject, I earnestly recommend this to you; and am,

'SIR,

'Your very humble servant.'

STEELE.

T.

Nº 461. TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1712.

Sed non ego credulus illis.

VIRG. Ecl. ix. ver. 34.

But I discern their flattery from their praise.

DRYDEN.

FOR want of time to substitute something else in the room of them, I am at present obliged to publish compliments above my desert in the following letters. It is no small satisfaction to have given occasion to ingenious men to employ their thoughts upon sacred subjects from the approbation of such pieces of poetry as they have seen in my Saturday's papers. I shall never publish verse on that day but what is written by the same hand*; yet shall I not accompany those writings with eulogiums, but leave them to speak for themselves.

* FOR THE SPECTATOR.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

'You very much promote the interests of virtue, while you reform the taste of a profane age; and persuade us to be entertained with divine poems, whilst we are distinguished by so many thousand humours, and split into so many different sects and parties; yet persons of every party, sect, and humour, are fond of conforming their taste to yours. You can transfuse your own relish of a poem into all your readers, according to their capacity to receive; and when you recommend the pious passion that reigns in the verse, we seem to feel the devotion, and grow proud and pleased inwardly, that we have souls capable of relishing what the Spectator approves.

Upon reading the hymns that you have published in some late papers, I had a mind to try yesterday whether I could write one. The cxivth

* This vision was written by Dr. Parnell. See also Nº 501.

† See Nº 299.

* Addison.

psalm appears to me an admirable ode, and I began to turn it into our language. As I was describing the journey of Israel from Egypt, and added the divine presence amongst them, I perceived a beauty in this psalm, which was entirely new to me, and which I was going to lose; and that is, that the poet utterly conceals the presence of God in the beginning of it, and rather lets a possessive pronoun go without a substantive, than he will so much as mention any thing of divinity there. "Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion, or kingdom." The reason now seems evident, and this conduct necessary: for, if God had appeared before, there could be no wonder why the mountains should leap, and the sea retire; therefore that this convulsion of nature may be brought in with due surprise, his name is not mentioned till afterward, and then with a very agreeable turn of thought God is introduced at once in all his majesty. This is what I have attempted to imitate in a translation without paraphrase, and to preserve what I could of the spirit of the sacred author.

'If the following essay be not too incorrigible, bestow upon it a few brightenings from your genius, that I may learn how to write better, or to write no more.

'Your daily admirer and
'humble servant, &c.'

PSALM CXIV.

"When Israel, freed from Pharaoh's hand,
Left the proud tyrant and his land,
The tribes with cheerful homage own
Their king, and Judah was his throne.

Across the deep their journey lay,
The deep divides to make them way;
The streams of Jordan saw, and fled
With backward current to their head.

The mountains shook like frightened sheep,
Like lambs the little hillocks leap;
Not Sinai on her base could stand,
Conscious of sov'reign pow'r at hand.

What power could make the deep divide?
Make Jordan backward roll his tide?
Why did ye leap, ye little hills?
And whence the fright that Sinai feels?

Let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry flood,
Retire, and know th' approaching God,
The King of Israel. See him here:
Tremble thou earth, adore, and fear.

He thunders—and all nature mourns:
The rock to standing pools he turns,
Flints spring with fountains at his word,
And fires and seas confess their Lord."

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THERE are those who take the advantage of your putting a halfpenny value upon yourself above the rest of our daily writers, to defame you in public conversation, and strive to make you unpopular upon the account of this said halfpenny. But, if I were you, I would insist upon that small acknowledgment for the superior merit of yours, as being a work of invention. Give me leave, therefore, to do you justice, and say in your behalf, what you cannot yourself, which is, that your writings have made learning a more necessary part of good-breeding than it was before you appeared: that modesty has become fashionable, and impudence stands in need of some wit, since you have put them both in their proper lights. Profaneness,

* By Dr. Watts.

lewdness, and debauchery, are not now qualifications; and a man may be a very fine gentleman, though he is neither a keeper, nor an infidel.

'I would have you tell the town the story of the Sibyls, if they deny giving you two-pence. I let them know, that those sacred papers were valued at the same rate after two-thirds of them were destroyed, as when there was the whole set. There are so many of us who will give you your own price, that you may acquaint your non-conformist readers, that they shall not have it, except they come in within such a day, under three-pence. I do not know but you might bring in the *Datulum Belisario* with a good grace. The wits come in clusters to two or three coffee-houses where I have left you off; and I hope you will make it who fine to your wit, merry with their character who stand out against it.

'I am your most humble servant.

'P. S. I have lately got the ingenious author of blacking for shoes, powder for colouring the pomatum for the hands, cosmetic for the face, to be your constant customers; so that your advertisements will as much adorn the outward man, as your paper does the inward.'

STEELE.

T.

Nº 402. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1712

Nil ego pratulerim jucundo sanus amico.

HOR. Sat. v. l. l. vs. 49.

Nothing so grateful as a pleasant friend.

PEOPLE are not aware of the very great force which pleasantry in company has upon all those with whom a man of that talent converses. His faults are generally overlooked by all his acquaintance, and a certain carelessness, that constantly attends all his actions, carries him on with great success, than diligence and assiduity does others who have no share of this endowment. Dacinctus breaks his word upon all occasions, both trivial and important; and, when he is sufficiently rich, at for that abominable quality, they who talk of him end with 'After all, he is a very pleasant fellow.' Dacinctus is an ill-natured husband, as yet the very women end their freedom of discourse upon this subject, 'But, after all, he is very pleasant company.' Dacinctus is neither, in point of honour, civility, good-breeding, nor good-satire, unexceptionable; and yet all is answered, 'For he is a very pleasant fellow.' When this quality is conspicuous in a man who has, to accompany a manly and virtuous sentiments, there cannot certainly be any thing which can give so pleasing a gratification as the gaiety of such a person; but when it is alone, and serves only to gild a crowd of ill qualities, there is no man so much to be avoided as your pleasant fellow. A very pleasant fellow shall turn your good name to a jest, make your character contemptible, debauch your wife or daughter, and yet be received by the rest of the world with welcome wherever he appears. He is very ordinary with those of this character to be attentive only to their own satisfactions, and to very little howels for the concerns or sorrows of other men; nay, they are capable of pursuing their own pleasures at the expense of giving pain to others. But they who do not consider themselves thus carefully, are irresistibly exposed to the

insinuations. The author of the following letter carries the matter so high, as to intimate that the liberties of England have been at the mercy of a prince merely as he was of this pleasant character.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THERE is no one passion which all mankind so naturally give into as pride, nor any other passion which appears in such different disguises. It is to be found in all habits and complexions. Is it not a question, whether it does more harm or good in the world; and if there be not such a thing as what we may call a virtuous and laudable pride?

'It is this passion alone, when misapplied, that lays us so open to flatterers; and he who can agreeably condescend to soothe our humour or temper, finds always an open avenue to our soul; especially if the flatterer happen to be our superior.

'One might give many instances of this in a late English monarch, under the title of "The Gaieties of King Charles II." This prince was by nature extremely familiar, of very easy access, and much delighted to see and be seen; and this happy temper, which in the highest degree gratified his people's vanity, did him more service with his loving subjects than all his other virtues, though it must be confessed he had many. He delighted, though a mighty king, to give and take a jest, as they say: and a prince of this fortunate disposition, who were inclined to make an ill use of his power, may have any thing of his people, be it never so much to their prejudice. But this good king made generally a very innocent use, as to the public, of this insinuating temper; for, it is well known, he pursued pleasure more than ambition. He seemed to glory in being the first man at cock-matches, horse-races, balls, and plays: he appeared highly delighted on those occasions, and never failed to warm and gladden the heart of every spectator. He more than once dined with his good citizens of London on their lord-mayor's day, and did so the year that Sir Robert Viner was mayor. Sir Robert was a very loyal man, and, if you will allow the expression, very fond of his sovereign; but, what with the joy he felt at heart for the honour done him by his prince, and through the warmth he was in with continual toasting healths to the royal family, his lordship grew a little fond of his majesty, and entered into a familiarity not altogether so graceful in so public a place. The king understood very well how to extricate himself in all kinds of difficulties, and, with an hint to the company to avoid ceremony, stole off and made towards his coach, which stood ready for him in Guildhall-yard. But the mayor liked his company so well, and was grown so intimate, that he pursued him hastily, and catching him fast by the hand, cried out with a vehement oath and accent, "Sir, you shall stay and take t'other bottle." The airy monarch looked kindly at him over his shoulder, and with a smile and graceful air (for I saw him at the time, and do now) repeated this line of the old song,

"He that is drunk is as great as a king,"

and immediately returned back and complied with his landlord.

'I give you this story, Mr. Spectator, because, as I said, I saw the passage; and I assure you it is very true, and yet no common one; and when I tell you the sequel, you will say I have a better reason for it. This very mayor afterwards erected

a statue of his merry monarch in Stocks-market; and did the crown many and great services; and it was owing to this humour of the king, that his family had so great a fortune shut up in the exchequer of their pleasant sovereign. The many good-natured condescensions of this prince are vulgarly known; and it is excellently said of him by a great hand† which writ his character, that he was not a king a quarter of an hour together in his whole reign. He would receive visits even from fools and half madmen; and at times I have met with people who have boxed, fought at back-sword, and taken poison, before King Charles II. In a word, he was so pleasant a man, that no one could be sorrowful under his government. This made him capable of baffling, with the greatest ease imaginable, all suggestions of jealousy; and the people could not entertain notions of any thing terrible in him whom they saw every way agreeable. This scrap of the familiar part of that prince's history I thought fit to send you, in compliance to the request you lately made to your correspondents.

'I am, SIR,

'Your most humble servant.'

STEELE.

T.

Nº 463. THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1712.

*Omnia quæ sensu voluntur nota diurno,
Pactare sopita reddit amica quiet.
Venator defissa toro cum membra reponit,
Mens tamen ad sylvas et sua lustra redit:
Judicibus litæ, auriga somnia currit,
Vanæque nocturnis meta corvetur equis.
Me quoque Musarum studium sub nocte silenti
Artibus assuetis sollicitare solet.*

CLAUD.

In sleep, when fancy is let loose to play,
Our dreams repeat the wishes of the day.
Though further toil his tired limbs refuse,
The dreaming hunter still the chase pursues.
The judge a bed dispenses still the laws,
And sleeps again o'er the unfinished cause.
The dozing racer bears his chariot roll,
Smacks the vain-whip, and shuns the fancy'd goal.
Me too the Muses, in the silent night,
With wonted chimes of jingling verse delight.

I WAS lately entertaining myself with comparing Homer's balance, in which Jupiter is represented as weighing the fates of Hector and Achilles, with a passage of Virgil, wherein that deity is introduced as weighing the fates of Turnus and Æneas. I then considered how the same way of thinking prevailed in the eastern parts of the world, as in those noble passages of scripture, wherein we are told that the great king of Babylon, the day before

* This equestrian statue was originally made for John Sobieski, King of Poland, but by some accident it had been left on the workman's hands. To save time and expense, the Polanders was converted into a Brittain, and the Turk underneath his horse into Oliver Cromwell, to complete the compliment. Unfortunately, the turban on the Turk's head was overlooked, and left an undeniable proof of this story. See Stow's Survey, &c. ed. 1755, vol. I. p. 517. This statue, formed of white marble, was erected on a neat conduit, in 1675; but when, in 1735, the city-council fixed on Stocks-market for the site of a house of residence for the lord-mayors of London, the statue was removed, to make way for the Mansion-house: the first stone of which was laid October 25, 1739, by Micajah Perry, Esq. then lord-mayor.—On the 18th of May, 1779, Robert Viner, Esq. applied to the court of common council to have this statue (which had been erected by his ancestor) delivered to him for his use; and the court complied with the request. Where it is now, we do not know.

† Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, said, that 'on premeditation Charles II. could not act the part of a king for a moment.'

his death, had been 'weighed in the balance, and been found wanting.' In other places of the holy writings, the Almighty is described as weighing the mountains in scales, making the weight for the winds, knowing the balancings of the clouds; and in others, as weighing the actions of men, and laying their calamities together in a balance. Milton, as I have observed in a former paper*, had an eye to several of these foregoing instances in that beautiful description, wherein he represents the archangel and the evil spirit as addressing themselves for the combat, but parted by the balance which appeared in the heavens, and weighed the consequences of such a battle.

'Th' Eternal, to prevent such horrid fray,
Hung forth in Heav'n his golden scales, yet seen
Betwixt *Astrea* and the *Scorpion* sign;
Wherein all things created first he weigh'd,
The pendulous round earth, with balance'd air,
In counterpoise. now ponders all events,
Battles and realms; in these he put two weights,
The sequel each of parting and of fight.
The latter quick up flew, and kick'd the beam:
Which *Gabriel* spying, thus bespake the fiend:
"Satan, I know thy strength, and thou know'st mine:
Neither our own, but giv'n. What folly then
To boast what arms can do, since thine no more
Than Heav'n permits; nor mine, though doubled now
To trample thee as mire! for proof look up,
And read thy lot in yon celestial sign,
Where thou art weigh'd; and shown how light, how weak,
If thou resist." The fiend look'd up, and knew
His mounted scale aloft; nor more; but fled
Murm'ring, and with him sed the shades of night.'

These several amusing thoughts, having taken possession of my mind some time before I went to sleep, and mingling themselves with my ordinary ideas, raised in my imagination a very odd kind of vision. I was, methought, replaced in my study, and seated in my elbow-chair, where I had indulged the foregoing speculations, with my lamp burning by me as usual. Whilst I was here meditating on several subjects of morality, and considering the nature of many virtues and vices, as materials for those discourses with which I daily entertain the public; I saw, methought, a pair of golden scales hanging by a chain of the same metal over the table that stood before me; when, on a sudden, there were great heaps of weights thrown down on each side of them. I found, upon examining these weights, they showed the value of every thing that is in esteem among men. I made an essay of them, by putting the weight of wisdom in one scale, and that of riches in another; upon which the latter, to show its comparative lightness, immediately flew up, and kicked the beam.

But, before I proceed, I must inform my reader, that these weights did not exert their natural gravity, till they were laid in the golden balance, inasmuch that I could not guess which was light or heavy, whilst I held them in my hand. This I found by several instances; for, upon my laying a weight in one of the scales, which was inscribed by the word 'eternity,' though I threw in that of time, prosperity, affliction, wealth, poverty, interest, success, with many other weights, which in my hand seemed very ponderous, they were not able to stir the opposite balance; nor could they have prevailed, though assisted with the weight of the sun, the stars, and the earth.

Upon emptying the scales, I laid several titles and honours, with pomps, triumphs, and many weights of the like nature, in one of them; and

seeing a little glittering weight lie by me, I threw it accidentally into the other scale, when, to my great surprise, it proved so exact a counterpoise, that it kept the balance in an equilibrium. The little glittering weight was inscribed upon the edges of it with the word 'vanity.' I found there were several other weights which were equally heavy, and exact counterpoises to one another: a few of them I tried, as avarice and poverty, riches and content, with some others.

There were likewise several weights that were of the same figure, and seemed to correspond with each other, but were entirely different when thrown into the scales: as religion and hypocrisy, pedantry and learning, wit and vivacity, superstition and devotion, gravity and wisdom, with many others.

I observed one particular weight lettered on both sides; and, upon applying myself to the reading of it, I found on one side written, 'In the dialect of men,' and underneath it, 'Calamities'; on the other side was written, 'In the language of the gods,' and underneath, 'Blessings.' I found the intrinsic value of this weight to be much greater than I imagined, for it overpowered Health, Wealth, Good-fortune, and many other weights, which were much more ponderous in my hand than the other.

There is a saying among the Scotch, that an ounce of mother-wit is worth a pound of clergy. I was sensible of the truth of this saying, when I saw the difference between the weight of Natural Parts, and that of Learning. The observation which I made upon these two weights opened to me a new field of discoveries; for, notwithstanding the weight of Natural Parts was much heavier than that of Learning, I observed that it weighed an hundred times heavier than it did before, when I put Learning into the same scale with it. I made the same observation upon Faith and Morality*; for, notwithstanding the latter outweighed the former separately, it received a thousand times more additional weight from its conjunction with the former, than what it had by itself. This odd phenomenon showed itself in other particulars, as in Wit and Judgment, Philosophy and Religion, Justice and Humanity, Zeal and Charity, depth of Sense and perspicuity of Style, with innumerable other particulars too long to be mentioned in this paper.

As a dream seldom fails of dashing seriousness with impertinence, mirth with gravity, methought I made several other experiments of a more ludicrous nature, by one of which I found that an English octavo was very often heavier than a French folio; and, by another, that an old Greek or Latin author weighed down a whole library of moderns. Seeing one of my Spectators lying by me, I laid it into one of the scales, and flung a two-penny piece into the other. The reader will not inquire into the event, if he remembers the first trial which I have recorded in this paper. I afterwards threw both the sexes into the balance; but, as it is not for my interest to disoblige either of them, I shall desire to be excused from telling the result of the experiment. Having an opportunity of this nature in my hands, I could not forbear throwing into one scale the principles of a tory, and into the other those of a whig; but as I have all along declared this to be a neutral paper, I shall likewise desire to be silent under this head also, though

a examining one of the weights, I saw the word 'TEKEL' * engraved on it in capital letters. I made many other experiments; and, though I see not room for them all in this day's speculation, I may perhaps reserve them for another. I only add that, upon my awaking, I was sorry at my golden scales vanished; but resolved for the future to learn this lesson from them, not to prize or value any things for their appearances, but to regulate my esteem and passions towards according to their real and intrinsic value.

EDMON.

C.

N° 464. FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1712.

*Auream quisquis mediocritatem
Diligit, tutus caret obsoleti
vordibus tecti, caret invidenda
Sobrius aula.*

HOR. Od. x. l. 2. ver. 5.

The golden mean, as she's too nice to dwell
Among the ruins of a filthy cell,
So is her modesty withal as great,
To balk the envy of a princely seat.
NORRIA.

I am wonderfully pleased when I meet with any age in an old Greek or Latin author, that is blown upon, and which I have never met with quotation. Of this kind is a beautiful saying Ægeus: 'Vice is covered by wealth, and virtue by poverty'; or, to give it in the verbal translation, 'Among men there are some who have their virtues concealed by wealth, and others who have their virtues concealed by poverty.' Every man's conversation will supply him with instances of rich men, who have several faults and defects that are looked, if not entirely hidden, by means of their riches; and, I think, we cannot find a more full description of a poor man, whose merits are lost in his poverty, than that in the words of a wise man: 'There was a little city, and few within it; and there came a great king against and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it. Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and by his wisdom, delivered the city: yet no man remembered that same poor man. Then said I, I am better than strength; nevertheless, the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are heard.'

The middle condition seems to be the most advantageously situated for the gaining of wisdom. Poverty turns our thoughts too much upon the supplying of our wants, and riches upon our enjoying frivolities; and, as Cowley has said in another place, 'It is hard for a man to keep a steady eye on truth, who is always in a battle, or a tri-umph.'

When we regard poverty and wealth, as they are to produce virtues or vices in the mind of man, may observe that there is a set of each of these arising out of poverty, quite different from that which arises out of wealth. Humility and patience, industry and temperance, are very often the good qualities of a poor man. Humanity and goodness, magnanimity and a sense of honour, are as the qualifications of the rich. On the contrary, poverty is apt to betray a man into envy, and into arrogance; poverty is too often attended with fraud, vicious compliance, repining, murmur, discontent. Riches expose a man to pride and vanity, a foolish elation of heart, and too great a

fondness for the present world. In short, the middle condition is most eligible to the man who would improve himself in virtue, as I have before shown it is the most advantageous for the gaining of knowledge. It was upon this consideration that Agur founded his prayer, which for the wisdom of it is recorded in holy writ: 'Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die. Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: lest I be full and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.'

I shall fill the remaining part of my paper with a very pretty allegory, which is wrought into a play by Aristophanes, the Greek comedian. It seems originally designed as a satire upon the rich, though, in some parts of it, it is, like the foregoing discourse, a kind of comparison between wealth and poverty.

Chremylus, who was an old and a good man, and withal exceeding poor, being desirous to leave some riches to his son, consults the oracle of Apollo upon the subject. The oracle bids him follow the first man he should see upon his going out of the temple. The person he chanced to see was to appearance an old sordid blind man; but upon his following him from place to place, he at last found, by his own confession, that he was Plutus, the god of riches, and that he was just come out of the house of a miser. Plutus further told him, that when he was a boy, he used to declare, that as soon as he came to age he would distribute wealth to none but virtuous and just men; upon which Jupiter, considering the pernicious consequences of such a resolution, took his sight away from him, and left him to stroll about the world in the blind condition wherein Chremylus beheld him. With much ado Chremylus prevailed upon him to go to his house, where he met an old woman in a tattered raiment, who had been his guest for many years, and whose name was Poverty. The old woman refusing to turn out so easily as he would have her, he threatened to banish her not only from his own house, but out of all Greece, if she made any more words upon the matter. Poverty on this occasion pleads her cause very notably, and represents to her old landlord, that should she be driven out of the country, all their trades, arts, and sciences, would be driven out with her; and that if every one was rich, they would never be supplied with those pomps, ornaments, and conveniences of life, which made riches desirable. She likewise represented to him the several advantages which she bestowed upon her votaries in regard to their shape, their health, and their activity, by preserving them from gout, dropsies, unwieldiness, and intemperance. But whatever she had to say for herself, she was at last forced to troop off. Chremylus immediately considered how he might restore Plutus to his sight; and, in order to it, conveyed him to the temple of Æsculapius, who was famous for cures and miracles of this nature. By this means the deity recovered his eyes, and began to make a right use of them, by enriching every one that was distinguished by piety towards the gods, and justice towards men; and at the same time by taking away his gifts from the impious and undeserving. This produces several merry incidents, till in the last act Mercury descends with great complaints from the gods, that since the good men were grown rich, they had received no sacrifices; which is confirmed by a priest of Jupiter, who enters with a remonstrance, that since the late

* See Daniel, v. 27.

innovation he was reduced to a starving condition, and could not live upon his office. Chremylus, who in the beginning of the play was religious in his poverty, concludes it with a proposal, which was relished by all the good men who were now grown rich as well as himself, that they should carry Plutus in a solemn procession to the temple, and instal him in the place of Jupiter. This allegory instructed the Athenians in two points: first, as it vindicated the conduct of Providence in its ordinary distributions of wealth; and in the next place, as it showed the great tendency of riches to corrupt the morals of those who possessed them.

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 465. SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1712.

*Qua ratione quæsi tradere lentæ ævum;
Ne te semper inopæ ageret velletque cupidus;
Ne pavor et rerum noctivociter utilium apes.*
HOR. Ep. xviii. l. 1. ver. 97.

How thou may'st live, how spend thine age in peace,
Lest avarice, still poor, disturb thine ease:
Or fears should shake, or cares thy mind abuse,
Or ardent hope for things of little use.

CREECH.

HAVING endeavoured in my last Saturday's paper* to show the great excellency of faith, I shall here consider what are the proper means of strengthening and confirming it in the mind of man. Those who delight in reading books of controversy, which are written on both sides of the question on points of faith, do very seldom arrive at a fixed and settled habit of it. They are one day entirely convinced of its important truths, and the next meet with something that shakes and disturbs them. The doubt which was laid revives again, and shows itself in new difficulties, and that generally for this reason, because the mind, which is perpetually tossed in controversies and disputes, is apt to forget the reasons which had once set it at rest, and to be disquieted with any former perplexity, when it appears in a new shape, or is started by a different hand. As nothing is more laudable than an inquiry after truth, so nothing is more irrational than to pass away our whole lives, without determining ourselves one way or other in those points which are of the last importance to us. There are indeed many things from which we may withhold our assent; but in cases by which we are to regulate our lives, it is the greatest absurdity to be wavering and unsettled, without closing with that side which appears the most safe and the most probable. The first rule, therefore, which I shall lay down, is this, that when by reading or discourse we find ourselves thoroughly convinced of the truth of any article, and of the reasonableness of our belief in it, we should never after suffer ourselves to call it into question. We may perhaps forget the arguments which occasioned our conviction; but we ought to remember the strength they had with us, and therefore still to retain the conviction which they once produced. This is no more than what we do in every common art or science; nor is it possible to act otherwise, considering the weakness and limitation of our intellectual faculties. It was thus Latimer, one of the glorious army of martyrs, who introduced the reformation in England, behaved himself in that great conference which was managed between the most learned among the protestants and papists in the reign of Queen Mary.

* Nº 459.

This venerable old man, knowing how his abilities were impaired by age, and that it was impossible for him to recollect all those reasons which directed him in the choice of his religion, he had companions, who were in the full possession of the parts and learning, to battle and confound the antagonists by the force of reason. As for himself, he only repeated to his adversaries the principles in which he firmly believed, and in the profession of which he was determined to die. In this manner that the mathematician proved upon propositions which he has once demonstrated, and, though the demonstration may have slipped out of his memory, he builds upon the truth, because he knows it was demonstrated. This is absolutely necessary for weaker minds, and is a measure for men of the greatest abilities; but these last I would propose, in the second place, that they should lay up in their memories, and always keep by them in readiness, those arguments which appear to them of the greatest strength, at which cannot be got over by all the doubtful cavils of infidelity.

But, in the third place, there is nothing which strengthens faith more than morality. Faith and morality naturally produce each other. A man quickly convinced of the truth of religion, finds it is not against his interest that it should be true. The pleasure he receives at present, and the happiness which he promises himself for hereafter, will both dispose him very powerfully to give credit to it, according to the ordinary observation, that we are easy to believe what we wish. It is very certain, that a man of sound reason cannot forbear closing with religion upon an impartial examination of it; but at the same time it is certain, that faith is kept alive in us, and gathers strength from practice more than from speculation.

There is still another method, which is more persuasive than any of the former; and that is a habitual adoration of the Supreme Being, as well as constant acts of mental worship, as in our various forms. The devout man does not only believe, he feels there is a Deity. He has actual sensations of him; his experience concurs with his reason; he sees him more and more in all his intercourse with him, and even in this life almost loses himself in conviction.

The last method which I shall mention for giving life to a man's faith, is frequent retirement from the world, accompanied with religious meditation. When a man thinks of any thing in the darkness of the night, whatever deep impression it may make in his mind, they are apt to vanish as soon as the day breaks about him. The light and noise of the day, which are perpetually violent to his senses, and calling off his attention, sweep of his mind the thoughts that imprinted themselves in it, with so much strength, during the silence and darkness of the night. A man finds the same difference as to himself in a crowd and in a solitude. The mind is stunned and dazzled amidst the variety of objects which press upon her in a city. She cannot apply herself to the consideration of those things which are of the utmost consequence. The cares or pleasures of the world are mixed with every thought, and a multitude of vicious examples give a kind of justification to our faults. In our retirements every thing appears more serious. In courts and cities we are conversant with the works of men; in the country, with the works of God. One is the province of art, the other of nature. Faith and devotion naturally grow in the

ind of every reasonable man, who sees the impressions of divine power and wisdom in every object on which he casts his eye. The Supreme Being has made the best arguments for his own existence, in the formation of the heavens and the earth: and these are arguments which a man of sense cannot forbear attending to, who is out of the noise and hurry of human affairs. Aristotle says, that should a man live under ground, and there converse with works of art and mechanism, and should afterwards be brought up into the open day, and see the several glories of the heaven and earth, he would immediately pronounce them the works of such a being as we define God to be. The Psalmist has very beautiful strokes of poetry for this purpose, in that exalted strain: 'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy work. One day telleth another; and one night certifieth another. There is neither speech nor language; but their voices are heard among them. Their sound is gone out into all lands; and their words into the ends of the world,' in such a bold and sublime manner of thinking finishes very noble matter for an ode, the reader may see it wrought into the following one:

"The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim:
Th' unwearied sun, from day to day,
Doth his Creator's power display,
And publishes to every land
The works of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the list'ning earth
Repeats the story of her birth:
Whilst all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though, in solemn silence, all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice nor sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing, as they shine,
The hand that made us is divine."

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 466. MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1712.*Vera incensu patuit den.*VIRG. *Æn.* l. ver. 409.

And by her graceful walk the queen of love is known.
DRYDEN.

WHEN *Æneas*, the hero of Virgil, is lost in the wood, and a perfect stranger in the place on which he is landed, he is accosted by a lady in an habit of the chase. She inquires of him, whether he has been pass by that way any young woman dressed as she was? whether she were following the sport in the wood, or any other way employed, according to the custom of huntresses? The hero answers with the respect due to the beautiful appearance she made; tells her, he saw no such person as she required for; but intimates that he knows her to be of the deities, and desires she would conduct a ranger. Her form from her first appearance manifested she was more than mortal; but, though she was certainly a goddess, the poet does not make her known to be the goddess of beauty till she is loved. All the charms of an agreeable person are then in their highest exertion, every limb and

feature appears with its respective grace. It is from this observation that I cannot help being so passionate an admirer as I am of good dancing*. As all art is an imitation of nature, this is an imitation of nature in its highest excellence, and at a time when she is most agreeable. The business of dancing is to display beauty; and for that reason all distortions and mimicries, as such, are what raise aversion instead of pleasure: but things that are in themselves excellent, are ever attended with imposture and false imitation. Thus, as in poetry, there are labouring fools who write anagrams and acrostics, there are pretenders in dancing, who think merely to do what others cannot, is to excel. Such creatures should be rewarded like him who had acquired a knack of throwing a grain of corn through the eye of a needle, with a bushel to keep his hands in use. The dancers on our stages are very faulty in this kind; and what they mean by writhing themselves into such postures, as it would be a pain for any of the spectators to stand in, and yet hope to please those spectators, is unintelligible. Mr. Prince has a genius, if he were encouraged, would prompt him to better things. In all the dances he invents, you see he keeps close to the characters he represents. He does not hope to please by making his performers move in a manner in which no one else ever did, but by motions proper to the characters he represents. He gives to clowns and lubbards clumsy graces; that is, he makes them practise what they would think graces; and I have seen dances of his, which might give hints that would be useful to a comic writer. These performances have pleased the taste of such as have not reflection enough to know their excellence, because they are in nature; and the distorted motions of others have offended those who could not form reasons to themselves for their displeasure, from their being a contradiction to nature.

When one considers the inexpressible advantage there is in arriving at some excellence in this art, it is monstrous to behold it so much neglected. The following letter has in it something very natural on this subject.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a widower with but one daughter: she was by nature much inclined to be a romp; and I had no way of educating her, but commanding a young woman, whom I entertained to take care of her, to be very watchful in her care and attendance about her. I am a man of business, and obliged to be much abroad. The neighbours have told me, that in my absence our maid has let in the spruce servants in the neighbourhood to junketings, while my girl played and romped even in the street. To tell you the plain truth, I caught her once, at eleven years old, at chuck-farthing among the boys. This put me upon new thoughts about my child, and I determined to place her at a boarding-school; and at the same time gave a very discreet young gentlewoman her maintenance at the same place and rate, to be her companion. I took little notice of my girl from time to time, but saw her now and then in good health, out of harm's way, and was satisfied. But by much importunity, I was lately prevailed with to go to one of their balls. I cannot express to you the anxiety my silly heart was in, when I saw my romp, now fifteen, taken out: I never felt the pangs of a father upon me so strongly in my whole life before; and I could not

* See Nos. 66, 67, 334, 370, and 376. Tat. Nos. 34 and 68.

have suffered more had my whole fortune been at stake. My girl came on with the most becoming modesty I had ever seen, and casting a respectful eye, as if she feared me more than all the audience, I gave a nod, which I think gave her all the spirit she assumed upon it; but she rose properly to that dignity of aspect. My romp, now the most graceful person of her sex, assumed a majesty, which commanded the highest respect; and when she turned to me, and saw my face in rapture, she fell into the prettiest smile, and I saw in all her motions that she exulted in her father's satisfaction. You, Mr. Spectator, will, better than I can tell you, imagine to yourself all the different beauties and changes of aspect in an accomplished young woman setting forth all her beauties with a design to please no one so much as her father. My girl's lover can never know half the satisfaction that I did in her that day. I could not possibly have imagined, that so great improvement could have been wrought by an art that I always held in itself ridiculous and contemptible. There is, I am convinced, no method like this, to give young women a sense of their own value and dignity; and I am sure there can be none so expeditious to communicate that value to others. As for the flippancy insipidly gay, and wantonly forward, whom you behold among dancers, that carriage is more to be attributed to the perverse genius of the performers, than imputed to the art itself. For my part, my child has danced herself into my esteem; and I have as great an honour for her as ever I had for her mother, from whom she derived those latent good qualities which appeared in her countenance when she was dancing; for my girl, though I say it myself, showed in one quarter of an hour the innate principles of a modest virgin, a tender wife, a generous friend, a kind mother, and an indulgent mistress. I will strain hard but I will purchase for her an husband suitable to her merit. I am your convert in the admiration of what I thought you jested when you recommended; and if you please to be at my house on Thursday next, I make a ball for my daughter, and you shall see her dance, or, if you will do her that honour, dance with her.

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant,
'PHILIPATER.'

I have some time ago* spoken of a treatise written by Mr. Weaver on this subject, which is now, I understand, ready to be published. This work sets this matter in a very plain and advantageous light; and I am convinced from it, that if the art was under proper regulations, it would be a mechanic way of implanting insensibly, in minds not capable of receiving it so well by any other rules, a sense of good-breeding and virtue.

Were any one to see Mariamne† dance, let him be never so sensual a brute, I defy him to entertain any thoughts but of the highest respect and esteem towards her. I was showed last week a picture in a lady's closet, for which she had an hundred different dresses, that she could clap on round the face on purpose to demonstrate the force of habits in the diversity of the same countenance. Motion, and change of posture and aspect, has an effect no less surprising on the person of Mariamne when she dances.

Chloe is extremely pretty, and as silly as she is pretty. This idiot has a very good ear, and a most

agreeable shape; but the folly of the thing is such that it smiles so impertinently, and affects to please so silly, that while she dances you see the completion from head to foot. For you must know (as trivial as this art is thought to be) no one ever was a good dancer, that had not a good understanding. If this be a truth, I shall leave the reader to judge from that maxim, what esteem they ought to have for such impertinents as fly, hop, caper, twirl, twirl, turn round, and jump over their heads; and in a word, play a thousand pranks which man-animals can do better than a man, instead of performing to perfection what the human figure is capable of performing.

It may perhaps appear odd, that I, who am fit for a mighty lover at least of virtue, should take so much pains to recommend what the soberer part of mankind look upon to be a trifle; but, in favour of the soberer part of mankind, I think they have not enough considered this matter, so far that reason only disesteem it. I must also, for my own justification, say, that I attempt to bring into the service of honour and virtue every thing in nature that can pretend to give elegant delight. It may possibly be proved, that vice is in itself destructive of pleasure, and virtue in itself conducive to it. If the delights of a free fortune were not proper regulations, this truth would not want an argument to support it; but it would be obvious to every man, that there is a strict affinity between all things that are truly laudable and beautiful, from the highest sentiment of the soul to the most indifferent gesture of the body.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 467. TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1712.

— *Quodcumque mea poterunt audere comare,
Sed tibi par poterunt: sed, quod spes abnuunt, ultra
Sive minus; certeque cavent minus: omne tamen
Hoc tibi: ne tanto careat nihili nomine charta.*
TIBULL. ad Messalam. Eleg. l. 1. l. 4. v. 11.

'What'er my muse adventurous dares indite,
Whether the niceness of thy piercing sight
Applaud my lays, or censure what I write,
To thee I sing, and hope to borrow fame,
By adding to my page Messala's name.'

THE love of praise is a passion deeply fixed in the mind of every extraordinary person; and those who are most affected with it, seem most to partake of that particle of the divinity which distinguishes mankind from the inferior creation. The Supreme Being itself is most pleased with praise and thanksgiving: the other part of our duty is but an acknowledgment of our faults, whilst the immediate adoration of his perfections. This is an excellent observation, that we then only deserve commendation when we cease to deserve it: and we have still extant two orations of Tully and Pliny, spoken to the greatest and best princes of all the Roman emperors, who, no doubt, heard with the greatest satisfaction, what even the most interested persons, and at so large a distance of time, cannot read without admiration. Caesar thought his life consisted in the breath of praise, who professed he had lived long enough for himself when he had for his glory. Others have sacrificed themselves for a name which was not to begin: they were dead, giving away themselves to purchase a sound which was not to commence till they were out of hearing. But by merit and superior excellencies, not only to gain, but, which is better, to enjoy a great and universal reputation is

* Nº 344. † Perhaps Mrs. Bicknell, see Nº 370.

as degree of happiness which we can hope for here. Bad characters are dispersed abroad with profusion, I hope for example sake, and (as punishments are designed by the civil power) more so the deterring the innocent, than the chastising the guilty. The good are less frequent, whether it be that there are indeed fewer originals of this kind to copy after, or that, through the malignity of our nature, we rather delight in the ridicule than the virtues we find in others. However, it is not just, as well as pleasing, even for variety, sometimes to give the world a representation of the right side of human nature, as well as the dark and gloomy. The desire of imitation may, perhaps, be a greater incentive to the practice of what is good, than the aversion we may conceive at what is blameable: the one immediately directs you what you should do, whilst the other only shows you what you should avoid; and I cannot at present do this with more satisfaction, than by endeavouring to do some justice to the character of Manilius.

It would far exceed my present design, to give a particular description of Manilius through all the parts of his excellent life. I shall now only draw him in his retirement, and pass over in silence the various arts, the courtly manners, and the undesigning honesty, by which he attained the honours he has enjoyed, and which now give a dignity and veneration to the case he does enjoy. 'Tis here that he looks back with pleasure on the waves and lows through which he has steered to so fair an anchorage: he is now intent upon the practice of every virtue, which a great knowledge and use of mankind has discovered to be the most useful to him. Thus in his private domestic employments is no less glorious than in his public; for it is really a more difficult task to be conspicuous in a sedentary inactive life, than in one that is spent in hurry and business: persons engaged in the latter-like bodies violently agitated, from the swiftness of their motion have a brightness added to them, which often vanishes when they are at rest; if it then still remain, it must be the seeds of intrinsic worth that thus shine out without any foreign aid or assistance.

His liberality in another might almost bear the name of profusion: he seems to think it laudable to run in the excess, like that river* which most riches when it overflows. But Manilius has too perfect a taste of the pleasure of doing good, ever to let it be out of his power; and for that reason will have a just economy, and a splendid frugality at home, the fountain from whence those streams should flow which he dispenses abroad. He looks with disdain on those who propose their wealth, as the time when they are to begin their beneficence: he will both see and enjoy (which he does in the highest degree) what he bestows himself; he will be the living executor of his own bounty, whilst they who have the happiness to be in his care and patronage, at once pray for the continuation of his life, and their own good fortune. No one is out of the reach of his obligations; he knows how, by proper and becoming methods, to raise himself to a level with those of the highest rank; and his good-nature is a sufficient rampart against the want of those who are so unhappy as to be in the very lowest. One may say of him, as Pindar bids his muse say of Theron,

Swear that none ever had such a graceful art,
Fortune's free gifts as freely to impart,
With an unenvious hand, and an unbounded heart.*

Never did Atticus succeed better in gaining the universal love and esteem of all men; nor steer with more success between the extremes of two contending parties. 'Tis his peculiar happiness, that, while he espouses neither with an intemperate zeal, he is not only admired, but, what is a more rare and unusual felicity, he is beloved and caressed by both; and I never yet saw any person, of whatever age or sex, but was immediately struck with the merit of Manilius. There are many who are acceptable to some particular persons, whilst the rest of mankind look upon them with coolness and indifference; but he is the first whose entire good fortune it is, ever to please and to be pleased; where he comes, to be admired; and wherever he is absent, to be lamented. His merit fares like the pictures of Raphael, which are either seen with admiration by all, or at least no one dare own he has no taste for a composition which has received so universal an applause. Envy and malice find it against their interest to indulge slander and obloquy. 'Tis as hard for an enemy to detract from, as for a friend to add to his praise. An attempt upon his reputation is a sure lessening of one's own; and there is but one way to injure him, which is to refuse him his just commendations, and be obstinately silent.

It is below him to catch the sight with any care of dress; his outward garb is but the emblem of his mind. It is genteel, plain, and unaffected; he knows that gold and embroidery can add nothing to the opinion which all have of his merit, and that he gives a lustre to the plainest dress, whilst 'tis impossible the richest should communicate any to him. He is still the principal figure in the room. He first engages your eye, as if there were some point of light which shone stronger upon him than on any other person.

He puts me in mind of a story of the famous Bussy d'Amboise, who, at an assembly at court, where every one appeared with the utmost magnificence, relying upon his own superior behaviour, instead of adorning himself like the rest, put on that day a plain suit of clothes, and dressed all his servants in the most costly gay habits he could procure. The event was, that the eyes of the whole court were fixed upon him; all the rest looked like his attendants, while he alone had the air of a person of quality and distinction.

Like Aristippus, whatever shape or condition he appears in, it still sits free and easy upon him; but in some part of his character, 'tis true, he differs from him; for as he is altogether equal to the largeness of his present circumstances, the rectitude of his judgment has so far corrected the inclinations of his ambition, that he will not trouble himself with either the desires or pursuits of any thing beyond his present enjoyments.

A thousand obliging things flow from him upon every occasion; and they are always so just and natural, that it is impossible to think he was at the least pains to look for them. One would think it was the demon of good thoughts that discovered to him those treasures, which he must have blinded others from seeing, they lay so directly in their way. Nothing can equal the pleasure is taken in hearing him speak, but the satisfaction one receives in the civility and attention he pays to the discourse of others. His looks are a silent commendation of what is good and praise-worthy, and a secret reproof to what is licentious and extravagant.

* Swear, that Theron sure has sworn,
to one near him should be poor.

* The Nile, in Egypt.

gant. He knows how to appear free and open without danger of intrusion, and to be cautious without seeming reserved. The gravity of his conversation is always enlivened with his wit and humour, and the gaiety of it is tempered with something that is instructive, as well as barely agreeable. Thus with him you are sure not to be merry at the expense of your reason, nor serious with the loss of your good-humour; but, by a happy mixture in his temper, they either go together, or perpetually succeed each other. In fine, his whole behaviour is equally distant from constraint and negligence, and he commands your respect, whilst he gains your heart.

There is in his whole carriage such an engaging softness, that one cannot persuade one's self he is ever actuated by those rougher passions, which, wherever they find place, seldom fail of showing themselves in the outward demeanour of the persons they belong to; but his constitution is a just temperature between indolence on one hand, and violence on the other. He is mild and gentle, wherever his affairs will give him leave to follow his own inclinations; but yet never failing to exert himself with vigour and resolution in the service of his prince, his country, or his friend*.

HUGHES.

Z.

N^o 468. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1712.

Erat homo ingeniosus, acutus, acer, et qui plurimum et satis haberet et fellie, nec candoris minus.

PLIN. Epist.

He was an ingenious, pleasant fellow, and one who had a great deal of wit and satire, with an equal share of good-humour.

My paper is in a kind a letter of news, but it regards rather what passes in the world of conversation than that of business. I am very sorry that I have at present a circumstance before me, which is of very great importance to all who have a relish for gaiety, wit, mirth, or humour; I mean the death of poor Dick Eastcourt†. I have been obliged to him for so many hours of jollity, that it is but a small recompence, though all I can give him, to pass a moment or two in sadness for the loss of so agreeable a man. Poor Eastcourt! the last time I saw him, we were plotting to show the town his great capacity for acting in his full light, by introducing him as dictating to a set of young players, in what manner to speak this sentence, and utter t'other passion. He had so exquisite a discerning of what was defective in any object before him, that in an instant he could show you the ridiculous side of what would pass for beautiful and just, even to men of no ill judgment, before he had pointed at the failure. He was no less skillful in the knowledge of beauty; and, I dare say, there is no one who knew him well, but can repeat more well-turned compliments, as well as smart repartees of Mr. Eastcourt's, than of any other man in England. This was easily to be observed in his inimitable faculty of telling a story, in which he would throw in natural and unexpected incidents, to make his court to one part, and rally the other part of the company. Then he would vary the usage he gave them, according as he saw them bear kind or sharp language. He had the knack to

raise up a pensive temper, and mortify an impudently gay one, with the most agreeable skill imaginable. There are a thousand things which crowd into my memory, which make me too much concerned to tell on about him. Hamlet holding to the skull which the grave-digger threw to him, and an account that it was the head of the king's jester, falls into very pleasing reflections, and cries out to his companion,

'Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio: a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy; he hath borne me on his back a thousand times; and now, how abhorred in my imagination it is! his gorge rises at it. Here hung those lips that I have kissed I know not how oft. Where be your jibes now, your gambols, your songs, your flashes of merriment that were wont to set the table on a roar? Not one now, to mock your own grinning? Quite chap-fallen? Now get you to my lady's chamber, and tell her, let her paint an inch thick, to this favour she must come. Make her laugh at that.'

It is an insolence natural to the wealthy, to affix, as much as in them lies, the character of a man to his circumstances. Thus it is ordinary with them to praise faintly the good qualities of those below them, and say, it is very extraordinary in such a man as he is, or the like, when they are forced to acknowledge the value of him whose lowliness upbraids their exaltation. It is to this humour only, that it is to be ascribed, that a quip-wit in conversation, a nice judgment upon an emergency that could arise, and a most blameless inoffensive behaviour, could not raise this man above being received only upon the foot of contributing to mirth and diversion. But he was so under that condition, as a man of so excellent talents was capable; and since they would not it, that to divert was his business, he did it with all the seeming alacrity imaginable, though it was him to the heart that it was his business. Men of sense, who could taste his excellencies, were well satisfied to let him lead the way in conversation, and play after his own manner; but fools, who provoked him to mimicry, found he had the inclination to let it be at their expense who called for it, and he would show the form of conceited fellows as jests to the company at their own request, in revenge for interrupting him from being a companion, to put on the character of a jester.

What was peculiarly excellent in this memorable companion, was, that in the accounts he gave of persons and sentiments, he did not only hit the figure of their faces, and manner of their gestures, but he would in his narration fall into their very way of thinking, and this when he recounted passages, wherein men of the best wit were concerned, as well as such wherein were represented men of the lowest rank of understanding. It is certainly as great an instance of self-love to a weakness, as to be impatient of being mimicked, as any can be imagined. There were none but the vain, the formal, the proud, or those who were incapable of amending their faults, that dreaded him; to others he was in the highest degree pleasing; and I do not know any satisfaction of any indifferent kind I ever tasted so much, as having got over as to patience of my seeing myself in the air he cast put me when I have displeased him. It is owing to his exquisite talent this way, more than any philosophy I could read on the subject, that my person is very little of my care; and it is indifferent to me what is said of my shape, my air, my manner, my speech, or my address. It is to poor Eastcourt I chiefly owe that I am arrived at the happy

* This paper is supposed to have been a tribute of gratitude and friendship from Mr. Hughes to his patron Lord Cowper.

† See Nos. 358 and 378.

ness of thinking nothing a diminution to me, but what argues a depravity of my will.

It has as much surprised me as any thing in nature, to have it frequently said, that he was not a good player: but that must be owing to a partiality for former actors in the parts in which he succeeded them, and judging by comparison of what was liked before, rather than by the nature of the thing. When a man of his wit and smartness could put on an utter absence of common sense in his face, as he did in the character of Bulfinch in the Northern Lass, and an air of insipid cunning and vivacity in the character of Pounce in the Tender Husband, it is folly to dispute his capacity and success as he was an actor.

Poor Eastcourt! let the vain and proud be at rest, thou wilt no more disturb their admiration of their dear selves; and thou art no longer to drudge in raising the mirth of stupid, who know nothing of thy merit, for thy maintenance.

It is natural for the generality of mankind to run into reflections upon our mortality, when disturbances of the world are laid at rest, but to take no notice when they who can please and divert are pulled from us. But for my part, I cannot but think the loss of such talents as the man of whom I am speaking was master of, a more melancholy instance of mortality than the dissolution of persons of never so high characters in the world, whose pretensions were that they were noisy and mischievous.

But I must grow more succinct, and, as a Spectator, give an account of this extraordinary man, who, in his way, never had an equal in any age before him, or in that wherein he lived. I speak of him as a companion, and a man qualified for conversation. His fortune exposed him to an obsequiousness towards the worst sort of company, but his excellent qualities rendered him capable of making the best figure in the most refined. I have been present with him among men of the most delicate taste a whole night, and have known him (for he saw it was desired) keep the discourse to himself the most part of it, and maintain his good-humour with a countenance in a language so delightful, without offence to any person or thing upon earth, still preserving the distance his circumstances obliged him to; I say, I have seen him do all this in such a charming manner, that I am sure none of those I hint at will read this, without giving him some sorrow for their abundant mirth, and one gush of tears for so many bursts of laughter. I wish it were any honour to the pleasant creature's memory, that my eyes are too much suffused to let me go on—

ITEM.

T.

N^o 469. THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1712.

Detrahre aliquid a se, et homin-um hominis incommodo suum augere commodum, magis est contra naturam quam mors, quam paupertas, quam dolor, quæ cætera quæ possunt aut corpori accidere, aut rebus externis.

TULL.

To detract from other men, and turn their disadvantages to our own profit, is more contrary to nature, than death, poverty, or grief, or any thing which can affect our bodies, or external circumstances.

AM persuaded there are few men of generous inclines, who would seek after great places, are it not rather to have an opportunity in their

hands of obliging their particular friends, or those whom they look upon as men of worth, than to procure wealth and honour for themselves. To an honest mind the best perquisites of a place are the advantages it gives a man of doing good.

Those who are under the great officers of state, and are the instruments by which they act, have more frequent opportunities for the exercise of compassion and benevolence, than their superiors themselves. These men know every little case that is to come before the great man, and if they are possessed with honest minds, will consider poverty as a recommendation in the person who applies himself to them, and make the justice of his cause the most powerful solicitor in his behalf. A man of this temper, when he is in a post of business, becomes a blessing to the public. He patronises the orphan and the widow, assists the friendless, and guides the ignorant. He does not reject the person's pretensions, who does not know how to explain them, or refuse doing a good office for a man because he cannot pay the fee of it. In short, though he regulates himself in all his proceedings by justice and equity, he finds a thousand occasions for all the good-natured offices of generosity and compassion.

A man is unfit for such a place of trust, who is of a sour untractable nature, or has any other passion that makes him uneasy to those who approach him. Roughness of temper is apt to discountenance the timorous or modest. The proud man discourages those from approaching him, who are of a mean condition, and who most want his assistance. The impatient man will not give himself time to be informed of the matter that lies before him. An officer, with one or more of these unbecoming qualities, is sometimes looked upon as a proper person to keep off impertinence and solicitation from his superior; and this is a kind of merit, that can never atone for the injustice which may very often arise from it.

There are two other vicious qualities, which render a man very unfit for such a place of trust. The first of these is a dilatory temper, which commits innumerable cruelties without design. The maxim which several have laid down for a man's conduct in ordinary life, should be inviolable with a man in office, never to think of doing that tomorrow which may be done to-day. A man who defers doing what ought to be done, is guilty of injustice so long as he defers it. The dispatch of a good office is very often as beneficial to the solicitor as the good office itself. In short, if a man compared the inconveniences which another suffers by his delays, with the trifling motives and advantages which he himself may reap by such a delay, he would never be guilty of a fault which very often does an irreparable prejudice to the person who depends upon him, and which might be remedied with little trouble to himself.

But in the last place there is no man so improper to be employed in business, as he who is in any degree capable of corruption; and such an one is the man who, upon any pretence whatsoever, receives more than what is the stated and unquestioned fee of his office. Gratifications, tokens of thankfulness, dispatch money, and the like specious terms, are the pretences under which corruption very frequently shelters itself. An honest man will however look on all these methods as unjustifiable, and will enjoy himself better in a moderate fortune that is gained with honour and reputation, than in an overgrown estate that is cankered with the acquisitions of rapine and exaction. Were all our

offices discharged with such an inflexible integrity, we should not see men in all ages, who grow up to exorbitant wealth, with the abilities which are to be met with in an ordinary mechanic. I cannot but think that such a corruption proceeds chiefly from men's employing the first that offer themselves, or those who have the character of shrewd worldly men, instead of searching out such as have had a liberal education, and have been trained up in the studies of knowledge and virtue.

It has been observed, that men of learning who take to business, discharge it generally with greater honesty than men of the world. The chief reason for it I take to be as follows: A man that has spent his youth in reading, has been used to find virtue extolled, and vice stigmatized. A man that has passed his time in the world, has often seen vice triumphant, and virtue discountenanced. Extortion, rapine, and injustice, which are branded with infamy in books, often give a man a figure in the world; while several qualities which are celebrated in authors, as generosity, ingenuity, and good-nature, impoverish and ruin him. This cannot but have a proportionable effect on men whose tempers and principles are equally good and vicious. There would be at least this advantage in employing men of learning and parts, in business; that their prosperity would sit more gracefully on them, and that we should not see many worthless persons shot up into the greatest figures of life.

ADDITION.

C.

Nº 470. FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1712.

*Turpe est difficile habere nugas,
Et stultus labor est ineptiarum.*

MART. Epig. lxxxvi. l. 2. ver. 9.

'Tis folly only, and defect of sense,
Turns trifles into things of consequence.

I HAVE been very often disappointed of late years when, upon examining the new edition of a classic author, I have found above half the volume taken up with various readings. When I have expected to meet with a learned note upon a doubtful passage in a Latin poet, I have only been informed, that such or such ancient manuscripts for an *et* write an *ac*, or of some other notable discovery of the like importance. Indeed, when a different reading gives us a different sense, or a new elegance in an author, the editor does very well in taking notice of it; but when he only entertains us with the several ways of spelling the same word, and gathers together the various blunders and mistakes of twenty or thirty different transcribers, they only take up the time of the learned readers, and puzzle the minds of the ignorant. I have often fancied with myself how enraged an old Latin author would be, should he see the several absurdities in sense and grammar, which are imputed to him by some or other of these various readings. In one he speaks nonsense; in another makes use of a word that was never heard of: and indeed there is scarce a solecism in writing which the best author is not guilty of, if we may be at liberty to read him in the words of some manuscript, which the laborious editor has thought fit to examine in the prosecution of his work.

I question not but the ladies and pretty fellows will be very curious to understand what it is that I have been hitherto talking of. I shall therefore give them a notion of this practice, by endeavour-

ing to write after the manner of several persons who make an eminent figure in the republic of letters. To this end we will suppose that the following song is an old ode, which I present to the public in a new edition, with the several various readings which I find of it in former editions, and in ancient manuscripts. Those who cannot read the various readings, will perhaps find their account in the song, which never before appeared in print.

' My love was fickle once and changing;
Nor e'er would settle in my heart;
From beauty still to beauty ranging,
In ev'ry face I found a dart.

' 'Twas first a charming shape enslav'd me,
An eye then gave the fatal stroke:
Till by her wit Corinna sav'd me,
And all my former fetters broke.

' But now a long and lasting anguish
For Belvidere I endure;
Hourly I sigh, and hourly languish,
Nor hope to find the wonted cure.

' For here the false unconstant lover,
After a thousand beauties shown,
Does new surprising charms discover,
And finds variety in one.'

Various Readings.

Stanza the first, verse the first. *And changing.* The *and* in some manuscripts is written thus: *⁂*; but that in the Cotton library writes it in three distinct letters.

Verse the second. *Nor e'er would.* Aldus reads it *ever would*: but as this would hurt the metre, we have restored it to the genuine reading, by observing that syneresis which had been neglected by ignorant transcribers.

Ibid. In my heart.] Scaliger and others, *in a heart*.

Verse the fourth. *I found a dart.* The Vatican manuscript for *I* reads *it*, but this must have been the hallucination of the transcriber, who probably mistook the dash of the *I* for a *T*.

Stanza the second, verse the second. *The fatal stroke.* Scioppius, Salmasius, and many others, *let the read a*, but I have stuck to the usual reading.

Verse the third. *Till by her wit.* Some manuscripts have it *his wit*, others *yow*, others *their wit*. But as I find Corinna to be the name of a woman in other authors, I cannot doubt but it should be *her*.

Stanza the third, verse the first. *A long and lasting anguish.* The German manuscript reads *a lasting passion*, but the rhyme will not admit it.

Verse the second. *For Belvidere I endure.* Did not all the manuscripts reclaim, I should change *Belvidere* into *Pelvidere*; *Pelvis* being used by several of the ancient comic writers for a looking-glass, by which means the etymology of the word is very visible, and *Pelvidere* will signify a lady who often looks in her glass; as indeed she had very good reason, if she had all those beauties which our poet here ascribes to her.

Verse the third. *Hourly I sigh, and hourly languish.* Some for the word *hourly* read *daily*, and others *nightly*; the last has great authorities of its side.

Verse the fourth. *The wonted cure.* The elder Stevens reads *wanted cure*.

Stanza the fourth, verse the second. *After a thousand beauties.* In several copies we meet with a *hundred beauties*, by the usual error of the transcribers, who probably omitted a cypher, and had not taste enough to know that the word *thousand* was

imes a greater compliment to the poet's mis-
than an hundred.

And finds variety in one.] Most
ancient manuscripts have it in two. Indeed
very much in doubt whether it ought not to
place. There are but two reasons, which in-
me to the reading as I have published it:
because the rhyme; and, secondly, because
sense is preserved by it. It might likewise
ced from the oscitancy of transcribers, who,
spatch their work the sooner, use it to write all
bers in cipher, and seeing the figure 1 follow-
y a little dash of the pen, as is customary in
manuscripts, they perhaps mistook the dash for
cond figure, and by casting up both together,
posed out of them the figure 2. But this I shall
e to the learned, without determining any thing
matter of so great uncertainty.

DISON.

C.

• 471. SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1712.

Ἡ σοφία ἔχει τὴν πόλιν τοῦ βίου.

EURIPID.

The wise with hope support the pains of life.

time present seldom affords sufficient employ-
it to the mind of man. Objects of pain or
sore, love or admiration, do not lie thick
ugh together in life to keep the soul in con-
action, and supply an immediate exercise to
aculties. In order, therefore, to remedy this
ect, that the mind may not want business, but
ays have materials for thinking, she is endowed
b certain powers, that can recal what is passed,
anticipate what is to come.

hat wonderful faculty, which we call the me-
y, is perpetually looking back, when we have
hing present to entertain us. It is like those
ositories in several animals that are filled with
es of their former food, on which they may
inate when their present pasture fails.

As the memory relieves the mind in her vacant
ments, and prevents any chasms of thought by
as of what is past, we have other faculties that
tate and employ her upon what is to come.
ese are the passions of hope and fear.

By these two passions we reach forward into fu-
ity, and bring up to our present thoughts ob-
its that lie hid in the remotest depths of time.
e suffer misery, and enjoy happiness, before they
e in being; we can set the sun and stars forward,
lose sight of them by wandering into those re-
ed parts of eternity, when the heavens and earth
all be no more.

By the way, who can imagine that the existence
a creature is to be circumscribed by time,
hose thoughts are not? But I shall, in this paper,
nine myself to that particular passion which
es by the name of Hope.

Our actual enjoyments are so few and transient,
it man would be a very miserable being, were
not endowed with this passion, which gives him
taste of those good things that may possibly come
o his possession. 'We should hope for every-
ng that is good,' says the old poet Linus, 'be-
use there is nothing which may not be hoped for,
d nothing but what the gods are able to give us.'
ope quickens all the still parts of life, and keeps
mind awake in her most remis and indolent
ms. It gives habitual serenity and good hu-

mour. It is a kind of vital heat in the soul, that
cheers and gladdens her, when she does not attend
to it. It makes pain easy, and labour pleasant.

Beside these several advantages which rise from
hope, there is another which is none of the least,
and that is, its great efficacy in preserving us from
setting too high a value on present enjoyments.
The saying of Cæsar is very well known. When
he had given away all his estate in gratuities
amongst his friends, one of them asked what he
had left for himself; to which that great man re-
plied, 'Hope.' His natural magnanimity hinder-
ed him from prizing what he was certainly pos-
sessed of, and turned all his thoughts upon some-
thing more valuable than he had in view. I ques-
tion not but every reader will draw a moral from
this story, and apply it to himself without my direc-
tion.

The old story of Pandora's box (which many of
the learned believe was formed among the heathens
upon the tradition of the fall of man) shows us
how deplorable a state they thought the present
life, without hope. To set forth the utmost con-
dition of misery, they tell us, that our forefather,
according to the pagan theology, had a great vessel
presented him by Pandora. Upon his lifting up
the lid of it, says the fable, there flew out all the
calamities and distempers incident to men, from
which, till that time, they had been altogether
exempt. Hope, who had been inclosed in the cup
with so much bad company, instead of flying off
with the rest, stuck so close to the lid of it, that it
was shut down upon her.

I shall make but two reflections upon what I
have hitherto said. First, that no kind of life is
so happy as that which is full of hope, especially
when the hope is well grounded, and when the ob-
ject of it is of an exalted kind, and in its nature
proper to make the person happy who enjoys it.
This proposition must be very evident to those who
consider how few are the present enjoyments of
the most happy man, and how insufficient to give
him an entire satisfaction and acquiescence in them.

My next observation is this, that a religious life
is that which most abounds in a well-grounded
hope, and such an one as is fixed on objects that
are capable of making us entirely happy. This
hope in a religious man is much more sure and cer-
tain than the hope of any temporal blessing, as it is
strengthened not only by reason, but by faith. It
has at the same time its eye perpetually fixed on that
state, which implies in the very notion of it the
most full and the most complete happiness.

I have before shown how the influence of hope
in general sweetens life, and makes our present
condition supportable, if not pleasing; but a reli-
gious hope has still greater advantages. It does
not only bear up the mind under her sufferings,
but makes her rejoice in them, as they may be the
instruments of procuring her the great and ultimate
end of all her hope.

Religious hope has likewise this advantage above
any other kind of hope, that it is able to revive
the dying man, and to fill his mind not only with
secret comfort and refreshment, but sometimes with
rapture and transport. He triumphs in his ag-
onies, whilst the soul springs forward with delight
to the great object which she has always had in
view, and leaves the body with an expectation of
being re-united to her in a glorious and joyful re-
surrection.

I shall conclude this essay with those emblema-
tical expressions of a lively hope, which the
psalmist made use of in the midst of those dangers

and adversities which surrounded him; for the following passage had its present and personal, as well as its future and prophetic sense. 'I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth. My flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life. In thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.'

ADDISON.

C.

Nº 472. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1712.

— Voluptas
Solamenque mali —

VIRG. Æn. lli. ver. 660.

This only solace his hard fortune sends.
DRYDEN.

I RECEIVED some time ago a proposal, which had a preface to it, wherein the author discoursed at large of the innumerable objects of charity in a nation, and admonished the rich, who were afflicted with any distemper of body, particularly to regard the poor in the same species of affliction, and confine their tenderness to them, since it is impossible to assist all who are presented to them. The proposer had been relieved from a malady in his eyes by an operation performed by Sir William Read *, and, being a man of condition, had taken a resolution to maintain three poor blind men during their lives, in gratitude for that great blessing. This misfortune is so very great and unfrequent, that one would think an establishment for all the poor under it might be easily accomplished, with the addition of a very few others to those wealthy who are in the same calamity. However, the thought of the proposer arose from a very good motive; and the parcelling of ourselves out, as called to particular acts of beneficence, would be a pretty cement of society and virtue. It is the ordinary foundation for men's holding a commerce with each other, and becoming familiar, that they agree in the same sort of pleasure; and sure it may also be some reason for amity, that they are under one common distress. If all the rich who are lame in the gout, from a life of ease, pleasure, and luxury, would help those few who have it without a previous life of pleasure, and add a few of such laborious men, who are become lame from unhappy blows, falls, or other accidents of age or sickness: I say, would such gouty persons administer to the necessities of men disabled like themselves; the consciousness of such a behaviour would be the best julep, cordial, and anodyne, in the feverish, faint, and tormenting vicissitudes of that miserable distemper. The same may be said of all other, both bodily and intellectual evils. These classes of charity would certainly bring down blessings upon an age and people; and if men were not petrified with the love of this world against all sense of the commerce which ought to be among them, it would not be an unreasonable bill for a poor man in the agony of pain, aggravated

by want and poverty, to draw upon a sick side-man after this form:

'MR. BASIL PLENTY,

'SIR,

'You have the gout and stone, with six thousand pounds sterling; I have the gout and stone, not worth one farthing: I shall pray for you, and desire you would pay the bearer twenty shillings for value received from,

'SIR,

'Your humble servant,

'LAZARUS HOPKINS.'

'Cripplegate,
Aug. 29, 1712.'

The reader's own imagination will suggest to him the reasonableness of such correspondence, and diversify them into a thousand forms; but I will close this, as I began, upon the subject of business. The following letter seems to be written by a man of learning, who is returned to his work after a suspense of an ability to do so. The benefit he reports himself to have received, may claim the handsomest encomium he can give to an operator.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'RUMINATING lately on your admirable discourse on the Pleasures of the Imagination *, I began to consider to which of our senses we are obliged the greatest and most important share of our pleasures; and I soon concluded that it was to sight. That is the sovereign of the senses, and rather of all the arts and sciences, that have raised the rudeness of the uncultivated mind to a politeness that distinguishes the fine spirits from the barbarous goit of the great vulgar and the small. Sight is the obliging benefactress, that bestows on us the most transporting sensations that we have from the various and wonderful products of nature. To the sight we owe the amazing discoveries of the height, magnitude, and motion of the planets; their several revolutions about their common centre of light, heat, and motion, the sun. The sight travels yet further to the fixed stars, and finishes the understanding with solid reasons to prove that each of them is a sun, moving on its own axis, in the centre of its own vortex or turbulence, and performing the same offices to its dependent planets, that our glorious sun does to this. As the inquiries of the sight will not be stopped here, but make their progress through the immense expanse to the Milky Way, and there divide the blended fires of the galaxy into infinite and different worlds, made up of distinct suns, and peculiar equipages of planets, till, unable to pursue this tract any further, it deposes the imagination to go on to new discoveries, till it fills the bounded space with endless worlds.

'The sight informs the stately's chief power to give breath to lifeless brass and earth, and the painter's pencil to swell the flat canvas with moving figures actuated by imaginary music. Indeed may plead another original, as Jubal, by the different falls of his hammer on the anvil, discovered by the ear the first raft: that pleased the antediluvian fathers; but the sight has not only reduced those wilder sounds to artful order and harmony, but converts them

* Swift speaks contemptuously of this oculist as a mountebank; but we find him sworn-in as oculist in ordinary to King George in the beginning of 1714. He died at Rochester, May 24, 1715.

* See Nº 411—421.

† Mr. Weaver, from Macrobius, attributes the dream to Pythagoras. See Nº 334.

mony to the most distant parts of the world without the help of sound. To the sight we owe not only all the discoveries of philosophy, but all the divine imagery of poetry that transports the intelligent reader of Homer, Milton, and Virgil.

'As the sight has polished the world, so does it supply us with the most grateful and lasting pleasure. Let love, let friendship, paternal affection, filial piety, and conjugal duty, declare the joys the sight bestows on a meeting after absence. But it would be endless to enumerate all the pleasures and advantages of sight; every one that has it, every hour he makes use of it, finds them, feels them, enjoys them.

'Thus, as our greatest pleasures and knowledge are derived from the sight, so has Providence been more curious in the formation of its seat, the eye, than of the organs of the other senses. That stupendous machine is composed in a wonderful manner of muscles, membranes, and humours. Its motions are admirably directed by the muscles; the perspicuity of the humours transmit the rays of light; the rays are regularly refracted by their figure, the black lining of the sclerotes effectually prevents their being confounded by reflection. It is wonderful indeed to consider how many objects the eye is fitted to take in at once, and successively in an instant, and at the same time, to make a judgment of their position, figure, or colour. It watches against our dangers, guides our steps, and lets in all the visible objects, whose beauty and variety instruct and delight.

'The pleasures and advantages of sight being so great, the loss must be very grievous; of which Milton, from experience, gives the most sensible idea, both in the third book of his *Paradise Lost*, and in his *Samson Agonistes*.

'To light, in the former:

— "These I revisit safe,
And feel thy sov'reign vital lamp; but thou
Revisit'st not these eyes, that roll in vain
To find thy piercing ray, but find no dawn."

'And a little after:

"Seasons return, but not to me returns
Day, or the sweet approach of ev'n or morn,
Or sight of vernal bloom, or summer's rose,
Or flocks or herds, or human face divine;
But cloud instead, and ever-during dark,
Surround me: from the cheerful ways of men
Cut off, and for the book of knowledge fair,
Presented with an universal blank
Of nature's works, to me expung'd and raz'd,
And wisdom at one entrance quite shut out."

'Again, in *Samson Agonistes*:

— "But chief of all,
O loss of sight! of thee I most complain:
Blind among enemies! O worse than chains,
Dungeon, or beggary, or decrepit age!
Light, the prime work of God, to me's extinct,
And all her various objects of delight
Annul'd—"

— "Still as a fool,
In pow'r of others, never in my own,
Scarce half I seem to live, dead more than half:
O dark! dark! dark! amid the blaze of noon:
Irrecoverably dark, total eclipse,
Without all hope of day."

'The enjoyment of sight then being so great a blessing, and the loss of it so terrible an evil, how excellent and valuable is the skill of that artist which can restore the former, and redress the latter? My frequent perusal of the advertisements in the public newspapers (generally the most agree-

able entertainment they afford) has presented me with many and various benefits of this kind done to my countrymen by that skilful artist Dr. Grant, her majesty's oculist extraordinary, whose happy hand has brought and restored to sight several hundreds in less than four years. Many have received sight by his means who came blind from their mother's womb, as in the famous instance of Jones of Newington. I myself have been cured by him of a weakness in my eyes next to blindness, and am ready to believe any thing that is reported of his ability this way; and know that many, who could not purchase his assistance with money, have enjoyed it from his charity. But a list of particulars would swell my letter beyond its bounds; what I have said being sufficient to comfort those who are in the like distress, since they may conceive hopes of being no longer miserable in this kind, while there is yet alive so able an oculist as Dr. Grant.

'I am the SPECTATOR'S

'humble servant,

'PHILANTHROPUS.'

STEEL

T.

N^o 473. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1712.

*Quid? si quis vultu toro servus et pede nudo,
Exiguæ togæ simulat tortore Catonem;
Virtutem representet, morisque Catonis!*

HOR. Ep. xix. l. 1. ver. 12.

Suppose a man the coarsest gown should wear,
No shoes, his forehead rough, his look severe,
And ape great Cato in his form and dress;
Must he his virtues and his mind express?
CREECH.

'TO THE SPECTATOR.

'SIR,

'I AM now in the country, and employ most of my time in reading, or thinking upon what I have read. Your paper comes constantly down to me, and it affects me so much, that I find my thoughts run into your way; and I recommend to you a subject upon which you have not yet touched, and that is, the satisfaction some men seem to take in their imperfections: I think one may call it glorying in their insufficiency. A certain great author is of opinion it is the contrary to envy, though perhaps it may proceed from it. Nothing is so common as to hear men of this sort, speaking of themselves, add to their own merit (as they think) by impairing it, in praising themselves for their defects, freely allowing they commit some few frivolous errors, in order to be esteemed persons of uncommon talents and great qualifications. They are generally professing an injudicious neglect of dancing, fencing, and riding, as also an unjust contempt for travelling, and the modern languages; as for their part, they say, they never valued or troubled their heads about them. This panegyric satire on themselves certainly is worthy of your animadversion. I have known one of these gentlemen think himself obliged to forget the day of an appointment, and sometimes even that you spoke to him; and when you see 'em, they hope you'll pardon 'em, for they have the worst memory in the world. One of 'em started up 't other day in some confusion, and said, "Now I think on't, I am to meet Mr. Mortmain the attorney, about some business, but whether it is to-day, or

to-morrow, faith, I can't tell." Now, to my certain knowledge, he knew his time to a moment, and was there accordingly. These forgetful persons have, to heighten their crime, generally the best memories of any people, as I have found out by their remembering sometimes through inadvertency. Two or three of 'em that I know can say most of our modern tragedies by heart. I asked a gentleman the other day that is famous for a good carver (at which acquisition he is out of countenance, imagining it may detract from some of his more essential qualifications) to help me to something that was near him; but he excused himself, and blushing told me, "Of all things he could never carve in his life;" though it can be proved upon him that he cuts up, disjoints, and uncases, with incomparable dexterity. I would not be understood as if I thought it laudable for a man of quality and fortune to rival the acquisitions of artificers, and endeavour to excel in little handy qualities; no, I argue only against being ashamed of what is really praiseworthy. As these pretences to ingenuity show themselves several ways, you will often see a man of this temper ashamed to be clean, and setting up for wit only from negligence in his habit. Now I am upon this head, I cannot help observing also upon a very different folly proceeding from the same cause. As these above mentioned arise from affecting an equality with men of greater talents, from having the same faults, there are others that would come at a parallel with those above them, by possessing little advantages which they want. I heard a young man not long ago, who has sense, comfort himself in his ignorance of Greek, Hebrew, and the Orientals: at the same time that he published his aversion to those languages, he said, that the knowledge of them was rather a diminution than an advancement of a man's character: though at the same time I know he languishes and repines he is not master of them himself. Whenever I take any of these fine persons thus detracting from what they do not understand, I tell them I will complain to you, and say I am sure you will not allow it an exception against a thing, that he who contends it is an ignorant in it.

'I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant,
'S. T.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a man of a very good estate, and am honourably in love. I hope you will allow, what the ultimate purpose is honest, there may be without trespass against innocence, some toying by the way. People of condition are perhaps too distant and formal on those occasions; but however that is, I am to confess to you that I have written some verses to atone for my offence. You professed authors are a little severe upon us, who write like gentlemen; but if you are a friend to love, you will insert my poem. You cannot imagine how much service it would do me with my friend, as well as reputation with all my friends, to have something of mine in the Spectator. My crime was, that I snatched a kiss, and my poetical excuse as follows:

"Belinda, see from yonder flowers
The bee flies loaded to its cell;
Can you perceive what it devours?
Are they impair'd in show or smell?"

"So, though I robb'd you of a kiss,
Sweeter than their ambrosial dew;
Why are you angry at my bliss?
Has it at all impoverish'd you?"

"Tis by this cunning I contrive,
In spite of your unkind reserve,
To keep my famish'd love alive,
Which you inhumanly would starve."

'I am, sir,
'Your humble servant,
'TIMOTHY STANLEY.'

'SIR,
'HAVING a little time upon my hands, I could not think of bestowing it better, than in writing an epistle to the Spectator, which I now do, and am,

'SIR,
'Your humble servant,
'BOB SHORT.'

'P. S. If you approve of my style, I am likely enough to become your correspondent. I desire your opinion of it. I design it for that way of writing called by the judicious "the familiar".

STEEL.

T.

THE
SPECTATOR.

VOL. VII.

TO
MR. METHUEN.*

SIR,

It is with great pleasure I take an opportunity of publishing the gratitude I owe you for the place you allow me in your friendship and familiarity. I will not acknowledge to you that I have often had you in my thoughts, when I have endeavoured to draw, in some parts of these discourses, the character of a good-natured, honest, and accomplished gentleman. But such representations give my reader an idea of a person blameless only, or only laudable for such perfections as extend no further than to his own private advantage and reputation.

But when I speak of you, I celebrate one who has had the happiness of possessing also those qualities which make a man useful to society, and of having had opportunities of exerting them in the most conspicuous manner.

The great part you had, as British ambassador, in procuring and cultivating the advantageous commerce between the courts of England and Portugal, has purchased you the lasting esteem of all who understand the interest of either nation.

Those personal excellences which are over-rated by the ordinary world, and too much neglected by

* This gentleman (afterwards Sir Paul Methuen, knight of the bath) was British ambassador at the court of Portugal, where he concluded the famous commercial treaty, which is still known by his name. He was appointed a commissioner of the admiralty in 1709; of the treasury, 1714; comptroller of the household, 1720; and treasurer of the household, 1725. He represented the borough of Brackley in five parliaments, and died April 11, 1757, at a very advanced age.

wise men, you have applied with the justest skill and judgment. The most graceful address in horsemanship, in the use of the sword, and in dancing, has been employed by you as lower arts; and as they have occasionally served to cover or introduce the talents of a skilful minister.

But your abilities have not appeared only in one nation. When it was your province to act as her majesty's minister at the court of Savoy, at that time encamped, you accompanied that gallant prince through all the vicissitudes of his fortune, and shared by his side the dangers of that glorious day in which he recovered his capital. As far as it regards personal qualities, you attained, in that one hour, the highest military reputation. The behaviour of our minister in the action, and the good offices done the vanquished in the name of the Queen of England, gave both the conqueror and the captive the most lively examples of the courage and generosity of the nation he represented.

Your friends and companions in your absence frequently talk these things of you; and you cannot hide from us (by the most discreet silence in any thing which regards yourself) that the frank entertainment we have at your table, your easy condescension in little incidents of mirth and diversion, and general complacency of manners, are far from being the greatest obligations we have to you. I do assure you, there is not one of your friends has a greater sense of your merit in general, and of the favours you every day do us, than,

SIR,

Your most obedient,

And most humble servant,

RICHARD STEELE.

N° 474. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1712.

Asperitius agrestia et inconcinna.

HOR. Ep. xviii. l. 1. ver. 6.

A clownish roughness, and upkindly close,
Unfriendly stuff, and peevishly morose.

CREECH.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

BEING of the number of those that have lately retired from the centre of business and pleasure, my uneasiness in the country where I am arises rather from the society than the solitude of it. To be obliged to receive and return visits from and to a circle of neighbours, who, through diversity of age or inclinations, can neither be entertaining nor serviceable to us, is a vile loss of time, and a slavery from which a man should deliver himself, if possible: for why must I lose the remaining part of my life because they have thrown away the former parts of theirs? It is to me an insupportable affliction, to be tormented with the narrations of a set of people, who are warm in their expressions of the quick relish of that pleasure, which their dogs and horses have a more delicate taste of. I do also in my heart detest and abhor that damnable doctrine and position of the necessity of a bumper, though to one's own toast; for though it is pretended that these deep potations are used only to inspire gaiety, they certainly drown that cheerfulness which would survive a moderate circulation. If at these meetings it were left to every stranger either to fill his glass according to his own inclination, or to make his retreat when he finds he has been sufficiently obedient to that of others, these entertainments would be governed with more good sense, and consequently with more good breeding, than at present they are. Indeed, where any of the guest are known to measure their fame or pleasure by their glass, proper exhortations might be used to these to push their fortunes in this sort of reputation; but, where it is unseasonably insisted on to a modest stranger, this drench may be said to be swallowed with the same necessity as if it had been tendered in the horn* for that purpose, with this aggravating circumstance, that it distresses the entertainer's guest in the same degree as it relieves his horses.

‘To attend without impatience an account of five-barred gates, double ditches, and precipices, and to survey the orator with desiring eyes, is to me extremely difficult, but absolutely necessary to be upon tolerable terms with him; but then the occasional bursting out into laughter is of all other accomplishments the most requisite. I confess at present I have not the command of these convulsions as is necessary to be good company; therefore I beg you would publish this letter, and let me be known all at once for a queer fellow, and avoided. It is monstrous to me, that we who are given to reading and calm conversation should ever be visited by these rovers: but they think they themselves, as neighbours, may come into our rooms with the same right that they and their dogs hunt in our grounds.

‘Your institution of clubs I have always admired, in which you constantly endeavoured the union of the metaphorically defunct, that is, such

* This alludes to the horn which is used in forcing medicine down a horse's throat.

as are neither serviceable to the busy and enterprising part of mankind, nor entertaining to the retired and speculative. There should certainly therefore in each county be established a club of the persons whose conversation I have described, who for their own private, as also the public amusement, should exclude, and be excluded, all other society. Their attire should be the same with the huntsmen's, and none should be admitted into the green conversation-piece, except he had broke to collar-bone thrice. A broken rib or two might also admit a man without the least opposition. The president must necessarily have broken his neck, and have been taken up dead once or twice: for the more maims this brotherhood shall have met with the easier will their conversation flow and keep up; and when any one of these vigorous invalids had finished his narration of the collar-bone, the naturally would introduce the history of the rib. Besides, the different circumstances of their falls and fractures would help to prolong and diversify their relations. There should also be another club of such men, who have not succeeded so well in maiming themselves, but are however in the constant pursuit of these accomplishments. I would by no means be suspected by what I have said to traduce in general the body of fox-hunters; for whilst I look upon a reasonable creature full speed after a pack of dogs by way of pleasure, and not of business, I shall always make honourable mention of it.

‘But the most irksome conversation of all others I have met with in the neighbourhood, has been among two or three of your travellers, who have overlooked men and manners, and have passed through France and Italy with the same observation that the carriers and stage-coachmen do through Great Britain; that is, their stops and stages have been regulated according to the liquor they have met with in their passage. They indeed remember the names of abundance of places, with the particular fineries of certain churches: but their distinguishing mark is certain pretences of foreign languages, the meaning of which they could have better expressed in their own. The entertainment of these fine observers Shakespeare has described to consist

“In talking of the Alps and Appennines,
The Pyreneas, and the river Po:”

and then concludes with a sigh,

“Now this is worshipful society!”

‘I would not be thought in all this to hate such honest creatures as dogs; I am only unhappy that I cannot partake in their diversions. But I love them so well, as dogs, that I often go with my pockets stuffed with bread to dispense my favours, or make my way through them at neighbours' houses. There is in particular a young bound of great expectation, vivacity, and enterprize, that attends my flights wherever he spies me. The creature observes my countenance, and behaves himself accordingly. His mirth, his frolic, and joy, upon the sight of me, has been observed, and I have been gravely desired not to encourage him so much, for it spoils his parts; but I think he shows them sufficiently in the several bounding, friskings, and scourings, when he makes his court to me: but I foresee in a little time he and I must keep company with one another only, for we are fit for no other in these parts. Having informed you how I do pass my time in the country where I

am, I must proceed to tell you how I would pass it, had I such a fortune as would put me above the observance of ceremony and custom.

'My scheme of a country life then should be as follows: As I am happy in three or four agreeable friends, these I would constantly have with me; and the freedom we took with one another at school and the university, we would maintain and exert upon all occasions with great courage. There should be certain hours of the day to be employed in reading, during which time it should be impossible for any one of us to enter the other's chamber, unless by storm. After this we would communicate the trash or treasure we had met with, with our own reflections upon the matter; the justness of which we would controvert with good-humoured warmth, and never spare one another out of that complaisant spirit of conversation, which makes others affirm and deny the same matter in a quarter of an hour. If any of the neighbouring gentlemen, not of our turn, should take it in their heads to visit me, I should look upon these persons in the same degree enemies to my particular state of happiness, as ever the French were to that of the public, and I would be at an annual expense in spies to observe their motions. Whenever I should be surprised with a visit, as I hate drinking, I would be brisk in swilling bumpers upon this maxim, that it is better to trouble others with my impertinence, than to be troubled myself with theirs. The necessity of an infirmary* makes me resolve to fall into that project; and as we should be but five, the terrors of an involuntary separation, which our number cannot so well admit of, would make us exert ourselves in opposition to all the particulars mentioned in your institution of that equitable confinement. This my way of life I know would subject me to the imputation of a morose, covetous, and singular fellow. These and all other hard words, with all manner of insipid jests, and all other reproach, would be matter of mirth to me and my friends: besides I would destroy the application of the epithets morose and covetous, by a yearly relief of my undeservedly necessitous neighbours, and by treating my friends and domestics with an humanity that should express the obligation to lie rather on my side; and as for the word singular, I was always of opinion every man must be so, to be what one would desire him.

'Your very humble servant,

'J. R. T.'

* MR. SPECTATOR,

'ABOUT two years ago I was called upon by the younger part of a country family, by my mother's side related to me, to visit Mr. Campbell †, the dumb man, for they told me that that was chiefly what brought them to town, having heard wonders of him in Essex. I, who always wanted faith in matters of that kind, was not easily prevailed on to go; but, lest they should take it ill, I went with them; when, to my surprise, Mr. Campbell related all their past life; in short, had he not been prevented, such a discovery would have come out as

* See Nos. 429, 437, and 440.

† Thought to have been written by the Rev. Mr. Richard Parker, an eminent Greek scholar, and many years vicar of Embleton, in Northumberland.

‡ A man, who, pretending to be gifted with the second sight, practised for some years on the credulity of the public in the character of a fortune-teller, and amassed considerable property. He either was, or affected to be, deaf and dumb. See No 560.

would have ruined the next design of their coming to town, viz. buying wedding-clothes. Our names—though he never heard of us before—and we endeavoured to conceal—were as familiar to him as to ourselves. To be sure, Mr. Spectator, he is a very learned and wise man. Being impatient to know my fortune, having paid my respects in a family Jacobus, he told me (after his manner) among several other things, that in a year and nine months I should fall ill of a new fever, be given over by my physicians, but should with much difficulty recover: that, the first time I took the air afterwards, I should be addressed to by a young gentleman of a plentiful fortune, good sense, and a generous spirit. Mr. Spectator, he is the purest man in the world, for all he said is come to pass, and I am the happiest she in Kent. I have been in quest of Mr. Campbell these three months, and cannot find him out. Now, hearing you are a dumb man too, I thought you might correspond, and be able to tell me something; for I think myself highly obliged to make his fortune, as he has mine. It is very possible your worship, who has spies all over this town, can inform me how to send to him. If you can, I beseech you be as speedy as possible, and you will highly oblige

'Your constant reader and admirer,

'DULCIBELLA THANKLEY.'

Ordered, That the inspector I employ about wonders inquire at the Golden Lion, opposite to the Half-Moon tavern in Drury-lane, into the merits of this silent sage, and report accordingly.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 475. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1712.

—*Que res in se neque constitit, neque modum
Habet ullum, eam consilio regere non potes.*

TER. Eun. act. i. sc. 1.

Advice is thrown away, where the case admits of neither counsel nor moderation.

It is an old observation, which has been made of politicians who would rather ingratiate themselves with their sovereign, than promote his real service, that they accommodate their counsels to his inclinations, and advise him to such actions only as his heart is naturally set upon. The privy counsellor of one in love must observe the same conduct, unless he would forfeit the friendship of the person who desires his advice. I have known several odd cases of this nature. Hipparchus was going to marry a common woman, but being resolved to do nothing without the advice of his friend Philander, he consulted him upon the occasion. Philander told him his mind freely, and represented his mistress to him in such strong colours, that the next morning he received a challenge for his pains, and before twelve o'clock was run through the body by the man who had asked his advice. Celia was more prudent on the like occasion. She desired Leonilla to give her opinion freely upon the young fellow who made his addresses to her. Leonilla, to oblige her, told her with great frankness, that she looked upon him as one of the most worthless——Celia, foreseeing what a character she was to expect, begged her not to go on, for that she had been privately married to him above a fortnight. The truth of it is, a woman seldom asks advice before she has bought her wedding-clothes. When she has made her own choice, for

form's sake she sends a conge d'elire to her friends.

If we look into the secret springs and motives that set people at work on these occasions, and put them upon asking advice which they never intend to take, I look upon it to be none of the least, that they are incapable of keeping a secret which is so very pleasing to them. A girl longs to tell her confidant, that she hopes to be married in a little time; and, in order to talk of the pretty fellow that dwells so much in her thoughts, asks her very gravely, what she would advise her to do in a case of so much difficulty. Why else should Melissa, who had not a thousand pounds in the world, go into every quarter of the town to ask her acquaintance whether they would advise her to take Tom Townly, that made his addresses to her with an estate of five thousand a year? It is very pleasant on this occasion, to hear the lady propose her doubts, and to see the pains she is at to get over them.

I must not here omit a practice that is in use among the vainer part of our sex, who will often ask a friend's advice in relation to a fortune whom they are never like to come at. Will Honeycomb, who is now on the verge of threescore, took me aside not long since, and asked me in his most serious look, whether I would advise him to marry my Lady Betty Single, who, by the way, is one of the greatest fortunes about town. I stared him full in the face upon so strange a question; upon which he immediately gave me an inventory of her jewels and estate, adding that he was resolved to do nothing in a matter of such consequence without my approbation. Finding he would have an answer, I told him, if he could get the lady's consent, he had mine. This is about the tenth match which, to my knowledge, Will has consulted his friends upon, without ever opening his mind to the party herself.

I have been engaged in this subject by the following letter, which comes to me from some notable young female scribe, who, by the contents of it, seems to have carried matters so far, that she is ripe for asking advice; but as I would not lose her good-will, nor forfeit the reputation which I have with her for wisdom, I shall only communicate the letter to the public, without returning any answer to it.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Now, sir, the thing is this; Mr. Shapely is the prettiest gentleman about town. He is very tall, but not too tall neither. He dances like an angel. His mouth is made I do not know how, but it is the prettiest that I ever saw in my life. He is always laughing, for he has an infinite deal of wit. If you did but see how he rolls his stockings! He has a thousand pretty fancies, and I am sure, if you saw him, you would like him. He is a very good scholar, and can talk Latin as fast as English. I wish you could but see him dance. Now you must understand poor Mr. Shapely has no estate; but how can he help that, you know? And yet my friends are so unreasonable as to be always teasing me about him, because he has no estate; but I am sure he has that that is better than an estate; for he is a good-natured, ingenious, modest, civil, tall, well-bred, handsome man; and I am obliged to him for his civilities ever since I saw him. I forgot to tell you that he has black eyes, and looks upon me now and then as if he had tears in them. And yet my friends are so unreasonable, that they would have me be uncivil to him. I

have a good portion which they cannot hinder me of, and I shall be fourteen on the 29th day of August next, and am therefore willing to settle in the world as soon as I can, and so is Mr. Shapely. But every body I advise with here is poor Mr. Shapely's enemy. I desire therefore you will give me your advice, for I know you are a wise man; and if you advise me well, I am resolved to follow it. I heartily wish you could see him dance; and am,

'SIR,

'Your most humble servant.

'B. C.

'He loves your Spectators mightily.'

ADDISON.

C.

N^o 476. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1712.

— *Lucidus ordo.*

HOL. Ars Poet. ver. 42.

Method.

Among my daily papers which I bestow on the public, there are some which are written with regularity and method, and others that run out into the wildness of those compositions which go by the name of essays. As for the first, I have the whole scheme of the discourse in my mind before I set pen to paper. In the other kind of writing, it is sufficient that I have several thoughts on a subject, without troubling myself to range them in such order, that they may seem to grow out of one another, and be disposed under the proper head. Seneca and Montaigne are patterns for writing in this last kind, as Tully and Aristotle excel in the other. When I read an author of genius who writes without method, I fancy myself in a wood that abounds with a great many noble objects, rising among one another in the greatest confusion and disorder. When I read a methodical discourse, I am in a regular plantation, and can place myself in its several centers, so as to take a view of all the lines and walks that are struck from them. You may ramble in the one a whole day together, and every moment discover something or other that is new to you; but when you have done, you will have but a confused imperfect notion of the place: in the other, your eye commands the whole prospect, and gives you such an idea of it as is not easily worn out of the memory.

Irregularity and want of method are only supportable in men of great learning or genius, who are often too full to be exact, and therefore choose to throw down their pearls in heaps before the reader, rather than be at the pains of stringing them.

Method is of advantage to a work, both in respect to the writer and the reader. In regard to the first, it is a great help to his invention. When a man has planned his discourse, he finds a great many thoughts rising out of every head, that do not offer themselves upon the general survey of a subject. His thoughts are at the same time more intelligible, and better discover their drift and meaning, when they are placed in their proper lights, and follow one another in a regular series, than when they are thrown together without order and connection. There is always an obscurity or confusion; and the same sentence that would have enlightened the reader in one part of a discourse, perplexes him in another. For the same reason, likewise, every thought in a methodical discourse

ows itself in its greatest beauty, as the several figures in a piece of painting receive new grace from their disposition in the picture. The advantages of a reader from a methodical discourse are correspondent with those of the writer. He comprehends every thing easily, takes it in with pleasure, and retains it long.

Method is not less requisite in ordinary conversation than in writing, provided a man would talk make himself understood. I, who hear a thousand coffee-house debates every day, am very sensible of this want of method in the thoughts of my next countrymen. There is not one dispute in which is managed in those schools of politics, here, after the three first sentences, the question not entirely lost. Our disputants put me in mind of the scuttle-fish, that when he is unable to extricate himself, blackens all the water about him till he becomes invisible. The man who does not know how to methodize his thoughts, has always, borrow a phrase from the Dispensary, 'A barren superfluity of words;' the fruit is lost amidst the exuberance of leaves.

Tom Puzzle is one of the most immethodical distants of any that has fallen under my observation. Tom has read enough to make him very pertinent; his knowledge is sufficient to raise doubts, but not to clear them. It is pity that he is so much learning, or that he has not a great deal more. With these qualifications Tom sets up for a free-thinker, finds a great many things to blame in the constitution of his country, and gives new intimations that he does not believe another world. In short, Puzzle is an atheist as much as his parts will give him leave. He has got about as many common-place topics, into which he never fails to turn the conversation, whatever was the occasion of it. Though the matter in debate be about Douay or Denain, it is ten to one but half his discourse runs upon the unreasonableness of poetry and priestcraft. This makes Mr. Puzzle's admiration of all those who have less sense than himself, and the contempt of all those who have more. There is none in town whom Tom reads so much as my friend Will Dry. Will, who acquainted with Tom's logic, when he finds him running off the question, cuts him short with a 'What then? We allow all this to be true; but what is it to our present purpose?' I have known him eloquent half an hour together, and triumph, as he thought, in the superiority of the argument, when he has been nonplused on a sudden. Mr. Dry's desiring him to tell the company what it was that he endeavoured to prove. In short, Dry is a man of a clear methodical head, a few words, and gains the same advantage over Puzzle, that a small body of regular troops would in over a numberless undisciplined militia.

ADDITION.

G.

Nº 477. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1712.

— *An me ludit amabilis
Insania? audire et videri pios
Errare per lucos, amare
Quos et a juve subeunt et auro.*

HOR. Od. iv. l. 3. ver. 5.

— Does airy fancy cheat
My mind, well pleas'd with the deceit?
I seem to hear, I seem to move,
And wander through the happy grove,
Where smooth springs flow, and murm'ring breeze
Wantons through the waving trees.

CREECH.

' SIR,

HAVING lately read your essay on the Pleasures of the Imagination*, I was so taken with your thoughts upon some of our English gardens, that I cannot forbear troubling you with a letter upon that subject. I am one, you must know, who am looked upon as an humorist in gardening. I have several acres about my house, which I call my garden, and which a skilful gardener would not know what to call. It is a confusion of kitchen and parterre, orchard and flower garden, which lie so mixed and interwoven with one another, that if a foreigner, who had seen nothing of our country, should be conveyed into my garden at his first landing, he would look upon it as a natural wilderness, and one of the uncultivated parts of our country. My flowers grow up in several parts of the garden in the greatest luxuriance and profusion. I am so far from being fond of any particular one, by reason of its rarity, that if I meet with any one in a field which pleases me, I give it a place in my garden. By this means, when a stranger walks with me, he is surprised to see several large spots of ground covered with ten thousand different colours, and has often singled out flowers that he might have met with under a common hedge, in a field, or in a meadow, as some of the greatest beauties of the place. The only method I observe in this particular, is, to range in the same quarter the products of the same season, that they may make their appearance together, and compose a picture of the greatest variety. There is the same irregularity in my plantations, which run into as great a wildness as their natures will permit. I take in none that do not naturally rejoice in the soil; and am pleased, when I am walking in a labyrinth of my own raising, not to know whether the next tree I shall meet with is an apple, or an oak, an elm, or a pear-tree. My kitchen has likewise its particular quarters assigned it; for, besides the wholesome luxury which that place abounds with, I have always thought a kitchen garden a more pleasant sight than the finest orangery or artificial green-house. I love to see every thing in its perfection; and am more pleased to survey my rows of coleworts and cabbages, with a thousand nameless pot-herbs, springing up in their full fragrancy and verdure, than to see the tender plants of foreign countries kept alive by artificial heats, or withering in an air and soil that are not adapted to them. I must not omit, that there is a fountain rising in the upper part of my garden, which forms a little wandering rill, and administers to the pleasure as well as the plenty of the place. I have so conducted it, that it visits most of my plantations; and have taken particular care to let it run in the same manner as it would do in an

* See Nº 411 to 421.

opened field, so that it generally passes through banks of violets and primroses, plats of willow, or other plants, that seem to be of its own producing. There is another circumstance in which I am very particular, or, as my neighbours call me, very whimsical: as my garden invites into it all the birds of the country, by offering them the convenience of springs and shades, solitude and shelter, I do not suffer any one to destroy their nests in the spring, or drive them from their usual haunts in fruit-time; I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs. By this means I have always the music of the season in its perfection, and am highly delighted to see the jay or the thrush hopping about my walks, and shooting before my eyes across the several little glades and alleys that I pass through. I think there are as many kinds of gardening as of poetry; your makers of parterres and flower-gardens are epigrammatists and sonneteers in this art; contrivers of bowers and grottos, treillages and cascades, are romance writers. Wise and London are our heroic poets; and if, as a critic, I may single out any passage of their works to commend, I shall take notice of that part in the upper garden at Kensington, which was at first nothing but a gravel pit. It must have been a fine genius for gardening that could have thought of forming such an unsightly hollow into so beautiful an area, and to have hit the eye with so uncommon and agreeable a scene as that which it is now wrought into. To give this particular spot of ground the greater effect, they have made a very pleasing contrast; for as on one side of the walk you see this hollow bason, with its several little plantations, lying so conveniently under the eye of the beholder; on the other side of it there appears a seeming mount, made up of trees rising one higher than another, in proportion as they approach the centre. A spectator, who has not heard this account of it, would think this circular mount was not only a real one, but that it had been actually scooped out of that hollow space which I have before mentioned. I never yet met with any one, who has walked in this garden, who was not struck with that part of it which I have here mentioned. As for myself, you will find, by the account which I have already given you, that my compositions in gardening are altogether after the Pindaric manner, and run into the beautiful wildness of nature, without affecting the nicer elegancies of art. What I am now going to mention will, perhaps, deserve your attention more than any thing I have yet said. I find that, in the discourse which I spoke of at the beginning of my letter, you are against filling an English garden with evergreens; and indeed I am so far of your opinion, that I can by no means think the verdure of an evergreen comparable to that which shoots out annually, and clothes our trees in the summer season. But I have often wondered that those who are like myself, and love to live in gardens, have never thought of contriving a winter garden, which would consist of such trees only as never cast their leaves. We have very often little snatches of sunshine and fair weather in the most uncomfortable parts of the year, and have frequently several days in November and January that are as agreeable as any in the finest months. At such times, therefore, I think there could not be a greater pleasure than to walk in such a winter garden as I have proposed. In the summer season the whole country blooms, and is a kind of garden; for which reason we are not so sensible of

those beauties that at this time may be every where met with; but when nature is in her desolation and presents us with nothing but bleak and bare prospects, there is something unspeakably cheerful in a spot of ground which is covered with trees that smile amidst all the rigour of winter, and give us a view of the most gay season in the midst of that which is the most gay dead and melancholy. I have so far indulged myself in this thought, that I have set apart a whole acre of ground for the erecting of it. The walls are covered with ivy instead of vines. The laurel, the horn-beam, and the holly, with many other trees and plants of the same nature, grow so thick in it that you cannot imagine a more lively scene. The glowing redness of the berries, with which they are hung at this time, vies with the verdure of their leaves, and is apt to inspire the heart of the beholder with an eternal delight which you have somewhere taken notice of in your former papers. It is very pleasant, at the same time, to see the several kinds of birds retiring into this little green spot, and enjoying themselves among the branches and foliage, in my great garden, which I have before mentioned to you, does not afford a single leaf for their shelter.

'You must know, sir, that I look upon the pleasure which we take in a garden as one of the most innocent delights in human life. A garden is the habitation of our first parents before the fall. It is naturally apt to fill the mind with calmness and tranquillity, and to lay all its turbulent passions at rest. It gives us a great insight into the contrivance and wisdom of Providence, and suggests innumerable subjects for meditation. I cannot but think the very complacency and satisfaction which a man takes in these works of nature to be a laudable, if not a virtuous, habit of mind. For all which reasons I hope you will pardon the length of my present letter.

'I am,
'sir, &c.'

ADDISON.

NO 478. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1741.

— *Quem penes arbitrium est, et jus et norma* —
HOR. Ars Poet. 10.

Fashion, the arbiter, and rule of right.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'It happened lately, that a friend of mine, who had many things to buy for his family, would oblige me to walk with him to the shops. He was very nice in his way, and fond of having every thing shown, which at first made me very uneasy; but as his humour still continued, the thing, which I had been staring at along with him began to enter into my head, and led me into a set of amusing thoughts concerning them.

'I fancied it must be very surprising to any one who enters into a detail of fashions, to consider how far the vanity of mankind has laid itself out in dress, what a prodigious number of people it maintains, and what a circulation of money it occasions. Providence in this case makes use of folly which we will not give up, and is become instrumental to the support of those who are obliged to labour. Hence it is that fringed-masks, &c.

en, tire-women, and a number of other trades, which would be useless in a simple state of nature, saw their subsistence; though it is seldom seen that such as these are extremely rich, because their original fault of being founded upon vanity keeps them poor by the light inconstancy of its nature. The variability of fashion turns the stream of business, which flows from it, now into one channel, and anon into another; so that the different sorts of people sink or flourish in their turns by it.

From the shops we retired to the tavern, where found my friend express so much satisfaction for the bargains he had made, that my moral reflections (if I had told them) might have passed for a proof; so I chose rather to fall in with him, and let the discourse run upon the use of fashions.

Here we remembered how much man is governed by his senses, how lively he is struck by the objects which appear to him in an agreeable manner, how much clothes contribute to make us agreeable objects, and how much we owe it to ourselves that we should appear so.

We considered man as belonging to societies; societies as formed of different ranks distinguished by habits, that all proper duty or respect might attend their appearance.

We took notice of several advantages which we met with in the occurrences of conversation: the bashful man has been sometimes so raised, as to express himself with an air of freedom, when he imagines that his habit introduces him to company with a becoming manner; and again, how cool in fine clothes shall be suddenly heard with emotion, till he has betrayed himself; whereas a man of sense, appearing with a dress of negligence, shall be but coldly received, till he is loved by time, and established in a character. These things as these we could recollect to have applied to our own knowledge so very often, that we concluded the author had his reasons, and advises his son to go in dress rather above his luck than under it.

At last the subject seemed so considerable, that was proposed to have a repository built for fashions, as there are chambers for medals and other curiosities. The building may be shaped as that which stands among the pyramids, in the form of a man's head. This may be raised upon pillars whose ornaments shall bear a just relation to the design. Thus there may be an imitation of fringe carved in the base, a sort of appearance of lace in frieze, and a representation of curling locks, whose bows of ribbon sloping over them, may fill the work of the cornish. The inside may be divided into two apartments appropriated to each other.

The apartments may be filled with shelves, which boxes are to stand as regularly as books in a library. These are to have folding-doors, which, being opened, you are to behold a baby dressed out in some fashion which has flourished, standing upon a pedestal, where the time of its origin is marked down. For its further regulation, let it be ordered, that every one who invents a fashion shall bring in his box, whose front he may pleasure have either worked or painted with some amorous or gay device, that, like books with elegant leaves and covers, it may the sooner draw eyes of the beholders. And to the end that it may be preserved with all due care, let there

be a keeper appointed, who shall be a gentleman qualified with a competent knowledge in clothes; so that by this means the place will be a comfortable support for some beau who has spent his estate in dressing.

The reasons offered, by which we expected to gain the approbation of the public, were as follows:

First, That every one who is considerable enough to be a mode, and has any imperfection of nature or chance, which it is possible to hide by the advantage of clothes, may, by coming to this repository, be furnished herself, and furnish all who are under the same misfortune, with the most agreeable manner of concealing it; and that, on the other side, every one, who has any beauty in face or shape, may also be furnished with the most agreeable manner of showing it.

Secondly, That whereas some of our young gentlemen, who travel, give us great reason to suspect that they only go abroad to make or improve a fancy for dress, a project of this nature may be a means to keep them at home, which is in effect the keeping of so much money in the kingdom. And perhaps the balance of fashion in Europe, which now leans upon the side of France, may be so altered for the future, that it may become as common with Frenchmen to come to England for their finishing stroke of breeding, as it has been for Englishmen to go to France for it.

Thirdly, Whereas several great scholars, who might have been otherwise useful to the world, have spent their time in studying to describe the dresses of the ancients from dark hints, which they are fain to interpret and support with much learning; it will from henceforth happen, that they shall be freed from the trouble, and the world from useless volumes. This project will be a registry, to which posterity may have recourse, for the clearing such obscure passages as tend that way in authors; and therefore we shall not for the future submit ourselves to the learning of etymology, which might persuade the age to come, that the farthingale was worn for cheapness, or the furberlow for warmth.

Fourthly, Whereas they, who are old themselves, have often a way of railing at the extravagance of youth, and the whole age in which their children live; it is hoped that this ill-humour will be much suppressed, when we can have recourse to the fashions of their times, produce them in our vindication, and be able to show, that it might have been as expensive in Queen Elizabeth's time only to wash and quill a ruff, as it is now to buy cravats or neck handkerchiefs.

We desire also to have it taken notice of, that because we would show a particular respect to foreigners, which may induce them to perfect their breeding here in a knowledge which is very proper for pretty gentlemen, we have conceived the motto for the house in the learned language. There is to be a picture over the door, with a looking-glass and a dressing chair in the middle of it: then on one side are to be seen, above one another, patch-boxes, pin-cushions, and little bottles; on the other powder-bags, puffs, combs, and brushes; beyond these, swords with fine knots, whose points are hidden, and fans almost closed, with the handles downward, are to stand out interchangeably from the sides, till they meet at the top, and form a semicircle over the rest of the figures: beneath all, the writing is to run in this pretty-sounding manner:

* See N^o 360.

† Osborne in his 'Advice to his Son.'

‡ The Sphinx. See Denon's Travels in Egypt.

§ N^o 277.

"*Adeste, O quotquot sunt, Veneres, Gratia, Cupidines,
En vobis adsunt in promptu
Facies, vincula, epicula;
Hinc eligite, sumite, regite.*"

"All ye Venus's, Graces, and Cupids, attend:
See, prepared to your hands,
Darts, torches, and bands:
Your weapons here choose, and your empire extend."

"I am, sir,
'Your most humble servant,
'A. B.'

The proposal of my correspondent I cannot but look upon as an ingenious method of placing persons (whose parts make them ambitious to exert themselves in frivolous things) in a rank by themselves. In order to this, I would propose that there be a board of directors of the fashionable society; and, because it is a matter of too much weight for a private man to determine alone, I should be highly obliged to my correspondents if they would give in lists of persons qualified for this trust. If the chief coffee-houses, the conversations of which places are carried on by persons, each of whom has his little number of followers and admirers, would name from among themselves two or three to be inserted, they should be put up with great faithfulness. Old beaux are to be presented in the first place; but as that sect, with relation to dress, is almost extinct, it will, I fear, be absolutely necessary to take in all time-servers, properly so deemed; that is, such as, without any conviction of conscience, or view of interest, change with the world, and that merely from a terror of being out of fashion. Such also, who from facility of temper and too much obsequiousness, are vicious against their will, and follow leaders whom they do not approve, for want of courage to go their own way, are capable persons for this superintendency. Those who are loth to grow old, or would do any thing contrary to the course and order of things, out of fondness to be in fashion, are proper candidates. To conclude, those who are in fashion without apparent merit, must be supposed to have latent qualities, which would appear in a post of direction: and therefore are to be regarded in forming these lists. Any, who shall be pleased according to these, or what further qualifications may occur to himself, to send a list, is desired to do it within fourteen days after this date.

N. B. The place of the physician to this society, according to the last mentioned qualification, is already engaged.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 479. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1712.

— *Dare jura matris.*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 398.

To regulate the matrimonial life.

MANY are the epistles I every day receive from husbands who complain of vanity, pride, but, above all, ill-nature in their wives. I cannot tell how it is, but I think I see in all their letters that the cause of their uneasiness is in themselves; and indeed I have hardly ever observed the married condition unhappy, but for want of judgment or temper in the man. The truth is, we generally make love in a style, and with sentiments, very unfit for

ordinary life: they are half theatrical, half romantic. By this means we raise our imagination to what is not to be expected in human life; and because we did not beforehand think of the creature we are enamoured of, as subject to disturbance, sickness, impatience, or sullenness, but altogether considered her as the object of joy: her nature itself is often imputed to her as her particular imperfection, or defect.

I take it to be a rule proper to be observed in all occurrences of life, but more especially in the domestic, or matrimonial part of it, to preserve always a disposition to be pleased. This can be supported but by considering things in the right light, and as Nature has formed them, and not as our own fancies and appetites would have them. He then who took a young lady to be married with no other consideration than the expectation of scenes of dalliance, and thought of her (as I said before) only as she was to administer to the gratification of desire; as that desire flagged without her fault, think her charms and her beauty abated; from hence must follow indifference, dislike, peevishness, and rage. But the man who brings his reason to support his passion, and holds what he loves, as liable to all the calamities of human life both in body and mind, and even the best what must bring upon him new cares, and new relations; such a lover, I say, will forgive himself accordingly, and adapt his mind to the nature of his circumstances. This latter person will be prepared to be a father, a friend, an advocate, a steward for people yet unborn, and has proper affections ready for every incident in the married state. Such a man can bear the cries of children with pity instead of anger; and, when they are over his head, he is not disturbed at their noise but is glad of their mirth and health. Tom has told me, that he thinks it doubles his attention to the most intricate affair he is about, to hear children, for whom all his cares are applied, make a noise in the next room: on the other side, Mr. Sparkish cannot put on his periwig, or adjust his cravat at the glass, for the noise of these cursing, and squalling brats; and then ends with a gallant reflection upon the comforts of matrimony runs out of the hearing, and drives to the next late-house.

According as the husband is disposed in every circumstance of his life is to give his time, or pleasure. When the affection is placed, and supported by the consideration of duty, honour, and friendship, which are in the highest degree engaged in this alliance, there is nothing rise in the common course of life, or from the blows or favours of fortune, in which a man will not find matters of some delight unknown in a single condition.

He who sincerely loves his wife and family, studies to improve that affection in himself, and receives pleasure from the most indifferent things while the married man, who has not bid adieu to the fashions and false gallantries of the town, is perplexed with every thing around him. In these cases men cannot, indeed, make a single figure, than in repeating such pleasures and pains to the rest of the world; but I speak of them as they sit upon those who are involved in them. As I visit all sorts of people, I cannot indeed but smile, when the good lady tells her husband of extraordinary things the child spoke once he was out. No longer than yesterday I was prevailed with to go home with a fond husband; and he told him, that his son, of his own head, when

clock in the parlour struck two, said papa would come home to dinner presently. While the mother has him in a rapture in his arms, and is crowning him with kisses, the wife tells me he is just four years old. Then they both struggle with him, and bring him up to me, and repeat his observation of two o'clock. I was called upon, looks upon the child, and then at me, to say nothing; and I told the father that this remark the infant of his coming home, and joining the mother with it, was a certain indication that he would be a great historian and chronologer. They are neither of them fools, yet received my compliment with great acknowledgment of my prescience. I dined very well at dinner, and heard many other able sayings of their heir, which would have given very little entertainment to one less turned to reflection than I was: but it was a pleasing calculation to remark on the happiness of a life, in which things of no moment give occasion of self-satisfaction, and triumph. On the other hand, I have known an ill-natured coxcomb, who hardly improved in any thing but bulk, for want of this disposition, silence the whole family with a set of silly women and children, for recounting things which were really above his own capacity. When I say all this, I cannot deny but there are some very jade stones that fall to men's lots, with whom requires more than common proficiency in philosophy to be able to live. When these are joined with a set of warm spirits, without temper or learning, they are frequently corrected with stripes; one of our famous lawyers* is of opinion, that ought to be used sparingly; as I remember, these are his very words: but as it is proper to use some spiritual use out of all afflictions, I would rather recommend to those who are visited with women of spirit, to form themselves for the trial by patience at home. Socrates, who is by accounts the undoubted head of the sect of the pecked, owned and acknowledged that he had great part of his virtue to the exercise which his useful wife constantly gave it. There are several good instructions may be drawn from his answers to people of less fortitude than himself on her subject. A friend, with indignation, asked how so good a man could live with so violent a creature? He observed to him, that they learn to keep a good seat on horseback, mount the least manageable they can get; and, when they have mastered them, they are sure never to be dismounted on the backs of steeds less restive. At several times, to different persons, on the same subject, he has said, 'My dear friend, you are beholden to Xantippe, that I bear so well your fly-out in a dispute.' To another, 'My hen clacks very much, but she brings me chickens. They that live in a trading street are not disturbed at the rage of carts.' I would have, if possible, a wise man be contented with his lot, even with a shrew; though he cannot make her better, he may, you know, make himself better by her means. But instead of pursuing my design of displaying conjugal love in its natural beauties and attractions, I am got into tales to the disadvantage of the state of life. I must say, therefore, that I am fully persuaded that whatever is delightful in human life, & to be enjoyed in greater perfection in married, than in the single condition. He that pursues this passion in perfection, in occasions of joy, I say to himself, besides his own satisfaction, how happy will this make my wife and chil-

dren! Upon occurrences of distress, or danger, can comfort himself; 'But all this while my wife and children are safe.' There is something in it that doubles satisfactions, because others participate them; and dispels afflictions, because others are exempt from them. All who are married without this relish of their circumstance, are in either a tasteless indolence and negligence which is hardly to be attained, or else live in the hourly repetition of sharp answers, eager upbraidings, and distracting reproaches. In a word, the married state, with and without the affection suitable to it, is the completest image of heaven and hell we are capable of receiving in this life*.

STEEL.

T.

N^o 480. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1712.

*Responsare cupidinibus, contemnere honores,
Fortis, et in scipso lotus teres, atque rotundus.*

HOR. Sat. vii. l. 2. ver. 85.

Who's proof against the charms of vain delight:
Whom feeble fortune strives in vain to wound,
So closely gather'd in a perfect round.
CREECH.

THE other day, looking over those old manuscripts of which I have formerly given some account, and which relate to the character of the mighty Pharamond of France, and the close friendship between him and his friend Eucrate†, I found among the letters which had been in the custody of the latter an epistle from a country gentleman to Pharamond, wherein he excuses himself from coming to court. The gentleman, it seems, was contented with his condition, had formerly been in the king's service; but at the writing the following letter had, from leisure and reflection, quite another sense of things than that which he had in the more active part of his life.

Monsieur Chezluy to Pharamond,

* DEAR SIR,

I HAVE from your own hand (inclosed under the cover of Mr. Eucrate, of your majesty's bed-chamber) a letter which invites me to court. I understand this great honour to be done me out of respect and inclination to me, rather than regard to your own service: for which reasons I beg leave to lay before your majesty my reasons for declining to depart from home: and will not doubt but, as your motive in desiring my attendance was to make me an happier man, when you think that will not be effected by my remove, you will permit me to stay where I am. Those who have an ambition to appear in courts, have ever an opinion that their persons, or their talents, are particularly formed for the service or ornament of that place; or else are hurried by downright desire of gain, or what they call honour, or take upon themselves whatever the generosity of their master can give them opportunities to grasp at. But your goodness shall not be thus imposed upon by me: I will therefore confess to you, that frequent solitude, and long conversation with such who know no arts which polish life, have made me the plainest creature in your dominions. Those less capacities of moving with a good grace, bearing a ready affa-

* Bracton. See the first paragraph of N^o 482.* See N^o 482.

† See N. s. 76, 84, and 97.

bility to all around me, and acting with ease before many, have quite left me. I am come to that, with regard to my person, that I consider it only as a machine I am obliged to take care of, in order to enjoy my soul in its faculties with alacrity; well remembering, that this habitation of clay will in a few years be a meaner piece of earth than any utensil about my house. When this is, as it really is, the most frequent reflection I have, you will easily imagine how well I should become a drawing-room: add to this, what shall a man without desires do about the generous Pharamond? Monsieur Eucrate has hinted to me, that you have thoughts of distinguishing me with titles. As for myself, in the temper of my present mind, appellations of honour would but embarrass discourse, and new behaviour towards me perplex me in every habitude of life. I am also to acknowledge to you, that my children, of whom your majesty condescended to inquire, are all of them mean, both in their persons and genius. The estate my eldest son is heir to, is more than he can enjoy with a good grace. My self-love will not carry me so far, as to impose upon mankind the advancement of persons (merely for their being related to me) into high distinctions, who ought for their own sakes, as well as that of the public, to affect obscurity. I wish, my generous prince, as it is in your power to give honours and offices, it were also to give talents suitable to them: were it so, the noble Pharamond would reward the zeal of my youth with abilities to do him service in my age.

Those who accept of favour without merit, support themselves in it at the expense of your majesty. Give me leave to tell you, sir, this is the reason that we in the country hear so often repeated the word prerogative. That part of your law which is reserved in yourself, for the readier service and good of the public, slight men are eternally buzzing in our ears, to cover their own follies and miscarriages. It would be an addition to the high favour you have done me, if you would let Eucrate send me word how often, and in what cases, you allow a constable to insist upon the prerogative. From the highest to the lowest officer in your dominions, something of their own carriage they would exempt from examination, under the shelter of the word prerogative. I would fain, most noble Pharamond, see one of your officers assert your prerogative by good and gracious actions. When is it used to help the afflicted, to rescue the innocent, to comfort the stranger? Uncommon methods, apparently undertaken to attain worthy ends, would never make power invidious. You see, sir, I talk to you with the freedom your noble nature approves in all whom you admit to your conversation.

But, to return to your majesty's letter, I humbly conceive that all distinctions are useful to men, only as they are to act in public; and it would be a romantic madness for a man to be a lord in his closet. Nothing can be honourable to a man apart from the world, but the reflection upon worthy actions; and he that places honour in a consciousness of well-doing, will have but little relish of any outward homage that is paid him, since what gives him distinction to himself, cannot come within the observation of his beholders. Thus all the words of lordship, honour, and grace, are only repetitions to a man that the king has ordered him to be called so; but no evidences that there is any thing in himself, that would give the man, who applies to him, those ideas, without the creation of his master.

'I have, most noble Pharamond, all honours and all titles in your approbation; I triumph in them as they are your gift, I refuse them as they are given me the observation of others. Indulge me, my noble master, in this chastity of reasons: may I know myself in the favour of Pharamond, and look down upon the applause of the people.

'I am, in all duty and loyalty,

'Your majesty's most obedient

'subject and servant,

'JEAN CHAULI.

'SIR,

'I NEED not tell with what disadvantages and low fortunes and great modesty come into the world; what wrong measures their diffidence of themselves, and fear of offending, often obliges them to take; and what a pity it is that their great virtues and qualities, that should soon recommend them, are the main obstacles in the way of their preferment.

'This, sir, is my case; I was bred at a country school, where I learned Latin and Greek. The misfortunes of my family forced me up to town, where a profession of the polite sort has provoked me against infamy and want. I am now clerk to a lawyer, and in times of vacancy and recreation, have made myself master of Italian and French; and though the progress I have made in my business has gained me reputation enough, and one of my standing, yet my mind suggests to me every day, that it is not upon that foundation I am to build my fortune.

'The person I have my present dependence upon, has it in his nature, as well as in his power, to advance me, by recommending me to a person that is going beyond sea in a public employment. I know the printing this letter would put me out to those I want confidence to speak to, and I hope it is not in your power to refuse making any body happy.

'September 9, 1712.

'Yours, &c.

'M. P.

STEEL.

Nº 481. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1712.

Ut non

Compositus meus cum Bitho Bacchus; in ju-
Acres procurrant

HOR. Sat. vii. l. 1. v. 1.

Not better match'd with Bithus Bacchus strove.
To law they run, and wrangling dearly love.

It is sometimes pleasant enough to consider of different notions which different persons have of the same thing. If men of low condition often set a value on things which are not prized by those who are in a higher station of life, there are many things these esteem which are as usual among persons of an inferior rank. Common people are, in particular, very much astonished when they hear of those solemn contents and detestations which are made among the great upon the pretences of a public ceremony; and wonder to find that any business of consequence should be interrupted by those little circumstances which they represent to themselves as trifling and insignificant. I am mightily pleased with a porter's decision in one of Mr. Southern's plays, which is founded upon the

* Mr. Robert Harper, an eminent conveyancer, of Lincoln's-inn.

† The Fatal Marriage; or, The Innocent Adultery

the distress of a virtuous woman's marrying a second husband, while her first was yet living. The first husband, who was supposed to have been dead, turning to his house after a long absence, raises noble perplexity for the tragic part of the play. In the meanwhile, the nurse and the porter concurring upon the difficulties that would ensue in such a case, honest Samson thinks the matter may be easily decided, and solves it very judiciously by the old proverb, that, if his master be still living, he must have his mare again. There is nothing in my time which has so much surprised and confounded the greatest part of my honest countrymen, as the present controversy between Count Rectheren and Monsieur Mesnager, which employs the wise heads of so many nations, and lays all the affairs of Europe in suspense.

Upon my going into a coffee-house yesterday, lending an ear to the next table, which was compassed with a circle of inferior politicians, one of them, after having read over the news very attentively, broke out into the following remarks: 'I am afraid,' says he, 'this unhappy rupture between the footmen at Utrecht will retard the peace of Christendom. I wish the pope may not be at the bottom of it. His holiness has a very good head at fomenting a division, as the poor Swiss nations have lately experienced to their cost. If Monsieur What-d'ye-call-him's domestics will not come to an accommodation, I do not know how the quarrel can be ended but by a religious war.'

'Why, truly,' says a wiseacre that sat by him, 'were I as the king of France, I would scorn to take part with the footmen of either side: here's the business of Europe stands still, because Monsieur Mesnager's man has had his head broke. Count Rectrum* had given them a pot of ale yesterday, all would have been well, without any of this bustle; but they say he's a warm man, and does not care to be made mouths at.'

Upon this, one that had held his tongue hitherto, began to exert himself; declaring, that he was very well pleased the plenipotentiaries of our Christian princes took this matter into their serious consideration; for that lackeys were never so saucy and imprudent as they are now-a-days, and that I should be glad to see them taken down in the way of peace, if it might be done without prejudice to the public affairs.

One who sat at the other end of the table, and seemed to be in the interest of the French king, told them, that they did not take the matter right, and that his most Christian majesty did not resent this matter because it was an injury done to Monsieur Mesnager's footmen; 'for,' says he, 'what are Monsieur Mesnager's footmen to him? but because this was done to his subjects. Now,' says he, 'let me tell you, it would look very odd for a subject of France to have a bloody nose, and his sovereign not to take notice of it. He is obliged in honour to defend his people against hostilities; and, if the hatch will be so insolent to a crowned head as, in any wise, to cuff or kick those who are under his protection, I think he is in the right to call them to account for it.'

This distinction set the controversy upon a new foot, and seemed to be very well approved by most that heard it, until a little warm fellow, who had declared himself a friend to the house of Austria, fell most unmercifully upon his Gallic majesty, as encouraging his subjects to make mouths at their betters, and afterwards screening them from the

punishment that was due to their insolence. To which he added, that the French nation was so addicted to grimace, that, if there was not a stop put to it at the general congress, there would be no walking the streets for them in a time of peace, especially if they continued masters of the West Indies. The little man proceeded with a great deal of warmth, declaring that, if the allies were of his mind, he would oblige the French king to burn his galleys, and tolerate the protestant religion in his dominions, before he would sheath his sword. He concluded with calling Monsieur Mesnager an insignificant prig.

The dispute was now growing very warm, and one does not know where it would have ended, had not a young man of about one-and-twenty, who seems to have been brought up with an eye to the law, taken the debate into his hand, and given it as his opinion, that neither Count Rectheren nor Monsieur Mesnager had behaved themselves right in this affair. 'Count Rectheren,' says he, 'should have made affidavit that his servants had been affronted, and then Monsieur Mesnager would have done him justice, by taking away their liveries from them, or some other way that he might have thought the most proper; for, let me tell you, if a man makes a mouth at me, I am not to knock the teeth out of it for his pains. Then again, as for Monsieur Mesnager, upon his servants being beaten, why, he might have had his action of assault and battery. But as the case now stands, if you will have my opinion, I think they ought to bring it to referees.'

I heard a great deal more of this conference, but I must confess with little edification; for all I could learn at last from these honest gentlemen was, that the matter in debate was of too high a nature for such heads as theirs, or mine, to comprehend.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 482. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1712.

Floriferis ut apes in saltibus omnia libant.

LUCR. L. III. ver. 11.

As from the sweetest flow'rs the lab'ring bee
Extracts her precious sweets.

CREECH.

WHEN I have published any single paper that falls in with the popular taste, and pleases more than ordinary, it always brings me in a great return of letters. My Tuesday's discourse, wherein I gave several admonitions to the fraternity of the hen-pecked, has already produced me very many correspondents; the reason I cannot guess, unless it be that such a discourse is of general use, and every married man's money. An honest tradesman, who dates his letter from Cheapside, sends me thanks in the name of a club, who, he tells me, meet as often as their wives will give them leave, and stay together till they are sent for home. He informs me, that my paper has administered great consolation to their whole club, and desires me to give some further account of Socrates, and to acquaint them in whose reign he lived, whether he was a citizen or a courtier, whether he buried Xantippe; with many other particulars: for that, by his sayings, he appears to have been a very wise man, and a good Christian. Another, who writes himself Benjamin Bamboo, tells me, that, being coupled with a shrew, he had endeavoured

* Count Rectheren.

to tame her by such lawful means as those which I mentioned in my last Tuesday's paper, and that in his wrath he had often gone further than Bracton allows in those cases; but that for the future he was resolved to bear it like a man of temper and learning, and consider her only as one who lives in his house to teach him philosophy. Tom Dapperwit says, that he agrees with me in that whole discourse, excepting only the last sentence, where I affirm the married state to be either a heaven or a hell. Tom has been at the charge of a penny upon this occasion to tell me, that by his experience it is neither one nor the other, but rather that middle kind of state, commonly known by the name of purgatory.

The fair sex have likewise obliged me with their reflections upon the same discourse. A lady, who calls herself Euterpe, and seems a woman of letters, asks me whether I am for establishing the Salic law in every family, and why it is not fit that a woman who has discretion and learning should sit at the helm, when the husband is weak and illiterate? Another of quite contrary character, subscribes herself Xantippe, and tells me that she follows the example of her namesake; for, being married to a bookish man, who has no knowledge of the world, she is forced to take their affairs into her own hands, and to spirit him up now and then, that he may not grow musty, and unfit for conversation.

After this abridgment of some letters which are come to my hands upon this occasion, I shall publish one of them at large.

MR. SPECTATOR,

You have given us a lively picture of that kind of husband who comes under the denomination of the hen-pecked; but I do not remember that you have ever touched upon one that is of the quite different character, and who, in several places of England, goes by the name of "a cot-queen." I have the misfortune to be joined for life with one of this character, who, in reality, is more a woman than I am. He was bred up under the tuition of a tender mother, till she had made him as good a housewife as herself. He could preserve apricots, and make jellies, before he had been two years out of the nursery. He was never suffered to go abroad, for fear of catching cold: when he should have been hunting down a buck, he was by his mother's side learning how to season it, or put it in crust; and was making paper boats with his sisters, at an age when other young gentlemen are crossing the seas, or travelling into foreign countries. He has the whitest hand that you ever saw in your life, and raises paste better than any woman in England. These qualifications make him a sad husband. He is perpetually in the kitchen, and has a thousand squabbles with the cook-maid. He is better acquainted with the milk-score than his steward's accounts. I fret to death when I hear him find fault with a dish that is not dressed to his liking, and instructing his friends that dine with him in the best pickle for a walnut, or sauce for an haunch of venison. With all this he is a very good-natured husband, and never fell out with me in his life but once, upon the over-roasting of a dish of wild-fowl. At the same time I must own, I would rather he was a man of a rough temper, that would treat me harshly sometimes, than of such an effeminate busy nature, in a province that does not belong to him. Since you have given us the character of a wife who wears the breeches, pray say something of a husband that

wears the petticoat. Why should not a free character be as ridiculous in a man, as a male character in one of our sex?

I am, &c.

ADDISON.

Nº 483. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15,

*Nec deus interit, nisi dignus vindice nodus
Inciderit*—

HOR. Ars Poet.

Never presume to make a god appear,
But for a business worthy of a god.

ROSCOMMON

WE cannot be guilty of a greater act of uncharitableness than to interpret the afflictions which our neighbours as punishments and judgments, and aggravates the evil to him who suffers, who looks upon himself as the mark of divine vengeance, and abates the compassion of those towards who regard him in so dreadful a light. The humour, of turning every misfortune into a judgment, proceeds from wrong notions of religion, which its own nature produces good-will towards men, and puts the mildest construction upon every accident that befalls them. In this case, therefore, not religion that sours a man's temper, but a temper that sours his religion. People of gloomy and uncheerful imaginations, or of envious malicious tempers, whatever kind of life they are engaged in, will discover their natural tincture of mind in all their thoughts, words, and actions. The finest wines have often the taste of the soil, and the most religious thoughts often draw sourness; that is particular, from the constitution of the mind in which they arise. When folly or superstition strike in with this natural depravity of temper, it is not in the power, even of religion itself, to preserve the character of the person who is possessed with it from appearing highly absurd and ridiculous.

An old maiden gentlewoman, whom I shall conceal under the name of Nemesis, is the great discoverer of judgments that I have met with. She can tell you what sin it was that set such a man's house on fire, or blew down his barns. Talk to her of an unfortunate young lady that lost her beauty by the small-pox, she fetches a deep sigh, and tells you, that when she had a fine face she was always looking on it in her glass. Tell her of a person's good fortune that has befallen one of her acquaintance, and she wishes it may prosper with her. But her mother used one of her nieces very barbarously. Her usual remarks turn upon people who had great estates, but never enjoyed them by reason of some flaw in their own or their father's behaviour. She can give you the reason why such an one was childless; why such an one was cut off in the flower of his youth; why such an one was unhappy in marriage; why one broke his leg on such a particular spot of ground; and why another was killed with a back-sword, rather than with any other kind of weapon. She has a crime for every misfortune that can befall any of her acquaintance; and when she hears of a robbery that has been made, or a murder that has been committed, calumniates the guilt of the suffering person, then on that of the thief, or assassin. In short, she is no good Christian, that whatever happens to her neighbour is a judgment.

The very description of this folly, is ordinary

life, is sufficient to expose it; but, when it appears in a pomp and dignity of style, it is very apt to amuse and terrify the mind of the reader. Herodotus and Plutarch very often apply their judgments as impertinently as the old woman I have before mentioned, though their manner of relating them makes the folly itself appear venerable. Indeed, most historians, as well Christian as pagan, have fallen into this idle superstition, and spoken of ill success, unforeseen disasters, and terrible events, as if they had been let into the secrets of Providence, and made acquainted with that private conduct by which the world is governed. One would think several of our own historians in particular had many revelations of this kind made to them. Our old English monks seldom let any of their kings depart in peace, who had endeavoured to diminish the power or wealth of which the ecclesiastics were in those times possessed. William the Conqueror's race generally found their judgments in the New Forest, where their father had pulled down churches and monasteries. In short, read one of the chronicles written by an author of this frame of mind, and you would think you were reading an history of the kings of Israel or Judah, where the historians were actually inspired, and where, by a particular scheme of Providence, the kings were distinguished by judgments, or blessings, according as they promoted idolatry, or the worship of the true God.

I cannot but look upon this manner of judging upon misfortunes, not only to be very uncharitable in regard to the person whom they befall, but very presumptuous in regard to Him who is supposed to inflict them. It is a strong argument for a state of retribution hereafter, that in this world virtuous persons are very often unfortunate, and vicious persons prosperous; which is wholly repugnant to the nature of a Being who appears infinitely wise and good in all his works, unless we may suppose that such a promiscuous and undistinguishing distribution of good and evil, which was necessary for carrying on the designs of Providence in this life, will be rectified, and made amends for in another. We are not therefore to expect that fire should fall from heaven in the ordinary course of providence; nor when we see triumphant guilt, or depressed virtue in particular persons, that Omnipotence will make bare his holy arm in the defence of the one, or punishment of the other. It is sufficient that there is a day set apart for the hearing and requiting of both, according to their respective merits.

The folly of ascribing temporal judgments to any particular crimes, may appear from several considerations. I shall only mention two. First, that, generally speaking, there is no calamity or affliction, which is supposed to have happened as a judgment to a vicious man, which does not sometimes happen to men of approved religion and virtue. When Diagoras, the atheist, was on board one of the Athenian ships, there arose a very violent tempest: upon which the mariners told him, that it was a just judgment upon them for having taken so impious a man on board. Diagoras begged them to look upon the rest of the ships that were in the same distress, and asked them whether or no Diagoras was on board every vessel in the fleet. We are all involved in the same calamities, and subject to the same accidents: and, when we see any one of the species under any particular oppression, we should look upon it as arising from the common lot of human nature, rather than from the guilt of the person who suffers.

Another consideration, that may check our presumption in putting such a construction upon a misfortune, is this, that it is impossible for us to know what are calamities, and what are blessings. How many accidents have passed for misfortunes, which have turned to the welfare and prosperity of the persons in whose lot they have fallen! How many disappointments have, in their consequences, saved a man from ruin! If we could look into the effects of every thing, we might be allowed to pronounce boldly upon blessings and judgments; but for a man to give his opinion of what he sees but in part, and in his beginnings, is an unjustifiable piece of rashness and folly. The story of Biton and Clitobus, which was in great reputation among the heathens (for we see it quoted by all the ancient authors, both Greek and Latin, who have written upon the immortality of the soul), may teach us a caution in this matter. These two brothers, being the sons of a lady who was priestess to Juno, drew their mother's chariot to the temple at the time of a great solemnity, the persons being absent who by their office were to have drawn her chariot on that occasion. The mother was so transported with this instance of filial duty, that she petitioned her goddess to bestow upon them the greatest gift that could be given to men; upon which they were both cast into a deep sleep, and the next morning found dead in the temple. This was such an event, as would have been construed into a judgment, had it happened to the two brothers after an act of disobedience, and would doubtless have been represented as such by any ancient historian who had given us an account of it.

ADDISON.

O.

N^o 484. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1712.

Neque cuiquam tam statim clarum ingenium est, ut possit emergere; nisi illi materia, occasio, fautor etiam, commendatorque contingat.

PLIN. Epist.

No man's abilities are so remarkably shining, as not to stand in need of a proper opportunity, a patron, and even the praises of a friend, to recommend them to the notice of the world.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘Of all the young fellows who are in their progress through any profession, none seem to have so good a title to the protection of the men of eminence in it, as the modest man; not so much because his modesty is a certain indication of his merit, as because it is a certain obstacle to the producing of it. Now, as of all professions this virtue is thought to be more particularly unnecessary in that of the law than in any other, I shall only apply myself to the relief of such who follow this profession with this disadvantage. What aggravates the matter is, that those persons who, the better to prepare themselves for this study, have made some progress in others, have, by adding themselves to letters, increased their natural modesty, and consequently heightened the obstruction to this sort of preferment; so that every one of these may emphatically be said to be such a one as “laboureth and taketh pains, and is still the more behind.” It may be a matter worth discussing then, why that, which made a youth so amiable to the ancients, should make him appear so ridiculous to the moderns? And why, in our days, there should be neglect, and even oppression of young beginners, instead of

that protection which was the pride of theirs? In the profession spoken of, it is obvious to every one whose attendance is required at Westminster-Hall, with what difficulty a youth of any modesty has been permitted to make an observation, that could in no wise detract from the merit of his elders, and is absolutely necessary for the advancing his own. I have often seen one of these not only molested in his utterance of something very pertinent, but even plundered of his question, and by a strong sergeant shouldered out of his rank, which he has recovered with much difficulty and confusion. Now, as great part of the business of this profession might be dispatched by one that perhaps

"— *Abest virtute disertis
Messala, nec scit quantum Causellius Aulus;*"
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 370.

"—wants Messala's powerful eloquence,
And is less read than deep Causellius!"
ROSCOMMON.

so I cannot conceive the injustice done to the public, if the men of reputation in this calling would introduce such of the young ones into business, whose application to this study will let them into the secrets of it, as much as their modesty will hinder them from the practice: I say, it would be laying an everlasting obligation upon a young man, to be introduced at first only as a mute, till by this countenance, and a resolution to support the good opinion conceived of him in his betters, his complexion shall be so well settled, that the litigious of this island may be secure of his obstreperous aid. If I might be indulged to speak in the style of a lawyer, I would say, that any one about thirty years of age might make a common motion to the court with as much elegance and propriety as the most aged advocates in the hall.

'I cannot advance the merit of modesty by any argument of my own so powerfully as by inquiring into the sentiments the greatest among the ancients of different ages entertained upon this virtue. If we go back to the days of Solomon, we shall find favour a necessary consequence to a shame-faced man. Pliny, the greatest lawyer and most elegant writer of the age he lived in, in several of his epistles is very solicitous in recommending to the public some young men of his own profession, and very often undertakes to become an advocate, upon condition that some one of these his favourites might be joined with him, in order to produce the merit of such, whose modesty otherwise would have suppressed it. It may seem very marvellous to a saucy modern, that *multum sanguinis, multum verecundie, multum sollicitudinis in ore*; to have the "face first full of blood, then the countenance dashed with modesty, and then the whole aspect as of one dying with fear, when a man begins to speak;" should be esteemed by Pliny the necessary qualifications of a fine speaker. Shakspeare also has expressed himself in the same favourable strain of modesty, when he says,

"— In the modesty of fearful duty
I read as much as from the rattling tongue
Of saucy and audacious eloquence—"

'Now, since these authors have professed themselves for the modest man, even in the utmost confusions of speech and countenance, why should an intrepid utterance and a resolute vociferation thunder so successfully in our courts of justice? And why should that confidence of speech and behaviour, which seems to acknowledge no superior,

and to defy all contradiction, prevail over that deference and resignation with which the modest man implores that favourable opinion which the other seems to command?

'As the case at present stands, the best consolation that I can administer to those who cannot get into that stroke of business (as the phrase is) which they deserve, is to reckon every particular acquisition of knowledge in this study as a real increase of their fortune; and fully to believe, that one day this imaginary gain will certainly be made out, by one more substantial. I wish you would talk to us a little on this head, you would oblige,

'SIR,
'Your humble servant.'

The author of this letter is certainly a man of good sense; but I am perhaps particular in my opinion on this occasion; for I have observed that, under the notion of modesty, men have indulged themselves in a spiritless sheepishness, and been for ever lost to themselves, their families, their friends, and their country. When a man has taken care to pretend to nothing but what he may justly aim at, and can execute as well as any other, without injustice to any other; it is ever want of breeding, or courage, to be brow-beaten, or elbowed out of his honest ambition*. I have said often, modesty must be an act of the will, and yet it always implies self-denial: for, if a man has an ardent desire to do what is laudable for him to perform, and from an unmanly bashfulness shrinks away, and lets his merit languish in silence, he ought not to be angry at the world that a more unskilful actor succeeds in his part, because he has not confidence to come upon the stage himself. The generosity my correspondent mentions of Pliny cannot be enough applauded. To cherish the dawn of merit, and hasten its maturity, was a work worthy a noble Roman, and a liberal scholar. That concern which is described in the letter, is to all the world the greatest charm imaginable; but then the modest man must proceed, and show a latent resolution in himself; for the admiration of his modesty arises from the manifestation of his merit. I must confess we live in an age wherein a few empty blusters carry away the praise of speaking, while a crowd of fellows overstocked with knowledge are run down by them: I say overstocked, because they certainly are so, as to their service of mankind, if from their very store they raise to themselves ideas of respect, and greatness of the occasion, and I know not what, to disable themselves from explaining their thoughts. I must confess, when I have seen Charles Frankair rise up with a commanding mien, and torrent of handsome words, talk a mile off the purpose, and drive down twenty bashful boobies of ten times his sense, who at the same time were envying his impudence, and despising his understanding, it has been matter of great mirth to me; but it soon ended in a secret lamentation, that the fountains of every thing praiseworthy in these realms, the universities, should be so muddled with a false sense of this virtue, as to produce men capable of being so abused. I will be bold to say, that it is a ridiculous education which does not qualify a man to make his best appearance before the greatest man, and the third woman, to whom he can address himself. Were this judiciously corrected in the nurseries of learning, pert coxcombs would know their distance: but we must bear with this false modesty in our

* See Nos. 331, 324, and 454.

young nobility and gentry, till they cease at Oxford and Cambridge to grow dumb in the study of eloquence *.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 485. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1712.

Nihil tam firmum est, cui periculum non sit etiam ab invalido.

QUINT. CURT. l. vii. c. 8.

The strongest things are in danger even from the weakest.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

My Lord Clarendon has observed, that few men have done more harm than those who have been thought to be able to do least; and there cannot be a greater error, than to believe a man, whom we see qualified with too mean parts to do good, to be therefore incapable of doing hurt. There is a supply of malice, of pride, of industry, and even of folly, in the weakest, when he sets his heart upon it, that makes a strange progress in mischief. What may seem to the reader the greatest paradox in the reflection of the historian, is, I suppose, that folly, which is generally thought incapable of contriving or executing any design, should be so formidable to those whom it exerts itself to molest. But this will appear very plain, if we remember that Solomon says, “It is sport to a fool to do mischief;” and that he might the more emphatically express the calamitous circumstances of him who falls under the displeasure of this wanton person, the same author adds further, that “A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty, but a fool’s wrath is heavier than them both.” It is impossible to suppress my own illustration upon this matter, which is, that as the man of sagacity bestirs himself to distress his enemy by methods probable and reducible to reason, so the same reason will fortify his enemy to elude these his regular efforts; but your fool projects, acts, and concludes, with such notable inconsistency, that no regular course of thought can evade or counterplot his prodigious machinations. My frontispiece, I believe, may be extended to imply, that several of our misfortunes arise from things, as well as persons, that seem of very little consequence. Into what tragical extravagancies does Shakspeare hurry Othello, upon the loss of an handkerchief only? And what barbarities does Desdemona suffer, from a slight inadvertency in regard to this fatal trifle? If the schemes of all enterprising spirits were to be carefully examined, some intervening accident, not considerable enough to occasion any debate upon, or give them any apprehension of ill consequence from it, will be found to be the occasion of their ill success, rather than any error in points of moment and difficulty, which naturally engaged their maturest deliberations. If you go to the levee of any great man, you will observe him exceeding gracious to several very insignificant fellows; and upon this maxim, that the neglect of any person must arise from the mean opinion you have of his capacity to do you any service or prejudice; and that this calling his sufficiency in question must give him inclination, and where this is there never wants strength, or opportunity, to annoy you. There is nobody so weak of invention, that cannot aggravate, or make some little stories to vilify his

enemy; and there are very few but have good inclinations to bear them; and it is infinite pleasure to the majority of mankind to level a person superior to his neighbours. Besides, in all matter of controversy, that party which has the greatest abilities labours under this prejudice, that he will certainly be supposed, upon account of his abilities, to have done an injury, when perhaps he has received one. It would be tedious to enumerate the strokes that nations and particular friends have suffered, from persons very contemptible.

‘I think Henry IV. of France, so formidable to his neighbours, could no more be secured against the resolute villany of Ravil’ac, than Villiers Duke of Buckingham could be against that of Felton. And there is no incensed person so destitute, but can provide himself with a knife or a pistol, if he finds stomach to apply them. That things and persons of no moment should give such powerful revolutions to the progress of those of the greatest, seems a providential disposition to baffle and abate the pride of human sufficiency; as also to engage the humanity and benevolence of superiors to all below them, by letting them into this secret, that the stronger depends upon the weaker.

‘I am, sir,

‘Your very humble servant.’

‘DEAR SIR,

‘Temple, Paper-buildings.

‘I RECEIVED a letter from you some time ago, which I should have answered sooner, had you informed me in yours to what part of this island I might have directed my impertinence; but, having been let into the knowledge of that matter, this handsome excuse is no longer serviceable. My neighbour Prettyman shall be the subject of this letter; who, falling in with the Spectator’s doctrine concerning the month of May*, began from that season to dedicate himself to the service of the fair, in the following manner. I observed at the beginning of the month he bought him a new night-gown, either side to be worn outwards, both equally gorgeous and attractive; but till the end of the month I did not enter so fully into the knowledge of his contrivance, as the use of that garment has since suggested to me. Now you must know, that all new clothes raise and warm the wearer’s imagination into a conceit of his being a much finer gentleman than he was before, banishing all sobriety and reflection, and giving him up to gallantry and amour. Inflamed therefore with this way of thinking, and full of the spirit of the month of May, did this merciless youth resolve upon the business of captivating. At first he confined himself to his room, only now and then appearing at his window, in his night-gown, and practising that easy posture which expresses the very top and dignity of languishment. It was pleasant to see him diversify his loveliness, sometimes obliging the passengers only with a side-face, with a book in his hand; sometimes being so generous as to expose the whole in the fulness of its beauty; at other times, by a judicious throwing back of his periwig, he would throw in his ears. You know he is that sort of person which the mob call a handsome jolly man; which appearance cannot miss of captives in this part of the town. Being emboldened by daily success, he leaves his room with a resolution to extend his conquests; and I have apprehended him in his night-gown smiling in all parts of this neighbourhood.

* See Nos. 206, 242, 350, 373, 390, 400, and 454.

* See Nos. 365, 395, and 425.

'This I, being of an amorous complexion, saw with indignation, and had thoughts of purchasing a wig in these parts; into which, being at a greater distance from the earth, I might have thrown a very liberal mixture of white-horse hair, which would make a fairer, and consequently a handsomer appearance, while my situation would secure me against any discoveries. But the passion of the handsome gentleman seems to be so fixed to that part of the building, that it will be extremely difficult to divert it to mine; so that I am resolved to stand boldly to the complexion of my own eyebrow, and prepare me an immense black wig of the same sort of structure with that of my rival. Now, though by this I shall not, perhaps, lessen the number of the admirers of his complexion, I shall have a fair chance to divide the passengers by the irresistible force of mine.

'I expect sudden dispatches from you, with advice of the family you are in now, how to deport myself upon this so delicate a conjuncture; with some comfortable resolutions in favour of the handsome black man against the handsome fair one.

'I am, sir,

'Your most humble servant.'

ADDISON.

C.

N. B. He who writ this is a black man, two pair of stairs; the gentleman of whom he writes is fair, and one pair of stairs.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I only say, that it is impossible for me to say how much I am,

'Yours,

'ROBIN SHORTER.

'P. S. I shall think it a little hard, if you do not take as much notice of this epistle, as you have of the ingenious Mr. Short's. I am not afraid to let the world see which is the deeper man of the two.

ADVERTISEMENT.

London, September 15.

WHEREAS a young woman on horseback, in an equestrian habit, on the 13th instant in the evening, met the Spectator within a mile and a half of this town, and flying in the face of justice, pulled off her hat, in which there was a feather, with the open and air of a young officer, saying at the same time, 'Your servant, Mr. Spec,' or words to that purpose; this is to give notice, that if any person can discover the name and place of abode of the said offender, so as she can be brought to justice, the informant shall have all sitting encouragement.

STEEL.

T.

N° 486. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1712.

Audire et opera pretium, providere recte

Qui machis non cultis

HOR. Sat. ii. l. 1. ver. 38.

IMITATED.

All you who think the city ne'er can thrive,
'Till ev'ry cuckold-maker's day'd alive,
Attend

POPE.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THERE are very many of my acquaintance followers of Socrates, with more particular regard to that part of his philosophy which we among ourselves call his domestic; under which deumina-

tion, or title, we include all the conjugal joys and sufferings. We have indeed with very great pleasure observed the honour you do the whole fraternity of the hen-pecked in placing that illustrious man at our head, and it does in a very great measure baffle the raillery of pert rogues, who have to advantage above us, but in that they are single. But, when you look about into the crowd of mankind, you will find the fair sex reigns with greater tyranny over lovers than husbands. You shall hardly meet one in a thousand who is wholly exempt from their dominion, and those that are so are capable of no taste of life, and breathe and walk about the earth as insignificant. But I am going to desire your further favour in behalf of our harmless brotherhood, and hope you will show in a trice the unmarried hen-pecked, as well as you have done justice to us, who submit to the conduct of our wives. I am very particularly acquainted with one who is under entire submission to a fine girl, as he calls her; and though he knows I have been witness both to the ill usage he has received from her, and his inability to resist her tyranny, he still pretends to make a jest of me for a little more than ordinary obsequiousness to my spouse. No longer than Tuesday last he took me with him to visit his mistress; and he having, it seems, been a little in disgrace before, thought by bringing me with him she would constrain herself, and inseparably fall into general discourse with him: and so he might break the ice, and save himself all the ordinary compunctions and mortifications she used to make him suffer before she would be reconciled, after any act of rebellion on his part. When we came into the room, we were received with the utmost coldness; and when he presented me to Mr. Such-a-one, his very good friend, she just took patience to suffer my salutation; but when he himself, with a very gay air, offered to follow me, she gave him a thundering box on the ear, called me a pitiful poor-spirited wretch—how durst he see her face? His wig and hat fell on different parts of the floor. She seized the wig too soon for him to recover it, and kicking it down stairs, threw herself into an opposite room, pulling the door after her with a force, that you would have thought the hinges would have given way. We went down, you must think, with no very good countenances; and, as we were driving home together, he confessed to me, that her anger was thus raised because he did not think fit to fight a gentleman who had said she was what she was; "but," says he, "a kind letter or two, or fifty pieces, will put her in humour again." I asked him what he did not part with her? He answered, he loved her with all the tenderness imaginable, and she had too many charms to be abandoned for a little quickness of spirit. Thus does this illegitimate hen-pecked overlook the hussey's having no regard to his very life and fame, in putting him upon an infamous dispute about her reputation: yet has he the confidence to laugh at me, because I obey my poor dear in keeping out of harm's way, and not staying too late from my own family, to pass through the hazards of a town, full of rascals and debauchees. You that are a philosopher should urge in our behalf, that, when we bear with a forward woman, our patience is preserved, in consideration that a breach with her might be a dishonour to children who are descended from us; and whose concern makes us tolerate a thousand frailties, for fear they should rebound dishonour upon the innocent. This and the like circumstances which carry with them the most valuable regu-

of human life, may be mentioned for our long-suffering; but in the case of gallants, they swallow ill usage from one to whom they have no obligation, but from a base passion, which it is mean to indulge, and which it would be glorious to overcome.

'These sort of fellows are very numerous, and some have been conspicuously such, without shame; nay, they have carried on the jest in the very article of death, and, to the diminution of the wealth and happiness of their families, in bar of those honourably near to them, have left immense wealth to their paramours. What is this but being a cully in the grave! Sure this is being hen-pecked with a vengeance! But, without dwelling upon these less frequent instances of eminent callism, what is there so common as to hear a fellow curse his fate that he cannot get rid of a passion to a jilt, and quote a half line out of a miscellany poem to prove his weakness is natural? If they will go on thus, I have nothing to say to it; but then let them not pretend to be free all this while, and laugh at us poor married patients.

'I have known one wench in this town carry an haughty domiön over her lovers so well, that she has at the same time been kept by a sea-captain in the Straits, a merchant in the city, a country gentleman in Hampshire, and had all her correspondences managed by one she kept for her own uses. This happy man (as the phrase is) used to write very punctually, every post, letters for the mistress to transcribe. He would sit in his night-gown and slippers, and be as grave giving an account, only charging names, that there was nothing in those idle reports they had heard of such a scoundrel as one of the other lovers was; and how could he think she could condescend so low, after such a fine gentleman as each of them? For the same epistle said the same thing to, and of, every one of them. And so Mr. Secretary and his lady went to bed with great order.

'To be short, Mr. Spectator, we husbands shall never make the figure we ought in the imaginations of young men growing up in the world, except you can bring it about that a man of the town shall be as infamous a character as a woman of the town. But, of all that I have met in my time, commend me to Betty Duall: she is the wife of a sailor, and the kept mistress of a man of quality; he dwells with the latter during the sea-faring of the former. The husband asks no questions, sees his apartments furnished with riches not his, when he comes into port, and the lover is as joyful as a man arrived at his haven, when the other puts to sea. Betty is the most eminently victorious of any of her sex, and ought to stand recorded the only woman of the age in which she lives, who has possessed at the same time two abused, and two contented—'

STEELE.

T.

No 461. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1712.

*Cum prostrata sopore
Urget membra quies, et mens sine pondere ludit.*

PETR.

While sleep oppresses the tired limbs, the mind
Plays without weight, and wantons unconfin'd.

Though there are many authors who have written in dreams, they have generally considered them only as revelations of what has already happened

in distant parts of the world, or as premonitions of what is to happen in future periods of time.

I shall consider this subject in another light, as dreams may give us some idea of the great excellency of an human soul, and some intimations of its independency on matter.

In the first place, our dreams are great instances of that activity which is natural to the human soul, and which it is not in the power of sleep to deaden or abate. When the man appears tired and worn out with the labours of the day, this active part in his composition is still busied and unwearied. When the organs of sense want their due repose and necessary reparations, and the body is no longer able to keep pace with that spiritual substance to which it is united, the soul exerts herself in her several faculties, and continues in action till her partner is again qualified to bear her company. In this case, dreams look like the relaxations and amusements of the soul, when she is disencumbered of her machine; her sports, and recreations, when she has laid her charge asleep.

In the second place, dreams are an instance of that agility and perfection which is natural to the faculties of the mind, when they are disengaged from the body. The soul is clogged and retarded in her operations, when she acts in conjunction with a companion that is so heavy and unwieldy in its motions. But in dreams it is wonderful to observe with what a sprightliness and alacrity she exerts herself. The slow of speech make unpremeditated harangues, or converse readily in languages that they are but little acquainted with. The grave abound in pleasantries, the dull in repartees and points of wit. There is not a more painful action of the mind than invention; yet in dreams it works with that ease and activity that we are not sensible when the faculty is employed. For instance, I believe every one, some time or other, dreams that he is reading papers, books, or letters; in which case the invention prompts so readily, that the mind is imposed upon, and mistakes its own suggestions for the compositions of another.

I shall, under this head, quote a passage out of the *Religio Medici**, in which the ingenious author gives an account of himself in his dreaming and his waking thoughts. 'We are somewhat more than ourselves in our sleeps, and the slumber of the body seems to be but the waking of the soul: It is the ligation of sense, but the liberty of reason: and our waking conceptions do not match the fancies of our sleeps. At my nativity my ascendant was the watery sign of Scorpius: I was born in the planetary hour of Saturn, and I think I have a piece of that leaden planet in me. I am no way facetious, nor disposed for the mirth and galliardize of company; yet in one dream I can compose a whole comedy, behold the action, apprehend the jests, and laugh myself awake at the conceits thereof. Were my memory as faithful as my reason is then fruitful, I would never study but in my dreams; and this time also would I choose for my devotions; but our grosser memories have then so little hold of our abstracted understandings, that they forget the story, and can only relate to our awakened souls a confused and broken tale of that that has passed. Thus it is observed that men sometimes, upon the hour of their departure, do speak and reason above themselves; for then the

* By Sir Thomas Brown, M. D. author also of the work on *Vulgar Errors*, so frequently quoted by Dr. Johnson, in his Dictionary.

soul beginning to be freed from the ligaments of the body, begins to reason like herself, and to discourse in a strain above mortality.*

We may likewise observe, in the third place, that the passions affect the mind with greater strength when we are asleep than when we are awake. Joy and sorrow give us more vigorous sensations of pain or pleasure at this time than any other. Devotion likewise, as the excellent author above mentioned has hinted, is in a very particular manner heightened and inflamed, when it rises in the soul at a time that the body is thus laid at rest. Every man's experience will inform him in this matter, though it is very probable that this may happen differently in different constitutions. I shall conclude this head with the two following problems, which I shall leave to the solution of my reader. Supposing a man always happy in his dreams, and miserable in his waking thoughts, and that his life was equally divided between them; whether would he be more happy or miserable? Were a man a king in his dreams, and a beggar awake, and dreamt as consequentially, and in as continued unbroken schemes, as he thinks when awake; whether he would be in reality a king or beggar; or, rather, whether he would not be both?

There is another circumstance, which methinks gives us a very high idea of the nature of the soul, in regard to what passes in dreams: I mean that innumerable multitude and variety of ideas which then arise in her. Were that active watchful being only conscious of her own existence at such a time, what a painful solitude would our hours of sleep be? Were the soul sensible of her being alone in her sleeping moments, after the same manner that she is sensible of it while awake, the time would hang very heavy on her, as it often actually does when she dreams that she is in such solitude.

————— *Semperque relinquit
Sola sibi semper longam incomitata videtur
Ire viam.*

VIRG. *Æn.* iv. ver. 466.

————— She seems alone
To wander in her sleep through ways unknown,
Guideless and dark.

DRYDEN.

But this observation I only make by the way. What I would here remark, is, that wonderful power in the soul of producing her own company on these occasions. She converses with numberless beings of her own creation, and is transported into ten thousand scenes of her own raising. She is herself the theatre, the actor, and the beholder. This puts me in mind of a saying which I am infinitely pleased with, and which Plutarch ascribes to Heraclitus, that all men whilst they are awake are in one common world; but that each of them, when he is asleep, is in a world of his own. The waking man is conversant in the world of nature: when he sleeps he retires to a private world that is particular to himself. There seems something in this consideration that intimates to us a natural grandeur and perfection in the soul, which is rather to be admired than explained.

I must not omit that argument for the excellency of the soul, which I have seen quoted out of Tertullian, namely, its power of divining in dreams. That several such divinations have been made, none can question, who believes the holy writings, or who has but the least degree of a common historical faith; there being innumerable instances of

this nature in several authors, both ancient and modern, sacred and profane. Whether such dart premonitions, such visions of the night, proceed from any latent power in the soul, during this her state of abstraction, or from any communication with the Supreme Being, or from any operation of subordinate spirits, has been a great dispute among the learned; the matter of fact is, I think, incontestable, and has been looked upon as such by the greatest writers, who have been never suspected either of superstition or enthusiasm.

I do not suppose that the soul in these instances is entirely loose and unfettered from the body: it is sufficient if she is not so far sunk and immersed in matter, nor entangled and perplexed in her operations with such motions of blood and spirits as when she actuates the machine in its waking hours. The corporeal union is slackened enough to give the mind more play. The soul seems gathered within herself, and recovers that spring which is broke and weakened when she operates more in concert with the body.

The speculations I have here made, if they are not arguments, are at least strong intimations of only of the excellency of a human soul, but of its independence on the body; and, if they do not prove, do at least confirm these two great points which are established by many other reasons as are altogether unanswerable.

ADDISON.

0.

N^o 488. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1712.

*Quanti empti? parvo. Quanti ergo? ecco enim
Eheu!*

HOR. *Sat.* iii. l. 2. ver. 16.

What doth it cost? Not much, upon my word.
How much, pray! Why, Two-pence. Two-pence! O L.
CREECH.

I SEND, by several letters which I receive daily, that several of my readers would be better pleased to pay three half-pence for my paper than two-pence. The ingenious T. W.* tells me that I have deprived him of the best part of his breakfast; for that, since the rise of my paper, he is forced every morning to drink his dish of coffee by itself, without the addition of the Spectator, that used to be better than lace† to it. Eugenius informs me, very obligingly, that he never thought he should have disliked any passage in my paper; but that of late there have been two words in every one of them, which he could heartily not leave out, viz. 'Price Two-pence.' I have a letter from a soap-boiler, who consoles with me very affectionately upon the necessity we both lie under of setting a higher price on our commodities, as the late tax has been laid upon them, and desires me, when I write next on that subject, to spend word or two upon the present duties on Castile soap. But there is none of these my correspondents, who writes with a greater turn of good sense, and elegance of expression, than the generous Philomachus, who advises me to value every Spectator at two-pence, and promises that he himself will contribute for above a hundred of his acquaintance, who shall take it in at that price.

* Said to be Dr. Thomas Walker, head master of the Charterhouse-school, at which both Addison and Swift received their early education.

† The cant word for brandy; as it is now called French cream.

Letters from the female world are likewise come to me, in greater quantities, upon the same occasion; and, as I naturally bear a great deference to his part of our species, I am very glad to find that those who approve my conduct in this particular are much more numerous than those who condemn it. A large family of daughters have drawn me up a very handsome remonstrance, in which they set forth that their father having refused to take in the Spectator, since the additional vice was set upon it, they offered him unanimously to bate him the article of bread and butter in the tea-table account, provided the Spectator might be served up to them every morning as usual. Upon this the old gentleman being pleased, it seems, with their desire of improving themselves, as granted them the continuance both of the Spectator and their bread and butter, having given particular orders that the tea-table shall be set forth every morning with its customary bill of fare, and without any manner of defalcation. I thought myself obliged to mention this particular, as it does honour to this worthy gentleman; and if he young lady Lætitia, who sent me this account, will acquaint me with his name, I will insert it at length in one of my papers, if he desires it.

I shall be very glad to find out any expedient that might alleviate the expense which this my paper brings to any of my readers; and, in order to that, must propose two points to their consideration. First, that if they retrench any the smallest particular in their ordinary expense, it will easily make up the half-penny a day which we have now under consideration. Let a lady sacrifice but a single ribbon to her morning studies, and it will be sufficient: let a family burn but a candle a night less than their usual number, and they may take in the Spectator without detriment to their private affairs.

In the next place, if my readers will not go to the price of buying my papers by retail, let them have patience, and they may buy them in the lump, without the burthen of a tax upon them. My speculations when they are sold single, like berries upon the stick, are delights for the rich and wealthy: after some time they come to market in greater quantities, and are every ordinary man's money. The truth of it is, they have a certain flavour at their first appearance, from several accidental circumstances of time, place, and person, which they may lose if they are not taken early; but, in this case, every reader is to consider, whether it is not better for him to be half a year behindhand with the fashionable and polite art of the world, than to strain himself beyond his circumstances. My bookseller has now about a thousand of the third and fourth volumes, which he is ready to publish, having already disposed of as large an edition both of the first and second volume. As he is a person whose head is very well turned to his business, he thinks they would be a very proper present to be made to persons at christenings, marriages, visiting-days, and the like joyful solemnities, as several other books are frequently given at funerals. He has printed them in such a little portable volume*, that many of them may be ranged together upon a single plate; and of opinion, that a salver of Spectators would be as acceptable an entertainment to the ladies as salver of sweetmeats.

I shall conclude this paper with an epigram

lately sent to the writer of the Spectator, after having returned my thanks to the ingenious author of it.

SIR,

HAVING heard the following epigram very much commended, I wonder that it has not yet had a place in any of your papers; I think the suffrage of our poet laureat should not be overlooked, which shows the opinion he entertains of your paper, whether the notion he proceeds upon be true or false. I make bold to convey it to you, not knowing if it has yet come to your hands.

ON THE SPECTATOR.

BY MR. TATE*.

— *Alinsque et idem*

Nasceris—

HOB. Carm. Sec. ver. 10.

You rise another and the same.

WHEN first the Tatler to a mute was turn'd,
Great Britain for her censor's silence mourn'd;
Robb'd of his sprightly beams, she wept the night,
Till the Spectator rose, and blaz'd as bright.
So the first man the sun's first setting view'd,
And sigh'd till circling day his joys renew'd.
Yet doubtful how that second sun to name,
Whether a bright successor, or the same,
So we: but now from this suspense are freed,
Since all agree, who both with judgment read,
'Tis the same sun, and does himself succeed.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 489. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1712.

— Βαδύειτος μέγα σθένος Ὀκεανός.

HOM.

The mighty force of ocean's troubled flood.

SIR,

UPON reading your essay concerning the Pleasures of the Imagination, I find, among the three sources of those pleasures which you have discovered, that greatness is one. This has suggested to me the reason why, of all objects that I have ever seen, there is none which affects my imagination so much as the sea, or ocean. I cannot see the heavings of this prodigious bulk of waters, even in a calm, without a very pleasing astonishment; but when it is worked up in a tempest, so that the horizon on every side is nothing but foaming billows and floating mountains, it is impossible to describe the agreeable horror that rises from such a prospect. A troubled ocean, to a man who sails upon it, is, I think, the biggest object that he can see in motion, and consequently gives his imagination one of the highest kinds of pleasure that can arise from greatness. I must confess, it is impossible for me to survey this world of fluid matter without thinking on the hand that first poured it out, and made a proper channel for its reception. Such an object naturally raises in my thoughts the idea of an Almighty Being, and convinces me of his existence as much as a metaphysical demonstration. The imagination prompts the understanding, and, by the greatness of the sensible object, produces in it the idea of a Being who is neither circumscribed by time nor space.

* Nahum Tate, who succeeded Shadwell as poet laureat, was born at Dublin in 1652, and died in 1715.—He was author of nine dramatic performances; but is better known for his version of the Psalms of David, in conjunction with Dr. Brady, than for any other of his works.

* The edition of the Spectator here alluded to, duodecimo, 12, consists only of seven volumes.

'As I have made several voyages upon the sea, I have often been tossed in storms, and on that occasion have frequently reflected on the descriptions of them in ancient poets. I remember Longinus highly recommends one in Homer, because the poet has not amused himself with little fancies upon the occasion, as authors of an inferior genius, whom he mentions, had done, but because he has gathered together those circumstances which are the most apt to terrify the imagination, and which really happen in the raging of a tempest. It is for the same reason that I prefer the following description of a ship in a storm, which the Psalmist has made, before any other I have ever met with. "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waters thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths, their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then they are glad, because they be quiet, so he bringeth them unto their desired haven *."

'By the way; how much more comfortable, as well as rational, is this system of the Psalmist, than the pagan scheme in Virgil, and other poets, where one deity is represented as raising a storm, and another as laying it? Were we only to consider the sublime in this piece of poetry, what can be nobler than the idea it gives us of the Supreme Being thus raising a tumult among the elements, and recovering them out of their confusion, thus troubling and hecalming nature?

'Great painters do not only give us landscapes of gardens, groves, and meadows, but very often employ their pencils upon sea-pieces. I could wish you would follow their example. If this small sketch may deserve a place among your works, I shall accompany it with a divine ode, made by a gentleman upon the conclusion of his travels:

"How are thy servants bless'd, O Lord;
How sure is their defence!
Eternal wisdom is their guide,
Their help, Omnipotence.

"In foreign realms and lands remote,
Supported by thy care,
Through burning climes I pass'd unhurt,
And breath'd in tainted air.

"Thy mercy sweeten'd every soil,
Made ev'ry region please:
The hoary Alpine hills it warm'd,
And smooth'd the Tyrrhene seas.

"Think, O my soul, devoutly think,
How, with affrighted eyes,
Thou saw'st the wide-extended deep
In all its horrors rise.

"Confusion dwelt in ev'ry face,
And fear in ev'ry heart;
When waves on waves, and gulfs on gulfs,
O'ercame the pilot's art.

"Yet then from all my griefs, O Lord,
Thy mercy set me free,
Whilst in the confidence of prayer,
My soul took hold on thee.

"For though in dreadful whirls we hung
High on the broken wave,
I knew thou wert not slow to hear,
Nor impotent to save.

* Ps. cvii. 23, et seqq.

"The storm was laid, the winds were'd,
Obedient to thy will;
The sea that roar'd at thy command,
At thy command was still.

"In midst of dangers, fears, and death,
Thy goodness I'll adore,
And praise thee for thy mercies past,
And humbly hope for more.

"My life, if thou preserv'st my life,
Thy sacrifice shall be;
And death, if death must be my doom,
Shall join my soul to thee."

ADDISON.

6.

N^o 490. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1711.

Domus et placeus tuor.

HOR. Od. xiv. l. 2. ver. 1.

Thy house and pleasing wife.
CREECH.

I HAVE very long entertained an ambition to make the word wife the most agreeable and delightful name in nature. If it be not so in itself, all the wiser part of mankind, from the beginning of the world to this day, has consented in an error. But our unhappiness in England has been, that a few loose men, of genius for pleasure, have turned all to the gratification of ungoverned desires, a despite of good sense, form, and order; whereas, truth, any satisfaction beyond the boundaries of reason is but a step towards madness and ruin. But is the sense of joy and accomplishment of our desire no way to be indulged, or attained? And have appetites given us not to be at all gratified? Yes, certainly. Marriage is an institution calculated for a constant scene of as much delight as our being is capable of. Two persons, who are chosen each other out of all the species, with design to be each other's mutual comfort and entertainment, have in that action bound themselves to be good-humoured, affable, discreet, forgiving, patient, and joyful, with respect to each other's frailties and perfections, to the end of their lives. The wiser of the two (and it always happens one of them is such) will, for her or his own sake, keep things from outrage with the utmost sanctity. When this union is thus preserved (as I have often said) the most indifferent circumstance admits of delight. Their condition is an endless source of new gratifications. The married man can say, 'If I am unacceptable to all the world besides, there is one whom I entirely love, that will receive me with joy and transport, and think herself obliged to double her kindness and caresses of me from the gloom with which she sees me overcast. I need not dissemble the sorrow of my heart to be agreeable there; that very sorrow quickens her affection.'

This passion towards each other, when once well fixed, enters into the very constitution, and the kindness flows as easily and silently as the blood in the veins. When this affection is enjoyed in the most sublime degree, unskilful eyes see nothing of it; but when it is subject to be changed, and has an alloy in it that may make it end in disaster, it is apt to break into rage, or overflow into tenderness before the rest of the world.

Uxander and Viramira are amorous and young. They have been married these two years; yet do they so much distinguish each other in company, that a your conversation with the dear things you are still put to a sort of cross-purposes. When

ou address yourself in ordinary discourse to Viramira, she turns her head another way, and the answer is made to the dear Uxander. If you tell a merry tale, the application is still directed to her dear; and when she should commend you, she says to him, as if he had spoke it, 'That, my dear, so pretty.'—This puts me in mind of what I have somewhere read in the admired memoirs of the famous Cervantes; where, while honest Sancho Pança is putting some necessary humble question concerning Rozinante, his supper, or his lodging, the knight of the sorrowful countenance ever improving the harmless lowly hints of his quire to the poetical conceit, rapture, and flight, a contemplation of the dear Dulcinea of his affections.

On the other side, Dictamnus and Moria are ever quabbling; and you may observe them, all the time they are in company, in a state of impatience. As Uxander and Viramira wish you all gone, that they may be at freedom for dalliance: Dictamnus and Moria wait your absence, that they may speak their harsh interpretations on each other's words and actions during the time you were with them.

It is certain that the greater part of the evils attending this condition of life arises from fashion. Prejudice in this case is turned the wrong way; and, instead of expecting more happiness than we shall meet with in it, we are laughed into a prepossession that we shall be disappointed if we hope for lasting satisfactions.

With all persons who have made good sense the use of action, marriage is described as the state capable of the highest human felicity. Tully has pictures full of affectionate pleasure, when he writes of his wife, or speaks of his children. But, above all the hints of this kind I have met with in writers of ancient date, I am pleased with an epigram of Martial, in honour of the beauty of his wife Cleopatra. Commentators say it was written the day after his wedding-night. When his spouse was retired to the bathing-room in the heat of the day, he, it seems, came in upon her when she was just going into the water. To her beauty and carriage on this occasion we owe the following epigram, which I showed my friend Will Honeycomb in French, who has translated it as follows, without understanding the original. I expect it will please the English better than the Latin reader:

'When my bright consort, now nor wife nor maid,
Asham'd and wanton, of embrace afraid,
Fled to the streams, the streams my fair betray'd;
To my fond eyes she all transparent stood;
She blush'd; I smil'd at the slight-covering flood.
Thus through the glass the lovely lily glows;
Thus through the ambient gem shines forth the rose.
I saw new charms, and plung'd to seize my store,
Kisses I snatch'd—the waves prevented more.'

My friend would not allow that this luscious account could be given of a wife, and therefore used the word consort; which, he learnedly said, would serve for a mistress as well, and give a more gentlemanly turn to the epigram. But, under favour of him, and all other such fine gentlemen, I cannot be persuaded but that the passion a bridegroom has for a virtuous young woman, will, by little and little, grow into friendship, and then it is ascended to a higher pleasure than it was in its first fervour. Without this happens, he is a very unfortunate man who has entered into this state, and left the habitudes of life he might have enjoyed with a faithful friend. But when the wife proves capable of filling serious as well as joyous hours, she brings happiness unknown to friendship itself. Spencer

speaks of each kind of love with great justice, and attributes the highest praise to friendship; and indeed there is no disputing that point, but by making that friendship take place between two married persons:

'Hard is the doubt, and difficult to deem,
When all three kinds of love together meet,
And do dispar the heart with power extreme,
Whether shall weigh the balance down; to wit,
The dear affection unto kindred sweet,
Or raging fire of love to womankind,
Or zeal of friends combin'd by virtues meet:
But of them all, the band of virtuous mind
Methinks the gentle heart should most assured bind.

'For natural affection soon doth cease,
And quenched is with Cupid's greater flame!
But faithful friendship doth them both suppress,
And them with mastering discipline doth tame,
Through thoughts aspiring to eternal fame.
For as the soul doth rule this earthly mass,
And all the service of the body frame;
So love of soul doth love of body pass,
No less than perfect gold surmounts the meanest brass.

STEELE.

T.

Nº 491. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1712.

—*Digna satis fortuna revolvit.*

VIRG. *Æn.* lib. vii. 318.

A just reverse of fortune on him waits.

It is common with me to run from book to book, to exercise my mind with many objects, and qualify myself for my daily labour. After an hour spent in this loitering way of reading, something will remain to be food to the imagination. The writings that please me most on such occasions are stories, for the truth of which there is good authority. The mind of man is naturally a lover of justice; and when we read a story wherein a criminal is overtaken, in whom there is no quality which is the object of pity, the soul enjoys a certain revenge for the offence done to its nature, in the wicked actions committed in the preceding part of the history. This will be better understood by the reader from the following narration itself, than from any thing which I can say to introduce it.

WHEN Charles, Duke of Burgundy, surnamed the Bold, reigned over spacious dominions now swallowed up by the power of France, he heaped many favours and honours upon Claudius Rhynsault, a German, who had served him in his wars against the insults of his neighbours. A great part of Zealand was at that time in subjection to that dukedom. The prince himself was a person of singular humanity and justice. Rhynsault, with no other real quality than courage, had dissimulation enough to pass upon his generous and unsuspecting master for a person of blunt honesty and fidelity, without any vice that could bias him from the execution of justice. His highness, prepossessed to his advantage, upon the decease of the governor of his chief town of Zealand, gave Rhynsault that command. He was not long seated in that government, before he cast his eyes upon Sapphira, a woman of exquisite beauty, the wife of Paul Danvelt, a wealthy merchant of the city under his protection and government. Rhynsault was a man of a warm constitution, and violent inclination to women, and not unskilled in the soft arts which win their favour. He knew what it was to enjoy the satisfactions which are reaped from the possession of beauty, but was an utter stranger to the

decencies, honours, and delicacies, that attend the passion towards them in elegant minds. However, he had so much of the world, that he had a great share of the language which usually prevails upon the weaker part of that sex; and he could with his tongue utter a passion with which his heart was wholly untouched. He was one of those brutal minds which can be gratified with the violation of innocence and beauty, without the least pity, passion, or love to that with which they are so much delighted. Ingratitude is a vice inseparable from a lustful man; and the possession of a woman by him, who has no thought but allaying a passion painful to himself, is necessarily followed by distaste and aversion. Rhynsault, being resolved to accomplish his will on the wife of Danvelt, left no arts untried to get into a familiarity at her house; but she knew his character and disposition too well, not to shun all occasions that might ensnare her into his conversation. The governor, despairing of success by ordinary means, apprehended and imprisoned her husband, under pretence of an information, that he was guilty of a correspondence with the enemies of the duke to betray the town into their possession. This design had its desired effect; and the wife of the unfortunate Danvelt, the day before that which was appointed for his execution, presented herself in the hall of the governor's house; and, as he passed through the apartment, threw herself at his feet, and, holding his knees, beseeched his mercy. Rhynsault beheld her with a dissembled satisfaction; and, assuming an air of thought and authority, he bid her arise, and told her she must follow him to his closet; and, asking her whether she knew the hand of the letter he pulled out of his pocket, went from her, leaving this admonition aloud: 'If you will save your husband, you must give me an account of all you know without prevarication; for every body is satisfied he was too fond of you to be able to hide from you the names of the rest of the conspirators, or any other particulars whatsoever.' He went to his closet, and soon after the lady was sent for to an audience. The servant knew his distance when matters of state were to be debated; and the governor, laying aside the air with which he had appeared in public, began to be the supplicant, to rally an affliction, which it was in her power easily to remove, and relieve an innocent man from his imprisonment. She easily perceived his intention; and, bathed in tears, began to deprecate so wicked a design. Lust, like ambition, takes all the faculties of the mind and body into its service and subjection. Her becoming tears, her honest anguish, the wringing of her hands, and the many changes of her posture and figure in the vehemence of speaking, were but so many attitudes in which he beheld her beauty, and further incentives of his desire. All humanity was lost in that one appetite, and he signified to her in so many plain terms, that he was unhappy till he had possessed her, and nothing less should be the price of her husband's life: and she must, before the following noon, pronounce the death, or enlargement, of Danvelt. After this notification, when he saw Sapphira enough again distracted, to make the subject of their discourse to common eyes appear different from what it was, he called servants to conduct her to the gate. Loaded with insupportable affliction, she immediately repairs to her husband; and, having signified to his gaolers that she had a proposal to make to her husband from the governor, she was left alone with him, revealed to him all that had passed, and represented the endless con-

dict she was in, between love to his person, and fidelity to his bed. It is easy to imagine the affliction this honest pair was in upon such an accident, in lives not used to any but ordinary occurrences. The man was bridled by shame in speaking what his fear prompted, upon so near an approach of death; but let fall words that were to her, he should not think her polluted, though she had not yet confessed to him that the governor had violated her person, since he knew her to have had no part in the action. She parted from him with this oblique permission to save a life by a resolution enough to resign for the sake of his honour.

The next morning the unhappy Sapphira attended the governor, and, being led into a room apart, submitted to his desires. Rhynsault commended her charms, claimed a familiarity, and what had passed between them, and with an air of gaiety, in the language of a gallant, bid her return and take her husband out of prison: 'I am continued he, my fair one must not be offended that I have taken care he should not be an interruption to our future assignations. These last words foreboded what she found when she came to the gaol—her husband executed by the order of Rhynsault!

It was remarkable, that the woman, who was full of tears and lamentations during the whole course of her affliction, uttered neither sigh nor complaint but stood fixed with grief at this consummation of her misfortunes. She betook herself to her abode; and, after having in solitude paid her devotion to Him who is the avenger of innocence, she repaired privately to court. Her person, and a certain grandeur of sorrow negligent of forms, gained her passage into the presence of the duke her sovereign. As soon as she came into the presence, she broke forth into the following words: 'Behold, O mighty Charles, a wretch weary of life, though it has always been spent with innocence and virtue. It is not in your power to redress my injuries, but to avenge them. And if the protection of the distressed, and the punishment of oppressors, is a task worthy a prince, I bring the Duke of Burgundy ample matter for doing honour to his own great name, and wiping infamy off from mine.'

When she had spoken this, she delivered to the duke a paper reciting her story. He read it with all the emotions that indignation and pity could raise in a prince jealous of his honour in the behaviour of his officers, and prosperity of his subjects.

Upon an appointed day, Rhynsault was sent to court, and, in the presence of a few of the council, confronted by Sapphira. The prince asked, 'Do you know that lady?' Rhynsault, as soon as he could recover his surprise, told the duke he would marry her, if his highness would please to think that a reparation. The duke seemed contented with this answer, and stood by during the immediate solemnization of the ceremony. At the conclusion of it he told Rhynsault, 'Thus far you have done as constrained by my authority: I did not be satisfied of your kind usage of her, unless you sign a gift of your whole estate to her after your decease. To the performance of this also the duke was a witness. When these two acts were executed, the duke turned to the lady, and told her, 'It now remains for me to put you in quiet possession of what your husband has so boundlessly bestowed on you;' and ordered the immediate execution of Rhynsault.

STEELE.

492. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1712.

Quicquid est boni moris levitate extinguitur.
SENECA.

Levity of behaviour is the bane of all that is good and virtuous.

‘DEAR MR. SPECTATOR,’ ‘*Tunbridge, Sept. 18.*
I AM a young woman of eighteen years of age, and I do assure you a maid of unspotted reputation, founded upon a very careful carriage in all my looks, words, and actions. At the same time most own to you, that it is with much constraint of flesh and blood that my behaviour is so strictly reproachable; for I am naturally addicted to mirth, to gaiety, to a free air, to motion, and adding. Now, what gives me a great deal of anxiety, and is some discouragement in the pursuit of virtue, is, that the young women who run into greater freedoms with the men are more taken notice of than I am. The men are such unthinking sots, that they do not prefer her who restrains her passions and affections, and keeps much within the bounds of what is lawful, to her who goes to the utmost verge of innocence, and parades at the very brink of vice, whether she shall be a wife or a mistress. But I must appeal to your peccatorial wisdom, who, I find, have passed very much of your time in the study of woman, whether his is not a most unreasonable proceeding. I have read somewhere that Hobbes of Malmesbury writes, that continent persons have more of what they contain than those who give a loose to their senses. According to this rule, let there be equal age, equal wit, and equal good-humour, in the woman of prudence, and her of liberty, what stores as he to expect who takes the former? What reward must he be contented with who chooses the latter? Well, but I sat down to write to you to vent my indignation against several pert creatures, who are addressed to and courted in this place, while poor I, and two or three like me, are wholly unregarded.

‘Every one of these affect gaining the hearts of our sex. This is generally attempted by a particular manner of carrying themselves with familiarity. Glycera has a dancing walk, and keeps time in her ordinary gait. Chloe, her sister, who is unwilling to interrupt her conquests, comes into the room before her with a familiar run. Dulcissa takes advantage of the approach of the winter, and has introduced a very pretty shiver; closing up her shoulders, and shrinking as she moves. All that are in this mode carry their fans between both hands before them. Dulcissa herself, who is author of this air, adds the pretty run to it; and has also, when she is in very good humour, a taking familiarity in throwing herself into the lowest seat in the room, and letting her hooped petticoats fall with a lucky decency about her. I know she practises this way of sitting down in her chamber; and indeed she does it as well as you may have seen an actress fall down dead in a tragedy. Not the least indecency in her posture. If you have observed what pretty carcasses are carried off at the end of a verse at the theatre, it will give you a notion how Dulcissa plumps into a chair. Here is a little country girl that is very cunning, that makes her use of being young and unbred, and outdoes the ensnarers, who are almost twice her age. The air that she takes is to come into company after a walk, and is very successfully out of breath upon

occasion. Her mother is in the secret, and calls her romp, and then looks round to see what young men stare at her.

‘It would take up more than can come into one of your papers, to enumerate all the particular airs of the younger company in this place. But I cannot omit Dulceorella, whose manner is the most indolent imaginable, but still as watchful of conquest as the busiest virgin among us. She has a peculiar art of staring at a young fellow, till she sees she has got him, and inflamed him by so much observation. When she sees she has him, and he begins to toss his head upon it, she is immediately short-sighted, and labours to observe what he is at a distance, with her eyes half shut. Thus the captive that thought her first struck, is to make very near approaches, or be wholly disregarded. This artifice has done more execution than all the ogling of the rest of the women here, with the utmost variety of half-glances, attentive heedlessnesses, childish inadvertencies, haughty contempts, or artificial oversights. After I have said thus much of ladies among us who fight thus regularly, I am to complain to you of a set of familiar romps, who have broken through all common rules, and have thought of a very effectual way of showing more charms than all of us. These, Mr. Spectator, are the swingers. You are to know these careless pretty creatures are very innocents again; and it is to be no matter what they do, for it is all harmless freedom. They get on ropes, as you must have seen the children, and are swung by their men visitants. The jest is, that Mr. Such-a-one can name the colour of Mrs. Such-a-one’s stockings; and she tells him he is a lying thief, so he is, and full of roguery; and she will lay a wager, and her sister shall tell the truth if he says right, and he cannot tell what colour her garters are of. In this diversion there are very many pretty shrieks, not so much for fear of falling, as that their petticoats should untie; for there is a great care had to avoid improprieties; and the lover who swings the lady is to tie her clothes very close with his husband, before she admits him to throw up her heels.

‘Now, Mr. Spectator, except you can note these wantonnesses in their beginnings, and bring us sober girls into observation, there is no help for it; we must swim with the tide; the coquettes are too powerful a party for us. To look into the merit of a regular and well-behaved woman is a slow thing. A loose trivial song gains the affections, when a wise homily is not attended to. There is no other way but to make war upon them, or we must go over to them. As for my part, I will show all the world it is not for want of charms that I stand so long unasked; and if you do not take measures for the immediate redress of us rigids, as the fellows call us, I can move with a speaking mien, can look significantly, can lisp, can trip, can loll, can start, can blush, can rage, can weep, if I must do it, and can be frightened as agreeably as any she in England. All which is humbly submitted to your spectatorial consideration, with all humility, by

‘Your most humble servant.

‘MATILDA MONAIR.’

STEEL.

T.

N° 493. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1712.

*Qualem commendas etiam atque etiam adspice, ne mori
Incitant aliena tibi peccata pudorem.*

HOR. Ep. xviii. l. 1. ver. 76.

Commend not, till a man is thoroughly known:
A rascal prais'd, you make his faults your own.

ANON.

It is no unpleasant matter of speculation to consider the recommendatory epistles that pass round this town from hand to hand, and the abuse people put upon one another in that kind. It is indeed come to that pass, that, instead of being the testimony of merit in the person recommended, the true reading of a letter of this sort is, 'The bearer hereof is so uneasy to me, that it will be an act of charity in you to take him off my hands; whether you prefer him or not, it is all one; for I have no manner of kindness for him, or obligation to him or his; and do what you please as to that.' As negligent as men are in this respect, a point of honour is concerned in it; and there is nothing a man should be more ashamed of, than passing a worthless creature into the service or interests of a man who has never injured you. The women indeed are a little too keen in their resentments to trespass often this way: but you shall sometimes know, that the mistress and the maid shall quarrel, and give each other very free language, and at last the lady shall be pacified to turn her out of doors, and give her a very good word to any body else. Hence it is that you see, in a year and half's time, the same face a domestic in all parts of the town. Good-breeding and good-nature lead people in a great measure to this injustice: when suitors of no consideration will have confidence enough to press upon their superiors, those in power are tender of speaking the exceptions they have against them, and are mortgaged into promises out of their impatience of importunity. In this latter case, it would be a very useful inquiry to know the history of recommendations. There are, you must know, certain abettors of this way of torment, who make it a profession to manage the affairs of candidates. These gentlemen let out their impudence to their clients, and supply any defective recommendation, by informing how such and such a man is to be attacked. They will tell you, get the least scrap from Mr. Such-a-one, and leave the rest to them. When one of these undertakers have your business in hand, you may be sick, absent in town or country, and the patron shall be worried, or you prevail. I remember to have been shown a gentleman some years ago, who punished a whole people for their facility in giving their credentials. This person had belonged to a regiment which did duty in the West Indies, and by the mortality of the place happened to be commanding officer in the colony. He oppressed his subjects with great frankness, till he became sensible that he was heartily hated by every man under his command. When he had carried his point to be thus detestable, in a pretended fit of dishumour, and feigned uneasiness of living where he found he was so universally unacceptable, he communicated to the chief inhabitants a design he had to return for England, provided they would give him ample testimonials of their approbation. The planters came into it to a man, and in proportion to his deserving the quite contrary, the words justice, generosity, and courage, were inserted in his com-

mission, not omitting the general good-will of the people of all conditions in the colony. The gentleman returns for England, and within few months after came back to them their governor, on the strength of their own testimonials.

Such a rebuke as this cannot indeed happen to easy recommenders, in the ordinary course of life from one hand to another; but how would it bear to have it said to him, 'the person I took confidence on the credit you gave him, has proved false, unjust, and has not answered any way of character you gave me of him?'

I cannot but conceive very good hopes of the rake Jack Toper of the Temple, for an scrupulousness in this point. A friend of mine living with a servant that had formerly lived with Jack, and having a mind to take him, sent him to know what faults the fellow had, since he did not please such a careless fellow as he was: his answer was as follows:

'SIR,

'THOMAS that lived with me was turned away, because he was too good for me. You know I was in taverns; he is an orderly sober rascal, and does much to sleep in an entry until two in the morning. He told me one day, when he was drinking, that he wondered I was not dead before, since I went to dinner in the evening, and went to supper at two in the morning. We were going down Essex-street one night a little flustered, as I was giving him the word to alarm the watch, he had the impudence to tell me it was against the law. You that are married, and live one day another the same way, and so on the whole, I dare say will like him, and he will be sure to have his meat in due season. The fellow is certainly very honest. My service to your lady.

'Yours,

J. T.

Now this was very fair dealing. Jack was very well, that though the love of order made a man very awkward in his equipage, it was a valuable quality among the queer people who were by rule; and had too much good sense and common sense to let the fellow starve, because he was not fit to attend his vivacities.

I shall end this discourse with a letter of recommendation from Horace to Claudius Nero. You will see in that letter a slowness to ask a favour, a strong reason for being unable to deny him a word any longer, and that it is a service to the person to whom he recommends, to comply with what is asked: all which are necessary circumstances both in justice and good-breeding, if a man would ask so as to have reason to complain of a denial, and indeed a man should not in strictness ask for a favour. In hopes the authority of Horace, who is perfectly understood how to live with great modesty, will have a good effect towards amending this kind of business in people of condition, and the confidence of those who apply to them without merit, I have translated the epistle.

'TO CLAUDIUS NERO.

'SIR,

'SEPTIMIUS, who waits upon you with this, is well acquainted with the place you are pleased to allow me in your friendship. For when he beseeches me to recommend him to your notice, in such a manner as to be received by you, who are so delicate in the choice of your friends and domestics,

as, he knows our intimacy, and understands my ability to serve him better than I do myself. I have defended myself against his ambition to be ours, as long as I possibly could; but fearing the imputation of hiding my power in you out of mean and selfish considerations, I am at last prevailed on to give you this trouble. Thus, to avoid the appearance of a greater fault, I have put on this confidence. If you can forgive this transgression modesty in behalf of a friend, receive this gentleman into your interests and friendship, and take from me that he is an honest and a brave man.'

FEELER.

T.

1^o 494. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1712.

Egritudine laudare, unam rem maxime detestabilem, quorum est tandem philosophorum?

CICERO.

What kind of philosophy is it, to extol melancholy, the most detestable thing in nature?

Not an age ago, it was the fashion in England, every one that would be thought religious, to put as much sanctity as possible into his face, and in particular to abstain from all appearances of mirth and pleasantry, which were looked upon the marks of a carnal mind. The saint was of sorrowful countenance, and generally eaten up with spleen and melancholy. A gentleman, who was lately a great ornament to the learned world, was diverted me more than once with an account of the reception which he met with from a very young independent minister, who was head of a college in those times. This gentleman was then a young adventurer in the republic of letters, and fitted out for the university with a good cargo of Latin and Greek. His friends were resolved that he should try his fortune at an election which was drawing near in the college, of which the independent minister whom I have before mentioned was governor. The youth, according to custom, waited on him in order to be examined. He was invited at the door by a servant who was one of a gloomy generation that were then in fashion. He conducted him, with great silence and seriousness, to a long gallery, which was darkened at noon-day, and had only a single candle burning in it.

After a short stay in this melancholy apartment, he was led into a chamber hung with black, where he entertained himself for some time by the smothering of a taper, until at length the head of college came out to him, from an inner room, with half a dozen night-caps upon his head, and a religious horror in his countenance. The young man trembled: but his fears increased, when, instead of being asked what progress he had made in learning, he was examined how he abounded in science. His Latin and Greek stood him in little stead; he was to give an account only of the state of his soul; whether he was of the number of the elect; what was the occasion of his conversion; on what day of the month and hour of the day it happened; how it was carried on, and when completed. The whole examination was summed up with one short question, namely, whether he

was prepared for death? The boy, who had been bred up by honest parents, was frightened out of his wits at the solemnity of the proceeding, and by the last dreadful interrogatory; so that, upon making his escape out of the house of mourning, he could never be brought a second time to the examination, as not being able to go through the terrors of it.

Notwithstanding this general form and outside of religion is pretty well worn out among us, there are many persons who, by a natural uncheerfulness of heart, mistaken notions of piety, or weakness of understanding, love to indulge this uncomfortable way of life, and give up themselves a prey to grief and melancholy. Superstitious fears and groundless scruples cut them off from the pleasures of conversation, and all those social entertainments, which are not only innocent, but laudable: as if mirth was made for reprobates, and cheerfulness of heart denied those who are the only persons that have a proper title to it.

Sombrius is one of these sons of sorrow. He thinks himself obliged in duty to be sad and disconsolate. He looks on a sudden fit of laughter as a breach of his baptismal vow. An innocent jest startles him like blasphemy. Tell him of one who is advanced to a title of honour, he lifts up his hands and eyes; describe a public ceremony, he shakes his head; show him a gay equipage, he blesses himself. All the little ornaments of life are pomps and vanities. Mirth is wanton, and wit profane. He is scandalised at youth for being lively, and at childhood for being playful. He sits at a christening, or a marriage-feast, as at a funeral; sighs at the conclusion of a merry story, and grows devout when the rest of the company grow pleasant. After all, Sombrius is a religious man, and would have behaved himself very properly, had he lived when Christianity was under a general persecution.

I would by no means presume to tax such characters with hypocrisy, as is done too frequently; that being a vice which I think none but He, who knows the secrets of men's hearts, should pretend to discover in another, where the proofs of it do not amount to a demonstration. On the contrary, as there are many excellent persons, who are weighed down with this habitual sorrow of heart, they rather deserve our compassion than our reproaches. I think, however, they would do well to consider whether such a behaviour does not deter men from a religious life, by representing it as an unsocial state, that extinguishes all joy and gladness, darkens the face of nature, and destroys the relish of being itself.

I have, in former papers, shown how great a tendency there is to cheerfulness in religion, and how such a frame of mind is not only the most lovely, but the most commendable, in a virtuous person. In short, those who represent religion in so unamiable a light, are like the spies sent by Moses to make a discovery of the land of promise, when by their reports they discouraged the people from entering upon it. Those who show us the joy, the cheerfulness, the good-humour, that naturally spring up in this happy state, are like the spies bringing along with them the clusters of grapes, and delicious fruits, that might invite their companions into the pleasant country which produced them*.

An eminent pagan writer† has made a discourse

* Numbers, ch. xiii.

† Metastase.

Anthony Henley, Esq. who died in Aug. 1712.

This was Dr. Thomas Goodwin, president of Magdalen College in Oxford, and one of the assembly of divines who sat at Westminster. Dr. Goodwin attended his friend and son, Oliver Cromwell, on his death-bed.

to show that the atheist, who denies a God, does him less dishonour than the man who owns his being, but at the same time believes him to be cruel, hard to please, and terrible to human nature. 'For my own part,' says he, 'I would rather it should be said of me, that there was never any such man as Plutarch, than that Plutarch was ill-natured, capricious, or inhuman.'

If we may believe our logicians, man is distinguished from all other creatures by the faculty of laughter. He has a heart capable of mirth, and naturally disposed to it. It is not the business of virtue to extirpate the affections of the mind, but to regulate them. It may moderate and restrain, but was not designed to banish gladness from the heart of man. Religion contracts the circle of our pleasures, but leaves it wide enough for her votaries to expatiate in. The contemplation of the Divine Being, and the exercise of virtue, are, in their own nature, so far from excluding all gladness of heart, that they are perpetual sources of it. In a word, the true spirit of religion cheers, as well as composes, the soul; it banishes indeed all levity of behaviour, all vicious and dissolute mirth, but in exchange fills the mind with a perpetual serenity, uninterrupted cheerfulness, and an habitual inclination to please others, as well as to be pleased in itself.

ADDITION.

O.

N° 495. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1712.

*Duris ut illex tonsa bipennis,
Nigrae straci frondis in algido,
Per damna, per cædæ, ab ipso
Ducit opes animæque ferro.*
HOR. Od. iv. l. 4. ver. 57.

— Like an oak on some cold mountain brow,
At ev'ry wound they sprout and grow:
The axe and sword new vigour give,
And by their ruins they revive.
ANON.

As I am one who, by my profession, am obliged to look into all kinds of men, there are none whom I consider with so much pleasure, as those who have any thing new or extraordinary in their characters, or ways of living. For this reason I have often amused myself with speculations on the race of people called Jews, many of whom I have met with in most of the considerable towns which I have passed through in the course of my travels. They are, indeed, so disseminated through all the trading parts of the world, that they are become the instruments by which the most distant nations converse with one another, and by which mankind are knit together in a general correspondence. They are like the pegs and nails in a great building, which, though they are but little valued in themselves, are absolutely necessary to keep the whole frame together.

That I may not fall into any common beaten tracks of observation, I shall consider this people in three views. First, with regard to their number; secondly, their dispersion; and thirdly, their adherence to their religion: and afterwards endeavour to show, first, what natural reasons, and, secondly, what providential reasons, may be assigned for these three remarkable particulars.

The Jews are looked upon by many to be as numerous at present, as they were formerly in the land of Canaan.

This is wonderful, considering the dreadful slaughter made of them under some of the Roman

emperors, which historians describe by the death of many hundred thousands in a war; and the numerous massacres and persecutions they have undergone in Turkey, as well as in all Christian nations of the world. The rabbins, to express the great havoc which has been sometimes made of them, tell us, after their usual manner of hyperbole, that there were such torrents of holy blood shed, as carried rocks of an hundred yards in circumference above three miles into the sea.

Their dispersion is the second remarkable particular in this people. They swarm over all to East; and are settled in the remotest parts of China. They are spread through most of the nations in Europe and Africa, and many families are established in the West Indies: we mention whole nations bordering on Prester-John's country, and some discovered in the inner part of America, if we may give any credit to their own writers.

Their firm adherence to their religion is so remarkable than their numbers and dispersion, especially considering it as persecuted or contrary over the face of the whole earth. This is likewise the more remarkable, if we consider the frequent apostasies of this people, when they lived under their kings in the land of promise, and within sight of the temple.

If in the next place we examine what may be the natural reasons for these three particular views we find in the Jews, and which are not to be found in any other religion or people, I can, in the first place, attribute their numbers to nothing but their constant employment, their abstinence, their exemption from wars, and, above all, their frequent marriages; for they look on celibacy as an accursed state, and generally are married before twenty, as hoping the Messiah may descend from them.

The dispersion of the Jews into all the corners of the earth, is the second remarkable particular of that people, though not so hard to be accounted for. They were always in rebellions and tumults while they had the temple and holy city in view, for which reason they have often been driven out of their old habitations in the land of promise. They have as often been banished out of most other places where they have settled, which must have much dispersed and scatter a people, and oblige them to seek a livelihood where they can find it. Besides, the whole people is now a race of merchants as are wanderers by profession, and at the same time, are in most, if not all places, incapable of either lands or offices, that might engage them to make any part of the world their home.

This dispersion would probably have lost their religion, had it not been secured by the strength of its constitution: for they are to live all in a body, and generally within the same enclosure; to carry among themselves, and to eat no meats that are not killed or prepared their own way. This keeps them out from all table conversation, and the most agreeable intercourses of life; and, by consequence, excludes them from the most probable means of conversion.

If, in the last place, we consider what providential reasons may be assigned for these three particulars, we shall find that their numbers, dispersion, and adherence to their religion, have been preserved every age, and every nation of the world, with the strongest arguments for the Christian faith, not only as these very particulars are foretold of them, but as they themselves are the depositaries of these, and all the other prophecies, and

end to their own confusion. Their number furnishes us with a sufficient cloud of witnesses that attest the truth of the Old Bible. Their dispersion preads these witnesses through all parts of the world. The adherence to their religion makes their testimony unquestionable. Had the whole body of the Jews been converted to Christianity, we should certainly have thought all the prophecies of the Old Testament, that relate to the coming and history of our blessed Saviour, forged by Christians, and have looked upon them, with the prophecies of the Sibyls, as made many years after the events they pretended to foretel.

ADDISON.

O.

N^o 496. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1712.

*Gratum pariter uti his deest nec etiam amplius,
Quod illa etas magis ad hæc utenda idonea est.*

TERENT. Heaut. act. i. sc. i.

Your son ought to have shared in these things, because youth is best suited to the enjoyment of them.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘THOSE ancients who were the most accurate in their remarks on the genius and temper of mankind, by considering the various bent and scope of our actions throughout the progress of life, have with great exactness allotted inclinations and objects of desire particular to every stage, according to the different circumstances of our conversation and fortune, through the several periods of it. Hence they were disposed easily to excuse those excesses which might possibly arise from a too eager pursuit of the affections more immediately proper to each state. They indulged the levity of childhood with tenderness, overlooked the gaiety of youth with good-nature, tempered the forward ambition and impatience of ripened manhood with discretion, and kindly imputed the tenacious avarice of old men, to their want of relief for any other enjoyment. Such allowances as these were no less advantageous to common society than obliging to particular persons; for by maintaining a decency and regularity in the course of life, they supported the dignity of human nature, which then suffers the greatest violence when the order of things is inverted; and in nothing is it more remarkably vilified and ridiculous, than when feebleness preposterously attempts to adorn itself with that outward pomp and lustre, which serve only to set off the bloom of youth with better advantage. I was insensibly carried into reflections of this nature, by just now meeting Paulino (who is in his climacteric) bedecked with the utmost splendour of dress and equipage, and giving an unbounded loose to all manner of pleasure, whilst his only son is debarred all innocent diversion, and may be seen frequently solacing himself in the Mall with no other attendance than one antiquated servant of his father’s for a companion and director.

‘It is a monstrous want of reflection, that a man cannot consider, that when he cannot resign the pleasures of life in his decay of appetite and inclination to them, his son must have a much easier task to resist the impetuosity of growing desires. The skill therefore should methinks be, to let a son want no lawful diversion, in proportion to his future fortune, and the figure he is to make in the world. The first step towards virtue that I have observed, in young men of condition that have run into excesses, has been that they had a regard to their quality and reputation in the management

of their vices. Narrowness in their circumstances has made many youths, to supply themselves as debauchees, commence cheats and rascals. The father who allows his son to his utmost ability avoids this latter evil, which as to the world is much greater than the former. But the contrary practice has prevailed so much among some men, that I have known them deny them what was merely necessary for education suitable to their quality. Poor young Antonio is a lamentable instance of ill conduct in this kind. The young man did not want natural talents; but the father of him was a coxcomb, who affected being a fine gentleman so unmercifully, that he could not endure in his sight, or the frequent mention of one, who was his son, growing into manhood, and thrusting him out of the gay world. I have often thought the father took a secret pleasure in reflecting that, when that fine house and seat came into the next hands, it would revive his memory, as a person who knew how to enjoy them, from observation of the rusticity and ignorance of his successor. Certain it is that a man may, if he will, let his heart close to the having no regard to any thing but his dear self, even with exclusion of his very children. I recommend this subject to your consideration, and am,

‘MR,

‘Your most humble servant,

‘T. B.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘London, Sept. 26, 1712.

‘I AM just come from Tunbridge, and have, since my return, read Mrs. Matilda Mohair’s letter to you. She pretends to make a mighty story about the diversion of swinging in that place. What was done, was only among relations; and no man swung any woman who was not second cousin at furthest. She is pleased to say, care was taken that the gallants tied the ladies’ legs before they were wafted into the air. Since she is so spiteful, I will tell you the plain truth. There was no such nicety observed, since we were all, as I just now told you, near relations; but Mrs. Mohair herself has been swung there, and she invents all this malice, because it was observed she had crooked legs, of which I was an eye-witness.

‘Your humble servant,

‘RACHEL SHOESTRING.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘Tunbridge, Sept. 26, 1712.

‘WE have just now read your paper, containing Mrs. Mohair’s letter. It is an invention of her own from one end to the other; and I desire you would print the enclosed letter by itself, and shorten it so as to come within the compass of your half-sheet. She is the most malicious minx in the world, for all she looks so innocent. Do not leave out that part about her being in love with her father’s butler, which makes her shun men; for that is the truest of it all.

‘Your humble servant,

‘SARAH TRICE.

‘P. S. She has crooked legs.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘Tunbridge, Sept. 26, 1712.

‘ALL that Mrs. Mohair is so vexed at against the good company of this place, is, that we all know she has crooked legs. This is certainly true. I do not care for putting my name, because one would not be in the power of the creature.

‘Your humble servant, unknown.’

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘Tunbridge, Sept. 26, 1712.

‘THAT insufferable prude, Mrs. Mohair, who has told such stories of the company here, is with child,

for all her nice airs and her crooked legs. Pray be sure to put her in for both those two things, and you will oblige every body here, especially

'Your humble servant,

'ALICE BLUEGARTER.'

STEEL.

T.

N° 497. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1712.

Οὐκ ἔστι γὰρ ἀνὴρ ἀνθρώπων.

MENANDER.

A cunning old fox this!

A FAVOUR well bestowed is almost as great an honour to him who confers it, as to him who receives it. What indeed makes for the superior reputation of the patron in this case is, that he is always surrounded with specious pretences of unworthy candidates, and is often alone in the kind inclination he has towards the well-deserving. Justice is the first quality in the man who is in a post of direction; and I remember to have heard an old gentleman talk of the civil wars, and in his relation give an account of a general officer, who with this one quality, without any shining endowments, became so peculiarly beloved and honoured, that all decisions between man and man were laid before him by the parties concerned, in a private way; and they would lay by their animosities implicitly, if he bid them be friends, or submit themselves in the wrong, without reluctance, if he said it, without waiting the judgment of courts-martial. His manner was to keep the dates of all commissions in his closet, and wholly dismiss from the service such who were deficient in their duty; and after that took care to prefer according to the order of battle. His familiars were his entire friends, and could have no interested views in courting his acquaintance; for his affection was no step to their preferment, though it was to their reputation. By this means a kind aspect, a salutation, a smile, and giving out his hand, had the weight of what is esteemed by vulgar minds more substantial. His business was very short, and he who had nothing to do but justice, was never affronted with a request of a familiar daily visitant for what was due to a brave man at a distance. Extraordinary merit he used to recommend to the king for some distinction at home; till the order of battle made way for his rising in the troops. Add to this, that he had an excellent manner of getting rid of such whom he observed were 'good at a halt,' as his phrase was. Under this description he comprehended all those who were contented to live without reproach, and had no promptitude in their minds towards glory. These fellows were also recommended to the king, and taken off of the general's hands into posts wherein diligence and common honesty were all that were necessary. This general had no weak part in his line, but every man had as much care upon him, and as much honour to lose as himself. Every officer could answer for what passed where he was, and the general's presence was never necessary any where but where he had placed himself at the first disposition, except that accident happened from extraordinary efforts of the enemy, which he could not foresee; but it was remarkable that it never fell out from failure in his own troops. It must be confessed, the world is just so much out of order, as an unworthy person possesses what should be in the direction of him who has better pretensions to it.

Instead of such a conduct as this old fellow used to describe in his general, all the evils which have ever happened among mankind have arose from the wanton disposition of the favours of the powerful. It is generally all that men of moderate virtue can do, to fall in with some whimsical man in a great man, to make way for things of no value and absolute service. In the time of Don Sebastian of Portugal, or some time since, the first minister would let nothing come near him but wore the most profound face of wisdom and gravity. They carried it so far, that, for the great show of their profound knowledge, a pair of spectacles tied on their noses, with a black ribbon round their heads, was what completed the dress of those who made their court at his levee, and men with naked noses were admitted to his presence. A blunt honest fellow, who had a command in the train of artillery, had attempted to make an impression upon the porter day after day in vain, and at length he made his appearance in a very thoughtful dark suit of clothes, and two pair of spectacles on at once. He was conducted from room to room, with great deference, to the minister; and, carrying on the farce of the place, he told his excellency that he had pretended in this manner to be wiser than he really was, but with no ill intention; but he was honest. Such-a-one of the train and he came to tell him that they wanted wheelbarrows and pick-axes. The thing happened to displease, the great man was seen to smile, and the successful officer was reconducted with the same profound ceremony out of the house.

When Leo X. reigned Pope of Rome, his holiness, though a man of sense, and of an excellent taste of letters, of all things affected fools, buffoons, humorists, and coxcombs. Whether it were from vanity, and that he enjoyed no talents a other men but what were inferior to him, or whatever it was, he carried it so far, that his whole delight was in finding out new fools, and, as our phrase is, playing them off, and making them show themselves to advantage. A priest of his former acquaintance suffered a great many disappointments in attempting to find access to him in a regular character, until at last in despair he retired from Rome, and returned in an equipage so very fantastical, both as to the dress of himself and servants, that the whole court were in a confusion who should first introduce him to his holiness. What added to the expectation his holiness had of the pleasure he should have in his follies, was that this fellow, in a dress the most exquisitely ridiculous, desired he might speak to him alone, for he had matters of the highest importance, upon which he wanted a conference. Nothing could be denied to a coxcomb of so great hope; but when they were apart, the impostor revealed himself, and spoke as follows:

'Do not be surprised, most holy Father, in seeing, instead of a coxcomb to laugh at, your old friend, who has taken this way of access to admonish you of your own folly. Can any thing show your holiness how unworthily you treat mankind, more than my being put upon this difficulty to speak with you? It is a degree of folly to delight to see it in others, and it is the greatest imaginable to rejoice in the disgrace of human nature. It is a criminal humility in a person of your holiness's understanding, to believe you cannot excel but in the conversation of half-wits, buffoons, coxcombs, and buffoons. If your holiness has a mind to be diverted like a rational man, you have a great opportunity for it, in disrobing all the

vertments you have favoured, of all their riches and trappings at once, and bestowing them on the humble, the virtuous, and the meek. If your holiness is not concerned for the sake of virtue and eligion, be pleased to reflect, that for the sake of our own safety, it is not proper to be so very such in jest. When the Pope is thus merry, the people will in time begin to think many things, which they have hitherto beheld with great veneration, are in themselves objects of scorn and derision. If they once get a trick of knowing how to laugh, your holiness's saying this sentence in one night-cap and the other with the other, the change of your slippers, bringing you your staff in the midst of a prayer, then stripping you of one vest, and clapping on a second during divine service, will be found out to have nothing in it. Consider, sir, that at this rate a head will be reckoned never be wiser for being bald, and the ignorant will be apt to say, that going barefoot does not at all help in the way to Heaven. The red cap and the owl will fall under the same contempt; and the vulgar will tell us to our faces that we shall have no authority over them, but from the force of our arguments, and the sanctity of our lives.'

STEEL.

T.

N^o 498. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1712.

*Frustra retinacula tendens
Fertur equis auriga, neque audit currus habenas.*
VIRG. Georg. l. ver. 514.

Nor reins, nor curbs, nor cries the horses fear,
But force along the trembling charioteer.
DRYDEN.

TO THE SPECTATOR-GENERAL OF GREAT BRITAIN.

'From the further end of the Widow's Coffee-House in Devereux-Court. Monday evening, twenty-eight minutes and a half past six.

'DEAR DUMB,

In short, to use no further preface, if I should tell you that I have seen a hackney-coachman, when he has come to set down his fare, which has consisted of two or three very fine ladies, hand them out, and salute every one of them with an air of familiarity, without giving the least offence, you would perhaps think me guilty of a gasconade. But to clear myself from that imputation, and to explain this matter to you, I assure you that there are many illustrious youths within this city, who frequently recreate themselves by driving of a hackney-coach: but those whom, above all others, I would recommend to you, are the young gentlemen belonging to the inns of court. We have, I think, about a dozen coachmen, who have chambers here in the Temple; and, as it is reasonable to believe others will follow their example, we may perhaps in time (if it shall be thought convenient) be drove to Westminster by our own fraternity, allowing every fifth person to apply his meditations this way, which is but a modest computation, as the humour is now likely to take. It is to be hoped likewise, that there are in the other nurseries of the law to be found a proportionable number of these hopeful plants, springing up to the everlasting renown of their native country. Of how long standing this humour has been, I know not. The first time I had any particular reason to take notice of it was about this time twelve-month, when,

being upon Hampstead-Heath with some of these studious young men, who went thither purely for the sake of contemplation, nothing would serve them but I must go through a course of this philosophy too; and, being ever willing to embellish myself with any commendable qualification, it was not long ere they persuaded me into the coach-box; nor indeed much longer, before I underwent the fate of my brother Phaeton; for having drove about fifty paces with pretty good success, through my own natural sagacity, together with the good instructions of my tutors, who, to give them their due, were on all hands encouraging and assisting me in this laudable undertaking; I say, sir, having drove about fifty paces with pretty good success, I must needs be exercising the lash, which the horses resented so ill from my hands, that they gave a sudden start, and thereby pitched me directly upon my head, as I very well remembered about half an hour afterwards, which not only deprived me of all the knowledge I had gained for fifty yards before, but had like to have broke my neck into the bargain. After such a severe reprimand, you may imagine I was not very easily prevailed with to make a second attempt; and, indeed, upon mature deliberation, the whole science seemed, at least to me, to be surrounded with so many difficulties, that, notwithstanding the unknown advantages which might have accrued to me thereby, I gave over all hopes of attaining it; and I believe had never thought of it more, but that my memory has been lately refreshed by seeing some of these ingenious gentlemen ply in the open streets, one of which I saw receive so suitable a reward of his labours, that though I know you are no friend to story-telling, yet I must beg leave to trouble you with this at large.

'About a fortnight since, as I was diverting myself with a pennyworth of walnuts at the Temple-Gate, a lively young fellow in a fustian jacket shot by me, beckoned a coach, and told the coachman he wanted to go as far as Chelsea. They agreed upon the price, and this young gentleman mounts the coach-box: the fellow, staring at him, desired to know if he should not drive until they were out of town. No, no, replied he. He was then going to climb up to him, but received another check, and was then ordered to get into the coach, or behind it, for that he wanted no instructors; "but be sure, you dog you," says he, "do not you bilk me." The fellow thereupon surrendered his whip, scratched his head, and crept into the coach. Having myself occasion to go into the Strand about the same time, we started both together; but the street being very full of coaches, and he not so able a coachman as perhaps he imagined himself, I had soon got a little way before him; often, however, having the curiosity to cast my eye back upon him, to observe how he behaved himself in this high station; which he did with great composure, until he came to the pass, which is a military term the brothers of the whip have given to the strait at St. Clement's church. When he was arrived near this place, where are always coaches in waiting, the coachmen began to suck up the muscles of their cheeks, and to tip the wink upon each other, as if they had some roguery in their heads, which I was immediately convinced of; for he no sooner came within reach, but the first of them with his whip took the exact dimension of his shoulders, which he very ingeniously called endorsing: and indeed, I must say, that every one of them took due care to endorse him as he came through their hands. He seemed at first a little

uneasy under the operation, and was going in all haste to take the numbers of their coaches; but at length, by the mediation of the worthy gentleman in the coach, his wrath was assuaged, and he prevailed upon to pursue his journey; though indeed I thought they had clapped such a spoke in his wheel, as had disabled him from being a coachman for that day at least: for I am much mistaken, Mr. Spec, if some of these endorsements were not wrote in so strong a hand that they are still legible. Upon my inquiring the reason of this unusual salutation, they told me, that it was a custom among them, whenever they saw a brother tottering or unstable in his post, to lend him a hand, in order to settle him again therein. For my part, I thought their allegations but reasonable, and so marched off. Besides our coachmen, we abound in divers other sorts of ingenious robust youth, who, I hope, will not take it ill if I defer giving you an account of their several recreations to another opportunity. In the meantime, if you would but bestow a little of your wholesome advice upon our coachmen, it might perhaps be a reprieve to some of their necks. As I understand you have several inspectors under you, if you would but send one amongst us here in the Temple, I am persuaded he would not want employment. But I leave this to your own consideration, and am,

SIR,

Your very humble servant,

MOSES GREENBAG.

'P. S. I have heard our critics in the coffee-houses hereabout talk mightily of the unity of time and place. According to my notion of the matter, I have endeavoured at something like it in the beginning of my epistle. I desire to be informed a little as to that particular. In my next I design to give you some account of excellent watermen who are bred to the law, and far outdo the land students above mentioned.'

STEEL.

T.

N^o 499. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1712.

*Nimis unci
Naribus indulget*

PERB. Sat. l. ver. 40.

— You drive the jest too far.
DRYDEN.

My friend Will Honeycomb has told me, for about this half year, that he had a great mind to try his hand at a Spectator, and that he would fain have one of his writing in my works. This morning I received from him the following letter, which, after having rectified some little orthographical mistakes, I shall make a present of to the public:

'DEAR SPEC,

'I WAS about two nights ago in company with very agreeable young people of both sexes, where, talking of some of your papers which are written on conjugal love, there arose a dispute among us, whether there were not more bad husbands in the world than bad wives. A gentleman, who was advocate for the ladies, took this occasion to tell us the story of a famous siege in Germany, which I have since found related in my historical dictionary, after the following manner. When the Emperor Conrade the Third had besieged Guel-

phus, Duke of Bavaria, in the city of Hensberg the women, finding that the town could not possibly hold out long, petitioned the emperor that they might depart out of it, with so much as each of them could carry. The emperor, knowing that he could not convey away many of their effects, granted them their petition: when the women, to his great surprise, came out of the place with every one her husband upon her back. The emperor was so moved at the sight, that he burst into tears; and after having very much extolled the women for their conjugal affection, gave the men to their wives, and received the duke into his favour.

'The ladies did not a little triumph at the story, asking us at the same time, whether our consciences we believed that the men in a town in Great Britain would, upon the same occasion and at the same conjuncture, have loaded themselves with their wives; or rather, whether they would not have been glad of such an opportunity to get rid of them? To this my very good friend Tom Dapperwit, who took upon him to be a mouth of our sex, replied, that they would be very much to blame if they would not do the same for office for the women, considering that their strength would be greater, and their burdens lighter. As we were amusing ourselves with discourses of this nature, in order to pass away the evening, when now begins to grow tedious, we fell into the laudable and primitive diversion of questions and commands. I was no sooner vested with the requisite authority, but I enjoined all the ladies, under pain of my displeasure, to tell the company ingeniously, in case they had been in the siege above mentioned, and had the same offers made them as the good women of that place, what every one of them would have brought off with her, and how thought most worth the saving? There were several merry answers made to my question, which entertained us until bedtime. This filled my mind with such a huddle of ideas, that, upon my going to sleep, I fell into the following dream:

'I saw a town of this island, which shall be nameless, invested on every side, and the inhabitants of it so straitened as to cry for quarter. The general refused any other terms than those granted to the above-mentioned town of Hensberg, namely, that the married women might come out with what they could bring along with them. Immediately the city-gates flew open, and a female procession appeared, multitudes of the sex following one another in a row, and staggering under their respective burdens. I took my stand upon an eminence at the enemy's camp, which was appointed for the general rendezvous of these female carriers, but very desirous to look into their several ladders. The first of them had a huge sack upon her shoulders, which she set down with great care. Upon the opening of it, when I expected to have seen her husband shot out of it, I found it was filled with china-ware. The next appeared in a most decent figure, carrying a handsome young fellow upon her back: I could not forbear commending the young woman for her conjugal affection, when, to my great surprise, I found that she had left the good man at home, and brought away her gallant. I saw the third, at some distance, with a little withered man peeping over her shoulder, whom I could not expect for any but her spouse, until upon her setting him down I heard her call him dear pig, and knew him to be her favourite monkey. A fourth brought a huge bale of cards along with her; and the fifth a Bologna lap-dog; for her husband, it seems, being a very burly man, she thought it would be so.

trouble for her to bring away little Cupid. The next was the wife of a rich usurer, loaden with a bag of gold; she told us that her spouse was very old, and by the course of nature could not expect to live long; and that to show her tender regards for him, she had saved that which the poor man loved better than his life. The next came towards us with her son upon her back, who, we were told, was the greatest rake in the place, but so much the mother's darling, that she left her husband behind with a large family of hopeful sons and daughters, for the sake of this graceless youth.

'It would be endless to mention the several persons, with their several loads, that appeared to me in this strange vision. All the place about me was covered with packs of ribbons, brocades, embroidery, and ten thousand other materials, sufficient to have furnished a whole street of toy-shops. One of the women; having a husband who was none of the heaviest, was bringing him off upon her shoulders, at the same time that she carried a great bundle of Flanders lace under her arm; but finding herself so overladen, that she could not save both of them, she dropped the good man, and brought away the bundle. In short, I found but one husband among this great mountain of baggage, who was a lively cobbler, that kicked and spurred all the while his wife was carrying him on, and, as it was said, had scarce passed a day in his life without giving her the discipline of the strap.

'I cannot conclude by letter, dear Spec, without telling thee one very odd whim in this my dream. I saw, methought, a dozen women employed in bringing off one man; I could not guess who it should be, until upon his nearer approach I discovered thy short phiz. The women all declared that it was for the sake of thy works, and not thy person, that they brought thee off, and that it was on condition that thou shouldst continue the Spectator. If thou thinkest this dream will make a tolerable one, it is at thy service, from,

DEAR SPEC,

'Thine, sleeping and waking.

'WILL HONEYCOMB.'

The ladies will see by this letter what I have often told them, that Will is one of those old-fashioned men of wit and pleasure of the town, that shows his parts by railery on marriage, and one who has often tried his fortune that way without success. I cannot however dismiss this letter without observing, that the true story on which it is built does honour to the sex, and that, in order to abuse them, the writer is obliged to have recourse to dream and fiction.

ADDISON.

O.

N^o 500. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1712.

— *Huc notas adfice septem,
Et totidem juvenes; et mor generosque nurusque:
Quæride nunc, habeat quam nostra superbia causam.*
OVID. Met. l. vi. ver. 182.

Seven are my daughters of a form divine,
With seven fair sons, an ineffective line.
Go, fools, consider this, and ask the cause
From which my pride its strong presumption draws.
CROXAL.

'SIR,

'You, who are so well acquainted with the story of Socrates, must have read how, upon his making a discourse concerning love, he pressed his point with so much success, that all the bachelors in his

audience took a resolution to marry by the first opportunity, and that all the married men immediately took horse and galloped home to their wives. I am apt to think your discourses, in which you have drawn so many agreeable pictures of marriage, have had a very good effect this way in England. We are obliged to you, at least, for having taken off that senseless ridicule, which for many years the wittlings of the town have turned upon their fathers and mothers. For my own part, I was born in wedlock, and I do not care who knows it: for which reason, among many others, I should look upon myself as a most insufferable coxcomb, did I endeavour to maintain that cuckoldom was inseparable from marriage, or to make use of husband and wife as terms of reproach. Nay, sir, I will go one step further, and declare to you before the whole world, that I am a married man, and at the same time I have so much assurance as not to be ashamed of what I have done.

'Among the several pleasures that accompany this state of life, and which you have described in your former papers, there are two you have not taken notice of, and which are seldom cast into the account, by those who write on this subject. You must have observed, in your speculations on human nature, that nothing is more gratifying to the mind of man than power or dominion; and this I think myself amply possessed of, as I am the father of a family. I am perpetually taken up in giving out orders, in prescribing duties, in hearing parties, in administering justice, and in distributing rewards and punishments. To speak in the language of the Centurion, I say unto one, go, and he goeth; and to another, come, and he cometh; and to my servant, do this, and he doeth it. In short, sir, I look upon my family as a patriarchal sovereignty, in which I am myself both king and priest. All great governments are nothing else but clusters of these little private royalties, and therefore I consider the masters of families as small deputy-governors presiding over the several little parcels and divisions of their fellow-subjects. As I take great pleasure in the administration of my government in particular, so I look upon myself not only as a more useful, but as a much greater and happier man than any bachelor in England of my rank and condition.

'There is another accidental advantage in marriage, which has likewise fallen to my share; I mean the having a multitude of children. These I cannot but regard as very great blessings. When I see my little troop before me, I rejoice in the additions which I have made to my species, to my country, and to my religion, in having produced such a number of reasonable creatures, citizens, and Christians. I am pleased to see myself thus perpetuated; and as there is no production comparable to that of a human creature, I am more proud of having been the occasion of ten such glorious productions, than if I had built a hundred pyramids at my own expense, or published as many volumes of the finest wit and learning. In what a beautiful light has the holy scripture represented Abdon, one of the judges of Israel, who had forty sons and thirty grandsons, that rode on threescore and ten ass-colts, according to the magnificence of the eastern countries? How must the heart of the old man rejoice, when he saw such a beautiful procession of his own descendants, such a numerous cavalcade of his own raising? For my own part, I can sit in my parlour with great content when I take a review of half a dozen of my

little boys mounting upon hobby-horses, and of as many little girls tutoring their babies, each of them endeavouring to excel the rest, and to do something that may gain my favour and approbation. I cannot question but he who has blessed me with so many children, will assist my endeavours in providing for them. There is one thing I am able to give each of them, which is a virtuous education. I think it is Sir Francis Bacon's observation, that in a numerous family of children, the eldest is often spoiled by the prospect of an estate, and the youngest by being the darling of the parent; but that some one or other in the middle, who has not perhaps been regarded, has made his way in the world, and over-topped the rest. It is my business to implant in every one of my children the same seeds of industry, and the same honest principles. By this means I think I have a fair chance, that one or other of them may grow considerable in some or other way of life, whether it be in the army, or in the fleet, in trade, or any of the three learned professions; for you must know, sir, that from long experience and observation, I am persuaded of what seems a paradox to most of those with whom I converse, namely, that a man who has many children, and gives them a good education, is more likely to raise a family, than he who has but one, notwithstanding he leaves him his whole estate. For this reason I cannot forbear amusing myself with finding out a general, an admiral, or an alderman of London, a divine, a physician, or a lawyer, among my little people who are now perhaps in petticoats; and when I see the motherly airs of my little daughters when they are playing with their puppets, I cannot but flatter myself that their husbands and children will be happy in the possession of such wives and mothers.

'If you are a father, you will not perhaps think this letter impertinent; but if you are a single man, you will not know the meaning of it, and probably throw it into the fire. Whatever you determine of it, you may assure yourself that it comes from one who is

'Your most humble servant,

'and well-wisher,

'PHILOGAMUS.'

T.

STEEL.

Nº 501. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1712.

*Durum; sed levius fit patientia
Quicquid corrigere est nefas.*

HOR. Od. xxiv. l. 1. ver. 19.

'Tis hard: but when we needs must bear,
Enduring patience makes the burden light.

CREECH.

As some of the finest compositions among the ancients are in allegory, I have endeavoured, in several of my papers, to revive that way of writing, and hope I have not been altogether unsuccessful in it; for I find there is always a great demand for those particular papers, and cannot but observe that several authors have endeavoured of late to excel in works of this nature. Among these, I do not know any one who has succeeded better than a very ingenious gentleman, to whom I am obliged for the following piece, and who was the author of the vision in the 460th paper.

O.

How are we tortured with the absence of what we covet to possess, when it appears to be lost to us! What excursions does the soul make in imagi-

nation after it! and how does 'it turn into itself again, more foolishly fond and dejected at the disappointment! Our grief, instead of having recourse to reason, which might restrain it, searches to find a further nourishment. It calls upon memory to relate the several passages and circumstances of satisfaction which we formerly enjoyed; the pleasures we purchased by those riches that are taken from us; or the power and splendour of our departed honours; or the voice, the words, the looks, the temper, and affections of our friends that are deceased. It needs must happen from hence, that the passion should often swell to such a size as to burst the heart which contains it, if time did not make these circumstances less strong and lively, so that reason should become a more equal match for the passion, or if another desire which becomes more present did not overpower them with a livelier representation. These are thoughts which I had when I fell into a kind of vision upon this subject, and may therefore stand for a proper introduction to a relation of it.

I found myself upon a naked shore, with company whose afflicted countenances witnessed their conditions. Before us flowed a water, deep, silent, and called the River of Tears, which issuing from two fountains on an upper ground, encompassed an island that lay before us. The boat which plied in it was old and shattered, having been sometimes overset by the impatience and haste of single passengers to arrive at the other side. This immediately was brought to us by Misfortune, who steers it, and we were all preparing to take our places, when there appeared a woman of a mild and composed behaviour, who began to deter us from it, by representing the dangers which would attend our voyage. Hereupon one who knew her for Patience, and some of these too who till then cried the loudest, were persuaded by her, and returned back. The rest of us went in, and she (whose good-nature would not suffer her to forsake persons in trouble) desired leave to accompany us, that she might at least administer some small comfort or advice while we sailed. We were no sooner embarked but the boat was pushed off, the sheet was spread; and being filled with sighs, which are the winds of that country, we made a passage to the further bank, through several difficulties of which the most of us seemed utterly regardless.

When we landed, we perceived the island to be strangely overcast with fogs, which no brightness could pierce, so that a kind of gloomy horror was always brooding over it. This had something in it very shocking to easy tempers, inasmuch that some others, whom Patience had by this time gained over, left us here, and privately conveyed themselves round the verge of the island to find a ford by which she told them they might escape.

For my part, I still went along with those who were for piercing into the centre of the place; and, joining ourselves to others whom we found upon the same journey, we marched solemnly as at a funeral, through bordering hedges of rosemary, and through a grove of yew-trees, which lay to overshadow tombs, and flourish in church-yards. Here we heard on every side the wallings and complaints of several of the inhabitants, who had cast themselves disconsolately at the feet of trees; and as we chanced to approach any of these, we might perceive them wringing their hands, beating their breasts, tearing their hair, or after some other manner visibly agitated with vexation. Our sorrows were heightened by the influence of what

we heard and saw, and one of our number was wrought up to such a pitch of wildness, as to talk of hanging himself upon a bough which shot temptingly across the path we travelled in; but he was restrained from it by the kind endeavours of our above-mentioned companion.

We had now gotten into the most dusky silent part of the island, and by the redoubled sounds of sighs, which made a doleful whistling in the branches, the thickness of air, which occasioned faintish respiration, and the violent throbbings of heart which more and more affected us, we found that we approached the Grotto of Grief. It was a wide, hollow, and melancholy cave, sunk deep in a dale, and watered by rivulets that had a colour between red and black. These crept slow and half congealed amongst its windings, and mixed their heavy murmurs with the echo of groans that rolled through all the passages. In the most retired part of it sat the doleful being herself; the path to her was strewn with goads, stings, and thorns; and her throne on which she sat was broken into a rock, with ragged pieces pointing upwards for her to lean upon. A heavy mist hung above her; her head oppressed with it reclined upon her arm. Thus did she reign over her disconsolate subjects, full of herself to stupidity, in eternal insensiveness, and the profoundest silence. On one side of her stood Dejection just dropping into a swoon, and Paleness wasting to a skeleton; on the other side were Care inwardly tormented with imaginations, and Anguish suffering outward troubles to suck the blood from her heart in the shape of ulcers. The whole vault had a genuine dismalness in it, which a few scattered lamps, whose bluish flames arose and sunk in their urns, discovered to our eyes with increase. Some of us fell down, overcome and spent with what they suffered in the way, and were given over to those tormentors that stood on either hand of the presence; others, galled and mortified with pain, recovered their entrance, where Patience, whom we had left behind, was still waiting to receive us.

With her (whose company was now become more grateful to us by the want we had found of her) we wound round the grotto, and ascended at the back of it, out of the mournful dale in whose bottom it lay. On this eminence we halted, by her advice, to pant for breath; and lifting our eyes, which till then were fixed downwards, felt a sudden sort of satisfaction, in observing through the shades what numbers had entered the island. This satisfaction, which appears to have ill-nature in it, was excusable, because it happened at a time when we were too much taken up with our own concern, to have respect to that of others; and therefore we did not consider them as suffering, but ourselves as not suffering in the most forlorn estate. It had also the round-work of humanity and compassion in it, though the mind was then too dark and too deeply engaged to perceive it; but as we proceeded onwards, it began to discover itself, and from observing that others were unhappy, we came to question one another when it was that we met, and what were the sad occasions that brought us together. Then we heard our stories, we compared them, we mutually gave and received pity, and so by degrees became tolerable company.

A considerable part of the troublesome road was thus deceived; at length the openings among the trees grew larger, the air seemed thinner, it lay with less oppression upon us, and we could now and then discern tracks in it of a lighter greyness, like the breakings of day, short in duration, much

enlivening, and called in that country Gleams of Amusement. Within a short while these gleams began to appear more frequent, and then brighter and of a longer continuance; the sighs that hitherto filled the air with so much dolefulness, altered to the sound of common breezes, and in general the horrors of the island were abated.

When we had arrived at last at the ford by which we were to pass out, we met with those fashionable mourners who had been ferried over along with us, and who, being unwilling to go as far as we, had coasted by the shore to find the place, where they waited our coming; that by showing themselves to the world only at the time when we did, they might seem also to have been among the troubles of the grotto. Here the waters that rolled on the other side so deep and silent were much dried up, and it was an easier matter for us to wade over.

The river being crossed, we were received upon the further bank, by our friends and acquaintance, whom Comfort had brought out to congratulate our appearance in the world again. Some of these blamed us for staying so long away from them, others advised us against all temptations of going back again; every one was cautious not to renew our trouble, by asking any particulars of the journey; and all concluded that, in a case of so much melancholy and affliction, we could not have made choice of a fitter companion than Patience. Here Patience, appearing serene at her praises, delivered us over to Comfort. Comfort smiled at his receiving the charge; immediately the sky purpled on that side, to which he turned, and double day at once broke in upon me.

PARNELL.

Nº 502. MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1712.

Melius, pejus, prosit, obstat, nil videtur nisi quod lubet.
TER. Heaut. act. iv. sc. 1.

Better or worse, profitable or disadvantageous, they see nothing but what they list.

WHEN men read, they taste the matter with which they are entertained, according as their own respective studies and inclinations have prepared them, and make their reflections accordingly. Some, perusing Roman writers, would find in them; whatever the subject of the discourses were, parts which implied the grandeur of that people in their welfare, or their politics. As for my part, who am a mere Spectator, I drew this morning conclusions of their eminence in what I think great, to wit, in having worthy sentiments, from the reading a comedy of Terence. The play was the Self-tormentor. It is from the beginning to the end a perfect picture of human life, but I did not observe in the whole one passage that could raise a laugh. How well-disposed must that people be, who could be entertained with satisfaction by so sober and polite mirth? In the first scene of the comedy, when one of the old men accuses the other of impertinence for interposing in his affairs, he answers, 'I am a man, and cannot help feeling any sorrow that can arrive at man *.' It is said this sentence was received with an universal applause. There cannot be a greater argument of the general good understanding of a people, than a sudden consent to give their approbation of a sentiment which has no emotion in it. If it were spoken with ever so

* *Homo sum, et nihil humanum a me alienum puto.*

great skill in the actor, the manner of uttering that sentence could have nothing in it which could strike any but people of the greatest humanity, nay people elegant and skilful in observations upon it. It is possible he might have laid his hand on his breast, and with a winning insinuation in his countenance, expressed to his neighbour that he was a man who made his case his own; yet I will engage a player in Covent-garden might hit such an attitude a thousand times before he would have been regarded. I have heard that a minister of state in the reign of Queen Elizabeth had all manner of books and ballads brought to him, of what kind soever, and took great notice how much they took with the people*, upon which he would, and certainly might, very well judge of their present dispositions, and the most proper way of applying them according to his own purposes. What passes on the stage, and the reception it meets with from the audience, is a very useful instruction of this kind. According to what you may observe on our stage, you see them often moved so directly against all common sense and humanity, that you would be apt to pronounce us a nation of savages. It cannot be called a mistake of what is pleasant, but the very contrary to it is what most assuredly takes with them. The other night an old woman carried off with a pain in her side, with all the distortions and anguish of countenance which is natural to one in that condition, was laughed and clapped off the stage. Terence's comedy, which I am speaking of, is indeed written as if he hoped to please none but such as had as good a taste as himself. I could not but reflect upon the natural description of the innocent young woman made by the servant to his master. 'When I came to the house,' said he, 'an old woman opened the door, and I followed her in, because I could, by entering upon them unawares, better observe what was your mistress's ordinary manner of spending her time, the only way of judging any one's inclinations and genius. I found her at her needle in a sort of second mourning, which she wore for an aunt she had lately lost. She had nothing on but what showed she dressed only for herself. Her hair hung negligently about her shoulders. She had none of the arts with which others use to set themselves off, but had that negligence of person which is remarkable in those who are careful of their minds. Then she had a maid who was at work near her that was a slattern, because her mistress was careless; which I take to be another argument of your security in her; for the go-betweens of women of intrigue are rewarded too well to be dirty. When you were named, and I told her you desired to see her, she threw down her work for joy, covered her face, and decently hid her tears.' He must be a very good actor, and draw attention rather from his own character than the words of the author, that could gain it among us for this speech, though so full of nature and good sense.

The intolerable folly and confidence of players putting in words of their own, does in a great measure feed the absurd taste of the audience. But however that is, it is ordinary for a cluster of coxcombs to take up the house to themselves, and equally insult both the actors and the company. These savages, who want all manner of regard and deference to the rest of mankind, come only to

show themselves to us, without any other purpose than to let us know they despise us.

The gross of an audience is composed of two sorts of people, those who know no pleasure in of the body, and those who improve or compare corporeal pleasures, by the addition of fine sentiments of the mind. At present the intelligent part of the company are wholly subdued by the attractions of those who know no satisfaction in what they have in common with all other animals.

This is the reason that when a scene tender or procration is acted, you see the whole pit is in a chuckle, and old lechers, with mouths open stare at the loose gesticulations on the stage, in shameful earnestness; when the justest picture of human life in its calm dignity, and the proper sentiments for the conduct of it, pass by like a narration, as conducing only to somewhat not better which is to come after. I have seen the whole house at some times in so proper a dejection, that indeed I have trembled for the bars, and feared the entertainment would end in a representation of the rape of the Sabines.

I would not be understood in this talk to say that nothing is tolerable on the stage but what is an immediate tendency to the promotion of virtue. On the contrary, I can allow, provided there is nothing against the interests of virtue, and is not offensive to good manners, that things of an indifferent nature may be represented. For this reason I have no exception to the well-drawn character in the Country Wake; and there is something miraculously pleasant in Dogget's acting the sorrowful triumph and comic sorrow of Hob in different circumstances, that I shall not be able to get away whenever it is acted. All that vices are, that the gallantry of taking the cudgels for Wiltshire, with the pride of heart in tucking himself up, and taking aim at his adversary, as if as the other's protestation in the humanity of his romance, that he could not promise the squire to break Hob's head, but he would, if he could, do it in love; then flourish and begin: I say who vexes me is, that such excellent touches as these as well as the squire's being out of all patience at Hob's success, and venturing himself into a crowd, are circumstances hardly taken notice of and the height of the jest is only in the very part that heads are broken. I am confident, was there a scene written, wherein Pinkethman should break his leg by wrestling with Bullock, and Dick come in to set it, without one word said but what should be according to the exact rules of surgery in making this extension, and binding up his leg, the whole house should be in a roar of applause at the assembled anguish of the patient, the help given by him who threw him down, and the hands, looks, and arch looks of the surgeon. To enumerate the entrance of ghosts, the embattling of armies, the noise of heroes in love, with a thousand other circumstances, would be to transgress the bounds of this paper, for which reason it is possible they may have hereafter distinct discourses; not forgetting any of the audience who shall set up for actors, and interrupt the play on the stage; and players who shall prefer the applause of fools, to that of the reasonable part of the company.

STEELE.

POSTSCRIPT.

N. B. There are in the play of *The Self-Deceiving* Terence, which is allowed a most excellent comedy, several incidents which would draw tears from any man of sense and not one which would move his laughter.

[This P. S. was given at the end of N° 521, in the 6th folio edition, with a reference to this paper.]

* Andrew Fletcher, of Saltoun, a famous whig author in the early part of the 18th century, says, 'I knew a very wise man, who believed, that if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation.'

N° 503. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1712.

Deleo omnes dehinc ex animo mulierce.

TER. Eun. act. II. sc. 3.

From henceforward I blot out of my thoughts all memory of womankind.

MR. SPECTATOR,

You have often mentioned with great vehemence and indignation the misbehaviour of people at church; but I am at present to talk to you on that subject, and complain to you of one, whom at the same time I know not what to accuse of, except to be looking too well there, and diverting the eyes of the congregation to that one object. However I have this to say, that she might have stayed at her own parish, and not come to perplex those who are otherwise intent upon their duty.

Last Sunday was seven-night I went into a church not far from London-bridge; but I wish I had been contented to go to my own parish, I am sure it had been better for me; I say I went to church thither, and got into a pew very near the pulpit. I had hardly been accommodated with a seat, before there entered into the aisle a young lady in the very bloom of youth and beauty, and dressed in the most elegant manner imaginable. Her form was such that it engaged the eyes of the whole congregation in an instant, and mine among the rest. Though we were all thus fixed upon her, she was not in the least out of countenance, or under the least disorder, though unattended by any one, and not seeming to know particularly where to place herself. However she had not in the least a confident aspect, but moved on with the most graceful modesty, every one making way till she came to a seat just over-against that in which I was placed. The deputy of the ward sat in that pew, and she stood opposite to him, and at a glance into the seat, though she did not appear the least acquainted with the gentleman, was let in, with a confusion that spoke much admiration at the novelty of the thing. The service immediately began, and she composed herself for it with an air of so much goodness and sweetness, that the confession which she uttered, so as to be heard where I sat, appeared an act of humiliation more than she had occasion for. The truth is, her beauty had something so innocent, and yet so sublime, that we all gazed upon her like a phantom. None of the pictures which we behold of the best Italian painters, have any thing like the spirit which appeared in her countenance, at the different sentiments expressed in the several parts of divine service. That gratitude and joy at a thanksgiving, that lowliness and sorrow at the prayers for the sick and distressed, that triumph at the passages which gave instances of the divine mercy, which appeared respectively in her aspect, will be in my memory to my last hour. I protest to you, sir, she suspended the devotion of every one around her; and the ease she did every thing with, soon dispensed the church-like dislike and hesitation in approving what is excellent, too frequent among us, to a general attention and entertainment in observing her behaviour. All the while that we were gazing at her, she took notice of no object about her, but had an art of seeming awkwardly attentive, whatever else her eyes were accidentally thrown upon. One thing indeed was particular, she stood the whole service, and never kneeled or sat: I do not question but that was to show herself with the greater

advantage, and set forth to better grace her hands and arms, lifted up with the most ardent devotion; and her bosom, the fairest that ever was seen, bare to observation; while she, you must think, knew nothing of the concern she gave others, any other than as an example of devotion, that threw herself out, without regard to dress or garment, all contrition, and loose of all worldly regards, in ecstasy of devotion. Well; now the organ was to play a voluntary, and she was so skilful in music, and so touched with it, that she kept time not only with some motion of her head, but also with a different air in her countenance. When the music was strong and bold, she looked exalted, but serious: when lively and airy, she was smiling and gracious; when the notes were most soft and languishing, she was kind and full of pity. When she had now made it visible to the whole congregation, by her motion and ear, that she could dance, and she wanted now only to inform us that she could sing too; when the psalm was given out, her voice was distinguished above all the rest, or rather people did not exert their own, in order to hear her. Never was any heard so sweet and so strong. The organist observed it, and he thought fit to play to her only, and she swelled every note, when she found she had thrown us all out, and had the last verse to herself in such a manner as the whole congregation was intent upon her, in the same manner as we see in the cathedrals they are on the person who sings alone the anthem. Well, it came at last to the sermon, and our young lady would not lose her part in that neither; for she fixed her eye upon the preacher, and as he said any thing she approved, with one of Charles Mather's fine tablets she set down the sentence, at once showing her fine hand, the gold pen, her readiness in writing, and her judgment in choosing what to write. To sum up what I intend by this long and particular account, I appeal to you, whether it is reasonable that such a creature as this shall come from a janty part of the town, and give herself such violent airs, to the disturbance of an innocent and inoffensive congregation, with her subtilties. The fact, I assure you, was as I have related; but I had like to have forgot another very considerable particular. As soon as church was done, she immediately stepped out of her pew, and fell into the finest pitty-patty air, forsooth, wonderfully out of countenance, tossing her head up and down, as she swam along the body of the church. I, with several others of the inhabitants, followed her out, and saw her hold up her fan to a hackney-coach at a distance, who immediately came up to her, and she whipping into it with great nimbleness, pulled the door with a howling mien, as if she had been used to a better glass. She said aloud, "You know where to go," and drove off. By this time the best of the congregation was at the church-door, and I could hear some say, "A very fine lady;" others, "I'll warrant you, she is no better than she should be;" and one very wise old lady said, she ought to have been taken up. Mr. Spectator, I think this matter lies wholly before you: for the offence does not come under any law, though it is apparent this creature came among us only to give herself airs, and enjoy her full swing in being admired, I desire you would print this, that she may be confined to her own parish; for I can assure you there is no attending any thing else in a place where she is a novelty. She has been talked of among us ever since under the name of "the Phantom:" but I would advise her to come no more; for there is so strong a party made by the

women against her, that she must expect they will not be excelled a second time in so outrageous a manner, without doing her some insult. Young women, who assume after this rate, and affect exposing themselves to view in congregations at the other end of the town, are not so mischievous, because they are rivalled by more of the same ambition, who will not let the rest of the company be particular; but in the name of the whole congregation where I was, I desire you to keep these agreeable disturbances out of the city, where sobriety of manners is still preserved, and all glaring and ostentatious behaviour, even in things laudable, discountenanced. I wish you may never see the Phantom, and am,

'SIR,

'Your most humble servant,

'RALPH WONDER *.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 504. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1712.

Lepus tute es, et pulpanentum quaris.

TER. Eun. act. iii. sc. i.

You are a hare yourself, and want dainties, forsooth.

It is a great convenience to those who want wit to furnish out a conversation, that there is something or other in all companies where it is wanted substituted in its stead, which according to their taste, does the business as well. Of this nature is the agreeable pastime in country-halls, of cross purposes, questions and commands, and the like. A little superior to these are those who can play at crambo, or cap verses. Then above them are such as can make verses, that is, rhyme; and among those who have the Latin tongue, such as use to make what they call golden verses. Commend me also to those who have not brains enough for any of these exercises, and yet do not give up their pretensions to mirth. These can slap you on the back unawares, laugh loud, ask you how you do with a twang on your shoulders, say you are dull to-day, and laugh a voluntary to put you in humour; not to mention the laborious way among the minor poets, of making things come into such and such a shape, as that of an egg, an hand, an axe, or any thing that nobody had ever thought on before for that purpose, or which would have cost a great deal of pains to accomplish it if they did. But all these methods, though they are mechanical, and may be arrived at with the smallest capacity, do not serve an honest gentleman who wants wit for his ordinary occasions; therefore it is absolutely necessary that the poor in imagination should have something which may be serviceable to them at all hours upon all common occurrences. That which we call punning is therefore greatly affected by men of small intellects. These men need not be concerned with you for the whole sentence; but if they can say a quaint thing, or bring in a word which sounds like any one word you have spoken to them, they can turn the discourse, or distract you so that you cannot go on, and by consequence, if they cannot be as witty as you are, they can hinder your being any wittier than they are. Thus, if you talk of a candle, he 'can deal' with you; and if you ask him to help you to some bread, a punster should think himself very 'ill-bred' if he did not; and if he is not as 'well-

bred' as yourself, he hopes for 'grains of' . . .
ance. If you do not understand that last ta-
you must recollect that bread is made of gra-
and so they go on for ever, without possibility
being exhausted.

There are another kind of people of small fac-
ties, who supply want of wit with want of brew-
ing; and because women are both by nature and
education more offended at any thing which is
modest than we men are, these are ever harp-
upon things they ought not to allude to, and
mightily in double meanings. Every one's ob-
servation will suggest instances enough of this
kind, without my mentioning any; for your do-
meaners are dispersed up and down through
parts of town or city, where there are any to
send, in order to set off themselves. These are
are mighty loud laughers, and held very precy
gentlemen with the sillier and unbred part of
mankind. But above all already mentioned, any
any who ever were, or even can be in the world
the happiest and surest to be pleasant, are a
of people whom we have not indeed lately heard
much of, and those are your 'Biters.'

A Biter is one who tells you a thing you have
no reason to disbelieve in itself, and perhaps has
given you before he bit you, no reason to disbelieve
it for his saying it; and if you give him credit
laughs in your face, and triumphs that he has de-
ceived you. In a word, a Biter is one who tells
you a fool, because you do not think him a knave.
This description of him one may insist upon to be
a just one; for what else but a degree of knavery
is it, to depend upon deceit for what you gain?
another; be it in point of wit, or interest, or any
thing else?

This way of wit is called 'Biting,' by a metaphor
taken from beasts of prey, which devour
harmless and unarmed animals, and look at
them as their food wherever they meet them. The
sharpers about town very ingeniously under-
stand themselves to be to the undesigning part of man-
kind what foxes are to lambs, and therefore use
the word Biting, to express any exploit where
they had over-reached any innocent and inatten-
tent man of his purse. These rascals of late years
have been the gallants of the town, and carried
with a fashionable haughty air, to the discounte-
ment of modesty, and all honest arts. Shallow
who are governed by the eye, and admire any
thing that struts in vogue, took up from the sharpers
the phrase of biting, and used it upon all occa-
sions, either to disown any nonsensical stuff they
should talk themselves, or evade the force of what
was reasonably said by others. Thus, when one of
these cunning creatures was entered into a debate
with you, whether it was practicable in the pre-
sent state of affairs to accomplish such a propo-
sition, and you thought he had let fall what de-
stroyed his side of the question, as soon as you
looked with an earnestness ready to lay hold on
it, he immediately cried, 'Bite,' and you were
immediately to acknowledge all that part was a
jest. They carry this to all the extravagant imagi-
nable; and if one of these wittlings knows any
particulars which may give authority to what he
says, he is still the more ingenious if he imports
upon your credulity. I remember a remarkable
instance of this kind. There came up a droll
young fellow to a plain young man, his country-
man, and taking him aside with a grave recovered
countenance, goes on at this rate. 'I live in
here, and have you heard nothing out of Dor-
shire!—You look so surprised you could not have

* See Nº 515.

+ See Nº 47, on Biters.

heard of it—and yet the particulars are such that it cannot be false: I am sorry I am got into it so far that now I must tell you; but I know not but it may be for your service to know. On Tuesday last, just after dinner—you know his manner is to smoke, opening his box, your father fell down dead in an apoplexy.* The youth showed the filial sorrow which he ought.—Upon which the witty man cried, ‘Bite, there is nothing in all this.’

To put an end to this silly, pernicious, frivolous way at once, I will give the reader one late instance of a Bite, which no Biter for the future will ever be able to equal, though I heartily wish him the same occasion. It is a superstition with some surgeons who beg the bodies of condemned malefactors, to go to the gaol, and bargain for the carcase with the criminal himself. A good honest fellow did so last sessions, and was admitted to the condemned men on the morning wherein they died. The surgeon communicated his business, and fell into discourse with a little fellow who refused twelve shillings, and insisted upon fifteen for his body. The fellow who killed the officer of Newgate, very forwardly, and like a man who was willing to deal, told him, ‘Look you, Mr. Surgeon, that little dry fellow, who has been half-starved all his life, and is now half dead with fear, cannot answer your purpose. I have ever lived highly and freely, my veins are full, I have not pined in imprisonment; you see my crest swells to your knife, and after Jack Catch has done, upon my honour you will find me as sound as ever a bullock in any of the markets. Come, for twenty shillings I am your man.’ Says the surgeon, ‘Done, there is a guinea.’ This witty rogue took the money, and as soon as he had it in his fist, cries, ‘Bite, I am to be hung in chains.’

STEELE.

T.

№ 505. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1712.

*Non habeo denique nauci Martum augurem,
Non vicinos aruspices, non de circo astrologos.
Non Iulianos conjectores, non interpretes somnium:
Non enim sunt ii, aut scientia, aut arte divini,
Sed superstitioni vates, impudentesque harioli,
Aut inertes, aut insani, aut quibus egestas imperat:
Qui aut questus causa fictas succitant sententias,
Qui tibi semitam non sapiunt, alteri monstrant viam,
Quibus divitias pollicentur, ab iis drachmam petunt:
Ite divitiis deducant drachmam, reddant cetera.*
ENNIUS.

Augurs and soothsayers, astrologers,
Diviners, and interpreters of dreams,
I ne'er consult, and heartily despise!
Vain their pretence to more than human skill.
For gain, imaginary schemes they draw:
Wanders themselves, they guide another's steps:
And for poor sixpence promise countless wealth:
Let them, if they expect to be believed,
Deduct the sixpence, and bestow the rest.

Those who have maintained that men would be more miserable than beasts, were their hopes confined to this life only, among other considerations take notice that the latter are only afflicted with the anguish of the present evil, whereas the former are very often pained by the reflection on what is passed, and the fear of what is to come. This fear of any future difficulties or misfortunes is so natural to the mind, that were a man's sorrows and disquietudes summed up at the end of his life, it would generally be found that he had suffered more from the apprehension of such evils as never happened to him, than from those evils which had

really befallen him. To this we may add, that among those evils which befall us, there are many that have been more painful to us in the prospect, than by their actual pressure.

This natural impatience to look into futurity, and to know what accidents may happen to us hereafter, has given birth to many ridiculous arts and inventions. Some found their prescience on the lines of a man's hand, others on the features of his face; some on the signatures which nature has impressed on his body, and others on his own handwriting: some read men's fortunes in the stars, as others have searched after them in the entrails of beasts, or the flight of birds. Men of the best sense have been touched more or less with these groundless horrors and presages of futurity, upon surveying the most indifferent works of nature. Can any thing be more surprising than to consider Cicero, who made the greatest figure at the bar, and in the senate of the Roman commonwealth, and at the same time outshined all the philosophers of antiquity in his library, and in his retirements, as busying himself in the college of augurs*, and observing, with a religious attention, after what manner the chickens pecked the several grains of corn which were thrown to them?

Notwithstanding these follies are pretty well worn out of the minds of the wise and learned in the present age, multitudes of weak and ignorant persons are still slaves to them. There are numberless arts of prediction among the vulgar, which are too trifling to enumerate; and infinite observations of days, numbers, voices, and figures, which are regarded by them as portents and prodigies. In short, every thing prophecies to the superstitious man; there is scarce a straw, or a rusty piece of iron, that lies in his way by accident.

It is not to be conceived how many wizards, gipsies, and cunning men, are dispersed through all the counties and market-towns of Great Britain, not to mention the fortune-tellers and astrologers, who live very comfortably upon the curiosity of several well-disposed persons in the cities of London and Westminster.

Among the many pretended arts of divination, there is none which so universally amuses as that by dreams. I have indeed observed in a late speculation†, that there have been sometimes, upon very extraordinary occasions, supernatural revelations made to certain persons, by this means; but as it is the chief business of this paper to root out popular errors, I must endeavour to expose the folly and superstition of those persons, who, in the common and ordinary course of life, lay any stress upon things of so uncertain, shadowy, and chimerical a nature. This I cannot do more effectually than by the following letter, which is dated from a quarter of the town that has always been the habitation of some prophetic Philomath; it having been usual, time out of mind, for all such people as have lost their wits, to resort to that place either for their cure or for their instruction.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘Moorfields, Oct. 4, 1712.

‘HAVING long considered whether there be any trade wanting in this great city, after having sur-

* It is probable, that Addison has here named Cicero, by mistake, for Cato, or some other person; as it is related of the orator, that, so far from being addicted to the folly of augury, he used to wonder that one augur could meet another without laughing. In his face to think what dupes they made of mankind.—Vide Cic. de Divinatione, l. 2. wherein auguries (especially those from the chickens) are amply exposed.

† No 457.

veyed very attentively all kinds of ranks and professions, I do not find in any quarter of the town an Oneiro-critic, or, in plain English, an interpreter of dreams. For want of so useful a person, there are several good people who are very much puzzled in this particular, and dream a whole year together without being ever the wiser for it. I hope I am pretty well qualified for this office, having studied by candle-light all the rules of art which have been laid down upon this subject. My great uncle by my wife's side was a Scotch highlander, and second-sighted. I have four fingers and two thumbs upon one hand, and was born on the longest night of the year. My christian and air-name begin and end with the same letters. I am lodged in Moorfields, in the house that for these fifty years has been always tenanted by a conjurer.

'If you had been in company, so much as myself, with ordinary women of the town, you must know that there are many of them who every day in their lives, upon seeing or hearing of any thing that is unexpected, cry, "My dream is out;" and cannot go to sleep in quiet the next night, till something or other has happened which has expounded the visions of the preceding one. There are others who are in very great pain for not being able to recover the circumstances of a dream, that made strong impressions upon them while it lasted. In short, sir, there are many whose waking thoughts are wholly employed on their sleeping ones. For the benefit therefore of this curious and inquisitive part of my fellow-subjects, I shall in the first place tell those persons what they dreamt of, who fancy they never dream at all. In the next place, I shall make out any dream, upon hearing a single circumstance of it; and in the last place, shall expound to them the good or bad fortune which such dreams portend. If they do not presage good luck, I shall desire nothing for my pains; not questioning at the same time, that those who consult me will be so reasonable as to afford me a moderate share out of any considerable estate, profit, or emolument, which I shall discover to them. I interpret to the poor for nothing, on condition that their names may be inserted in public advertisements, to attest the truth of such my interpretations. As for people of quality, or others who are indisposed, and do not care to come in person, I can interpret their dreams by seeing their water. I set aside one day in the week for lovers; and interpret by the great for any gentlewoman who is turned of sixty; after the rate of half a crown per week, with the usual allowances for good luck. I have several rooms and apartments fitted up, at reasonable rates, for such as have not conveniences for dreaming at their own houses.

TTUS TROPHONUS.

'N. B. I am not dumb.'

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 506. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1712.

*Candida perpetuo reside concordia, lecta,
Tamque pari semper sit Venus æquæ jugo.
Diligat illa sacrum quondam; sed et ipse maritus
Tunc quoque cum fuerit, non videtur ens.*

MART. Epig. xlii. l. 4. vet.

Perpetual harmony their bed attend,
And Venus still the well-match'd pair besend.
May she, when time has sunk him into years,
Love her old man, and cherish his white hairs,
Nor he perceive her charms through age decay,
But think each happy sun his bridal day.

THE following essay is written by the gentleman to whom the world is obliged for those several excellent discourses which have been marked with the letter X*.

I HAVE somewhere met with a fable that represents the father of Love. It is certain that a mind ought, at least, to be free from the apprehensions of want and poverty, before it can fully attend to all the softnesses and endearments of this passion. Notwithstanding we see multitudes of married people, who are utter strangers to the delightful passion amidst all the affluence of the most plentiful fortunes.

It is not sufficient to make a marriage happy, that the humours of two people should be alike; I could instance an hundred pair, who have not the least sentiment of love remaining for one another, yet are so like in their humours, that if they were not already married, the whole world would design them for man and wife.

The spirit of love has something so extremely fine in it, that it is very often disturbed and lost, by some little accidents, which the careless and unpolite never attend to, till it is gone past recovery.

Nothing has more contributed to banish it from a married state than too great a familiarity, and laying aside the common rules of decency. Though I could give instances of this in several particulars, I shall only mention that of dress. The beaux and belles about town, who dress purely to catch one another, think there is no further occasion for the bait, when their first design has succeeded. But besides the too common fault in point of measure, there are several others which I do not remember to have seen touched upon, but in one of our modern comedies†, where a French woman, offering to undress and dress herself before the lover of the play, and assuring her mistress that it was very usual in France, the lady tells her that it is a secret a dress she never knew before, and that she was unpolished an English woman as to resolve never to learn to dress even before her husband.

There is something so gross in the carriage of some wives, that they lose their husband's heart for faults, which, if a man has either good-sense or good-breeding, he knows not how to tell one of. I am afraid, indeed, the ladies are generally most faulty in this particular; who at their first giving into love, find the way so smooth and pleasant, that they fancy it is scarce possible to be true in it.

There is so much nicety and discretion required to keep love alive after marriage, and make it

* Budget.

† Steele's 'Jurnal'; or, Gold Almonds.

variation still new and agreeable after twenty or thirty years, that I know nothing which seems ready to promise it, but an earnest endeavour to please on both sides, and superior good sense on the part of the man.

By a man of sense, I mean one acquainted with business and letters.

A woman very much settles her esteem for a man, according to the figure he makes in the world, and the character he bears among his own ex. As learning is the chief advantage we have over them, it is, methinks, as scandalous and inexcusable for a man of fortune to be illiterate, as for a woman not to know how to behave herself in the most ordinary occasions. It is this which sets the two sexes at the greatest distance; a woman is vexed and surprised, to find nothing more in the conversation of a man, than in the common title of her own sex.

Some small engagement at least in business, not only sets a man's talents in the fairest light, and flots him a part to act, in which a wife cannot well intermeddle: but gives frequent occasion for those little absences, which, whatever seeming unbusiness they may give, are some of the best preservatives of love and desire.

The fair sex are so conscious to themselves, that they have nothing in them which can deserve entirely to engross the whole man, that they heartily espise one, who, to use their own expression, is always hanging at their apron-strings.

Lætitia is pretty, modest, tender, and has sense enough; she married Erastus, who is in a post of some business, and has a general taste in most parts of polite learning. Lætitia, wherever she visits, as the pleasure to hear of something which was undomestically said or done by Erastus. Erastus, since his marriage, is more gay in his dress than ever, and in all companies is as complaisant to Lætitia as to any other lady. I have seen him give her her fan when it has dropped, with all the gallantry of a lover. When they take the air together, Erastus is continually improving her thoughts, and, with a turn of wit and spirit which is peculiar to him, giving her an insight into things she had no notions of before. Lætitia is transported at having a new world thus opened to her, and trusts upon the man that gives her such agreeable informations. Erastus has carried this point still further, as he makes her daily not only more fond of him, but infinitely more satisfied with herself. Erastus finds a justness or beauty in whatever she says or observes, that Lætitia herself was not aware of; and by his assistance, she has discovered an hundred good qualities and accomplishments in herself, which she never before once dreamed of. Erastus, with the most artful complaisance in the world, by several remote hints, finds the means to make her say or propose almost whatever he has a mind to, which he always receives as her own discovery, and gives her all the reputation of it.

Erastus has a perfect taste in painting, and carried Lætitia with him the other day to see a collection of pictures. I sometimes visit this happy couple. As we were last week walking in the long gallery before dinner, 'I have lately laid out some money in paintings,' says Erastus; 'I bought that Venus and Adonis purely upon Lætitia's judgment; cost me three-score guineas, and I was this morning offered an hundred for it.' I turned towards Lætitia, and saw her cheeks glow with pleasure, while at the same time she cast a look upon Erastus, the most tender and affectionate I ever beheld.

Flavilla married Tom Tawdry; she was taken with his laced coat and rich sword-knot; she has the mortification to see Tom despised by all the worthy part of his own sex. Tom has nothing to do after dinner, but to determine whether he will pare his nails at St. James's, White's, or his own house. He has said nothing to Flavilla since they were married, which she might not have heard as well from her own woman. He however takes great care to keep up the saucy ill-natured authority of a husband. Whatever Flavilla happens to assert, Tom immediately contradicts with an oath by way of preface, and, 'My dear, I must tell you you talk most confoundedly silly.' Flavilla had a heart naturally as well disposed for all the tenderness of love as that of Lætitia; but as love seldom continues long after esteem, it is difficult to determine, at present, whether the unhappy Flavilla hates or despises the person most whom she is obliged to lead her whole life with.

BUDGELL.

X.

Nº 507. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1712.

Defendit numerus, junctaque umbone phalanges,
JUV. Sat. li. ver. 46.

Preserv'd from shame by numbers on our side.

THERE is something very sublime, though very fanciful, in Plato's description of the Supreme Being; that 'truth is his body, and light his shadow.' According to this definition, there is nothing so contradictory to his nature as error and falsehood. The Platonists have so just a notion of the Almighty's aversion to every thing which is false and erroneous, that they looked upon truth as no less necessary than virtue, to qualify a human soul for the enjoyment of a separate state. For this reason, as they recommended moral duties to qualify and season the will for a future life, so they prescribed several contemplations and sciences to rectify the understanding. Thus Plato has called mathematical demonstrations the cathartics or purgatives of the soul, as being the most proper means to cleanse it from error, and to give it a relish of truth; which is the natural food and nourishment of the understanding, as virtue is the perfection and happiness of the will.

There are many authors who have shown wherein the malignity of a lie consists, and set forth, in proper colours, the heinousness of the offence. I shall here consider one particular kind of this crime, which has not been so much spoken to; I mean that abominable practice of party-living. This vice is so very predominant among us at present, that a man is thought of no principles, who does not propagate a certain system of lies. The coffee-houses are supported by them, the press is clogged with them, eminent authors live upon them. Our bottle conversation is so infected with them, that a party lie is grown as fashionable an entertainment as a lively catch, or a merry story. The truth of it is, half the great talkers in the nation would be struck dumb, were this fountain of discourse dried up. There is, however, one advantage resulting from this detestable practice; the very appearances of truth are so little regarded, that lies are at present discharged in the air, and begin to hurt nobody. When we hear a party-story from a stranger, we consider whether he is a whig or a tory that relates it, and immediately conclude they are words of course, in which the

honest gentleman designs to recommend his zeal, without any concern for his veracity. A man is looked upon as bereft of common sense, that gives credit to the relations of party-writers; nay, his own friends shake their heads at him, and consider him in no other light than an officious tool, or a well-meaning idiot. When it was formerly the fashion to husband a lie, and trump it up in some extraordinary emergency, it generally did execution, and was not a little serviceable to the faction that made use of it; but at present every man is upon his guard: the artifice has been too often repeated to take effect.

I have frequently wondered to see men of probity, who would scorn to utter a falsehood for their own particular advantage, give so readily into a lie, when it becomes the voice of their faction, notwithstanding they are thoroughly sensible of it as such. How is it possible for those who are men of honour in their persons, thus to become notorious liars in their party? If we look into the bottom of this matter, we may find, I think, three reasons for it, and at the same time discover the insufficiency of these reasons to justify so criminal a practice.

In the first place, men are apt to think that the guilt of a lie, and consequently the punishment, may be very much diminished, if not wholly worn out, by the multitudes of those who partake in it. Though the weight of a falsehood would be too heavy for one to bear, it grows light in their imaginations when it is shared among many. But in this case a man very much deceives himself; guilt, when it spreads through numbers, is not so properly divided as multiplied. Every one is criminal in proportion to the offence which he commits, not to the number of those who are his companions in it. Both the crime and the penalty lie as heavy upon every individual of an offending multitude, as they would upon any single person had none shared with him in the offence. In a word, the division of guilt is like to that of matter; though it may be separated into infinite portions, every portion shall have the whole essence of matter in it, and consist of as many parts as the whole did before it was divided.

But in the second place, though multitudes, who join in a lie, cannot exempt themselves from the guilt, they may from the shame of it. The scandal of a lie is in a manner lost and annihilated, when diffused among several thousands; as a drop of the blackest tincture wears away and vanishes, when mixed and confused in a considerable body of water; the blot is still in it, but is not able to discover itself. This is certainly a very great motive to several party-offenders, who avoid crimes, not as they are prejudicial to their virtue, but to their reputation. It is enough to show the weakness of this reason, which palliates guilt without removing it, that every man who is influenced by it declares himself in effect an infamous hypocrite; prefers the appearance of virtue to its reality, and is determined in his conduct neither by the dictates of his own conscience, the suggestions of true honour, nor the principles of religion.

The third and last great motive for men's joining in a popular falsehood, or, as I have hitherto called it, a party lie, notwithstanding they are convinced of it as such, is the doing good to a cause which every party may be supposed to look upon as the most meritorious. The unsoundness of this principle has been so often exposed, and is so universally acknowledged, that a man must be an

utter stranger to the principles, either of nature, religion or Christianity, who suffers himself to be guided by it. If a man might promote the supposed good of his country by the blackest calumnies and falsehoods, our nation abounds more patriots than any other of the Christian world. When Pompey was desired not to set sail in a tempest that would hazard his life, 'It is necessary for me,' says he, 'to sail, but it is not necessary for me to live.' Every man should say to himself with the same spirit, 'It is my duty to speak truth though it is not my duty to be in an office.' One of the fathers hath carried this point so high as to declare he would not tell a lie, though he were to gain heaven by it. However extravagant such a protestation may appear, every one will own that a man may say, very reasonably, he would not tell a lie, if he were sure to gain hell by it. Or, if you have a mind to soften the expression, that he would not tell a lie to gain any temporal reward by it, when he should run the hazard of losing much more than it was possible for him to gain.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 508. MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1712.

Omnes autem et habentur et dicuntur tyranni, quia testate sunt perpetua, in ea civitate quae libertate vacat.

CORN. NEPOS in Milt. c. 4.

For all those are accounted and denominated tyrants, who exercise a perpetual power in that state, which was before free.

THE following letters complain of what I have frequently observed with very much indignation: therefore I shall give them to the public in words with which my correspondents, who are under the hardships mentioned in them, desire them.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘In former ages all pretensions to dominion have been supported and submitted to, either upon account of inheritance, conquest, or election; and all such persons, who have taken upon them a sovereignty over their fellow-creatures upon any other account, have been always called tyrants, not so much because they were guilty of any particular barbarities, as because every attempt to such a superiority was in its nature tyrannical. But there is another sort of potentates, who with greater propriety be called tyrants than those last mentioned, both as they assume a despotic dominion over those as free as themselves, and as they support it by acts of notable oppression and injustice; and these are the rulers in clubs and meetings. In other governments, the persecutions of some have been alleviated by the rewards of others; but what makes the reign of these potentates so particularly grievous, is, that they are exquisite in punishing their subjects at the same time they have it not in their power to reward them. That the reader may the better comprehend the nature of these monarchs, as well as the miserable state of those that are their vassals, I shall give an account of the king of the company I have fallen into, whom for his particular tyranny I shall call Dionysius; as also of the seeds that spring up to this odd sort of empire.

‘Upon all meetings at taverns, it is necessary some one of the company should take it upon him

to get all things in such order and readiness, as may contribute as much as possible to the felicity of the convention; such as hastening the fire, getting a sufficient number of candles, tasting the wine with a judicious smack, fixing the supper, and being brisk for the dispatch of it. Know then, that Dionysius went through these offices with an air that seemed to express a satisfaction rather in serving the public, than in gratifying any particular inclination of his own. We thought him a person of an exquisite palate, and therefore consent beseeched him to be always our proverbiator; which post, after he had handsomely denied, he could do no otherwise than accept. At first he made no other use of his power than in recommending such and such things to the company, never allowing these points to be disputable; in so much that I have often carried the debate for partridge, when his majesty has given intimation of the high relish of duck, but at the same time was cheerfully submitted, and devoured his partridge with most gracious resignation. The submission on his side naturally produced the like on ours; of which he in a little time made such barbarous advantage, as in all those matters, which before seemed indifferent to him, to issue out certain edicts as uncontrollable and unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. He is by turns outrageous, peevish, froward, and jovial. He hinks it our duty for the little offices, as proverbiator, that in return all conversation is to be interrupted or promoted by his inclination for or against the present humour of the company. We feel, at present, in the utmost extremity, the intolerance of office; however, I, being naturally warm, ventured to oppose him in a dispute about haunch of venison. I was altogether for roasting, but Dionysius declared himself for boiling with so much prowess and resolution, that the cook thought it necessary to consult his own safety, rather than the luxury of my proposition. With the same authority that he orders what we shall eat and drink, he also commands us where to do it; and we change our taverns according as he respects any treasonable practices in the settling the bill by the master, or sees any bold rebellion in point of attendance by the waiters. Another reason for changing the seat of empire, I conceive to be the pride he takes in the promulgation of our slavery, though we pay our club for our entertainments, even in these palaces of our grand monarch. When he has a mind to take the air, a party of us are commanded out by way of life-guard, and we march under as great restrictions as they do. If we meet a neighbouring king, we must or keep the way, according as we are outnumbered or not; and if the train of each is equal in number, rather than give battle, the superiority is soon adjusted by a desertion from one of 'em.

Now, the expulsion of these unjust rulers out of all societies would gain a man as everlasting a reputation, as either of the Brutus's got from their endeavours to extirpate tyranny from among the Romans. I confess myself to be in a conspiracy against the usurper of our club; and to show my siding, as well as my merciful disposition, shall follow him till the ides of March to dethrone himself. If he seems to affect empire till that time, and does not gradually recede from the incursions he has made upon our liberties, he shall find a dinner dressed which he has no hand in, and shall be eaten with an order, magnificence, and luxury, shall break his proud heart; at the same time

that he shall be convinced in his stomach he was unfit for his post, and a more mild and skilful prince receive the acclamations of the people, and be set up in his room: but, as Milton says,

"—— These thoughts
Full counsel must mature. Peace is despair'd,
And who can think submission? War then, war,
Open, or understood, must be resolv'd."

'I am, sir,
'Your most obedient humble servant.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I AM a young woman at a gentleman's seat in the country, who is a particular friend of my father's, and came hither to pass away a month or two with his daughters. I have been entertained with the utmost civility by the whole family, and nothing has been omitted which can make my stay easy and agreeable on the part of the family; but there is a gentleman here, a visitant as I am, whose behaviour has given me great uneasiness. When I first arrived here, he used me with the utmost complaisance; but, forsooth, that was not with regard to my sex; and, since he has no designs upon me, he does not know why he should distinguish me from a man in things indifferent. He is, you must know, one of those familiar coxcombs, who have observed some well-bred men with a good grace converse with women, and say no fine things, but yet treat them with that sort of respect which flows from the heart and the understanding, but is exerted in no professions or compliments. This puppy, to imitate this excellence, or avoid the contrary fault of being troublesome in complaisance, takes upon him to try his talent upon me, in so much that he contradicts me upon all occasions, and one day told me I lied. If I had struck him with my bodkin, and behaved myself like a man, since he will not treat me as a woman, I had, I think, served him right. I wish, sir, you would please to give him some maxims of behaviour in these points, and resolve me if all maids are not in point of conversation to be treated by all bachelors as their mistresses. If not so, are they not to be used as gently as their sisters? Is it sufferable that the fop of whom I complain should say, that he would rather have such-a-one without a groat, than me with the Indies? What right has any man to make suppositions of things not in his power, and then declare his will to the dislike of one that has never offended him? I assure you these are things worthy your consideration, and I hope we shall have your thoughts upon them. I am, though a woman justly offended, ready to forgive all this, because I have no remedy but leaving very agreeable company sooner than I desire. This also is an heinous aggravation of his offence, that he is inflicting banishment upon me. Your printing this letter may perhaps be an admonition to reform him: as soon as it appears I will write my name at the end of it, and lay it in his way: the making which just reprimand, I hope you will put in the power of,

'SIR,
'Your constant reader,
'and humble servant.'

STEELE.

T.

N^o 509. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1712.

Hominis frugi et temperantis functus officium.
TER. Heaut. act. ill. sc. 3.

Discharging the part of a good economist.

THE useful knowledge in the following letter shall have a place in my paper, though there is nothing in it which immediately regards the polite or the learned world; I say immediately, for upon reflection every man will find there is a remote influence upon his own affairs, in the prosperity or decay of the trading part of mankind. My present correspondent, I believe, was never in print before; but what he says well deserves a general attention, though delivered in his own homely maxims, and a kind of proverbial simplicity; which sort of learning has raised more estates than ever were, or will be, from attention to Virgil, Horace, Tully, Seneca, Plutarch, or any of the rest, whom, I dare say, this worthy citizen would hold to be indeed ingenious, but unprofitable writers. But to the letter.

MR. WILLIAM SPECTATOR,

SIR, Broad-street, Oct. 10, 1712.

I ACCUSE you of many discourses on the subject of money, which you have heretofore promised the public, but have not discharged yourself thereof. But, forasmuch as you seemed to depend upon advice from others what to do in that point, have sat down to write you the needful upon that subject. But, before I enter thereupon, I shall take this opportunity to observe to you, that the thriving frugal man shows it in every part of his expense, dress, servants, and house; and I must, in the first place, complain to you, as Spectator, that in these particulars there is at this time, throughout the city of London, a lamentable change from that simplicity of manners, which is the true source of wealth and prosperity. I just now said, the man of thrift shows regularity in every thing; but you may, perhaps, laugh that I take notice of such a particular as I am going to do, for an instance that this city is declining, if their ancient economy is not restored. The thing which gives me this prospect, and so much offence, is the neglect of the Royal Exchange, I mean the edifice so called, and the walks appertaining thereunto. The Royal Exchange is a fabric that well deserves to be so called, as well to express that our monarch's highest glory and advantage consists in being the patron of trade, as that it is commodious for business, and an instance of the grandeur both of prince and people. But, alas! at present it hardly seems to be set apart for any such use or purpose. Instead of the assembly of honourable merchants, substantial tradesmen, and knowing masters of ships; the mumpers, the balt, the blind, and the lame; your vendors of trash, apples, plumbs; your rag-gamushins, rakeshamers, and weiches; have justified the greater number of the former out of that place. Thus it is, especially on the evening change: so that what with the din of squallings, oaths, and cries of beggars, men of the greatest consequence in our city absent themselves from the place. This particular, by the way, is of evil consequence; for, if the Change be no place for men of the highest credit to frequent, it will not be a disgrace for those of less abilities to absent. I remember the

time when rascally company were kept out, and the unlucky boys with toys and balls were whipped away by a beadle. I have seen this done indeed of late, but then it has been only to chase the lads from chuck, that the beadle might seize their copper.

I must repeat the abomination, that the waltz-trade is carried on by old women within the walls, which makes the place impassable by reason of shells and trash. The benches around are so full, that no one can sit down, yet the beadles and officers have the impudence at Christmas to ask for their box, though they deserve the strapado. I do not think it impertinent to have mentioned this, because it speaks a neglect in the domestic care of the city, and the domestic is the truest picture of a man every where else.

But I designed to speak on the business of money and advancement of gain. The man proper for this, speaking in the general, is of a sedate, plain, good understanding, not apt to go out of his way, but so behaving himself at home, that business may come to him. Sir William Turner, that valuable citizen, has left behind him a most excellent rule, and couched it in a very few words to the meanest capacity. He would say,

"Keep your shop, and your shop will keep you." It must be confessed, that if a man of a great genius could add steadiness to his vivacities, or substitute slower men of fidelity to transact the methodical part of his affairs, such an one would outstrip the rest of the world: but business and trade is not to be managed by the same heads who write poetry, and make plans for the conduct of life in general. So, though we are at this day beholden to the late witty and inventive Duke of Buckingham for the whole trade and manufacture of glass⁺, yet I suppose there is no one will say that, were his grace yet living, they would so rather deal with my diligent friend and neighbour Mr. Gumley, for any goods to be prepared and delivered on such a day, than he would with that illustrious mechanic above mentioned.

No, no, Mr. Spectator, you wits must not pretend to be rich; and it is possible the reason may be, in some measure, because you despise, or at

* Alderman Thomas, a mercer in Paternoster-row, was this one of the motives of his shop.

+ Steele, in his 'Lover,' N. 34, speaking, in terms of admiration, of Gumley's Glass Gallery, over the New Exchange, says, "When a man walks in that illustrious room, and reflects what incredible improvement our artificers of England have made in the manufacture of glass in thirty years, and can suppose such an alteration of our affairs in the parts of commerce, it is demonstrable that the nation is possessed of mines of gold as but drudges to a prince whose arts and industry, with other advantages attending us, may make itself the shop of the world. We are at such perfection in this ware of which I am speaking, and it is not in the power of any potentate in Europe to buy a beautiful a mirror as he may purchase here for a trifle, but at the cost and charge that he can lay out in his domestic use. It is a modest computation, that England gains 600,000 pounds a year by exporting this commodity for the service of foreign nations; the whole owing to the improvement and mechanic as well as liberal genius of the late Duke of Buckingham. This prodigious effect by the art of man, a part of nature that are as unlikely to produce it, as it would suppose a man could burn common earth to a diamond, opens a field of contemplation." &c. In the year 1688, some Venetian artists, the principal of whom was Bartolomeo in England, under the patronage of the Duke of Buckingham, who established the manufactory at Finsbury in the parish of Lambeth, and carried it on with great success, in the firm of Dawson, Bowles, and Company, to the great advantage of the proprietors, in whose hands it remained till about five years ago, when a total stop was put to this great acquisition, and a descendant of Bartolomeo's was left in extreme poverty. Hist. of Lambeth, 1795, p. 128.

least you do not value it enough to let it take up your chief attention; which the trader must do, or lose his credit, which is to him what honour, reputation, fame, or glory, is to other sort of men.

'I shall not speak to the point of cash itself, till I see how you approve of these my maxims in general: but I think a speculation upon "many a little makes a mickle, a penny saved is a penny got, penny wise and pound foolish, it is need that makes the old wife trot," would be very useful to the world; and, if you treated them with knowledge, would be useful to yourself, for it would make demands for your paper among those who have no notion of it at present. But of these matters more hereafter. If you did this, as you excel many writers of the present age for politeness, so you would outgo the author of the true razor-strops for use.

'I shall conclude this discourse with an explanation of a proverb, which by vulgar error is taken and used when a man is reduced to an extremity, whereas the propriety of the maxim is to use it when you would say there is plenty, but you must make such a choice as not to hurt another who is to come after you.

'Mr. Tobias Hobson, from whom we have the expression, was a very honourable man, for I shall ever call the man so who gets an estate honestly. Mr. Tobias Hobson was a carrier; and, being a man of great abilities and invention, and one that saw where there might good profit arise, though the duller men overlooked it, this ingenious man was the first in this island who let out hackney-horses. He lived in Cambridge; and, observing that the scholars rid hard, his manner was to keep a large stable of horses, with boots, bridles, and whips, to furnish the gentlemen at once, without going from college to college to borrow, as they have done since the death of this worthy man. I say, Mr. Hobson kept a stable of forty good cattle, always ready and fit for travelling; but, when a man came for a horse, he was led into the stable, where there was great choice, but he obliged him to take the horse which stood next to the stable-door; so that every customer was alike well served according to his chance, and every horse ridden with the same justice: from whence it became a proverb, when what ought to be your election was forced upon you, to say, "Hobson's choice." This memorable man stands drawn in fresco at an inn (which he used) in Bishopsgate-street, with an hundred pound bag under his arm, with this inscription upon the said bag:

"The fruitful mother of a hundred more."

'Whatever tradesman will try the experiment, and begin the day after you publish this my discourse to treat his customers all alike, and all reasonably and honestly, I will ensure him the same success.

'I am, SIR,
'Your loving friend,
'MEZEKIAH THRIFT.'

STEEL.

T.

Nº 510. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1712.

— Si sapis,
*Neque præterquam quas ipse amor molestias
Habet addas; et illas, quas habet, recte feras.*

TER. Eum. act. i. sc. 1.

If you are wise, neither add to the troubles which attend the passion of love, and bear patiently those which are inseparable from it.

I WAS the other day driving in a hack through Gerard-street, when my eye was immediately caught with the prettiest object imaginable, the face of a very fair girl, between thirteen and fourteen, fixed at the chin to a painted sash, and made part of the landscape. It seemed admirably done, and, upon throwing myself eagerly out of the coach to look at it, it laughed, and flung from the window. This amiable figure dwelt upon me; and I was considering the vanity of the girl, and her pleasant coquetry in acting a picture until she was taken notice of, and raised the admiration of the beholders. This little circumstance made me run into reflections upon the force of beauty, and the wonderful influence the female sex has upon the other part of the species. Our hearts are seized with their enchantments, and there are few of us, but brutal men, who by that hardness lose the chief pleasure in them, can resist their insinuations, though never so much against our own interests and opinion. It is common with women to destroy the good effects a man's following his own way and inclination might have upon his honour and fortune, by interposing their power over him in matters wherein they cannot influence him, but to his loss and disparagement. I do not know therefore a task so difficult in human life, as to be proof against the importunities of a woman a man loves. There is certainly no armour against tears, sullen looks, or at best constrained familiarities, in her whom you usually meet with transport and alacrity. Sir Walter Raleigh was quoted in a letter (of a very ingenious correspondent of mine) on this subject. That author, who had lived in courts, camps, travelled through many countries, and seen many men under several climates, and of as various complexions, speaks of our impotence to resist the wiles of women in very severe terms. His words are as follow:

'What means did the devil find out, or what instruments did his own subtilty present him, as fittest and aptest to work his mischief by? Even the unquiet vanity of the woman; so as by Adam's hearkening to the voice of his wife, contrary to the express commandment of the living God, mankind by that her incantation became the subject of labour, sorrow, and death: the woman being given to man for a comforter and companion, but not for a counsellor. It is also to be noted by whom the woman was tempted; even by the most ugly and unworthy of all beasts, into whom the devil entered and persuaded. Secondly, What was the motive of her disobedience? Even a desire to know what was most unfitting her knowledge; an affection which has ever since remained in all the posterity of her sex. Thirdly, What was it that moved the man to yield to her persuasions; even the same cause which hath moved all men since to the like consent, namely, an unwillingness to grieve her, or make her sad, lest she should pine, and be overcome with sorrow. But if Adam in the state of perfection, and Solomon the son of David, God's chosen servant, and himself a man endued with the

greatest wisdom, did both of them disobey their Creator by the persuasion, and for the love they bare to a woman, it is not so wonderful as lamentable, that other men in succeeding ages have been allured to so many inconvenient and wicked practices by the persuasion of their wives, or other beloved darlings, who cover over and shadow many malicious purposes with a counterfeit passion of dissimulating sorrow and unquietness.

The motions of the minds of lovers are no where so well described as in the works of skilful writers for the stage. The scene between Fulvia and Curius in the second act of Jonson's *Catiline*, is an excellent picture of the power of a lady over her gallant. The wench plays with his affections; and as a man of all places in the world wishes to make a good figure with his mistress, upon her upbraiding him with want of spirit, he alludes to enterprises which he cannot reveal but with the hazard of his life. When he is worked thus far, with a little flattery of her opinion of his gallantry, and desire to know more of it out of her overflowing fondness to him, he brags to her until his life is in her disposal.

When a man is thus liable to be vanquished by the charms of her he loves, the safest way is to determine what is proper to be done, but to avoid all expostulation with her before he executes what he has resolved. Women are ever too hard for us upon a treaty; and one must consider how senseless a thing it is to argue with one whose looks and gestures are more prevalent with you, than your reasons and arguments can be with her. It is a most miserable slavery to submit to what you disapprove, and give up a truth for no other reason, but that you had not fortitude to support you in asserting it. A man has enough to do to conquer his own unreasonable wishes and desires; but he does that in vain, if he has those of another to gratify. Let his pride be in his wife and family, let him give them all the conveniences of life in such a manner as if he were proud of them; but let it be his own innocent pride, and not their exorbitant desires, which are indulged by him. In this case all the little arts imaginable are used to soften a man's heart, and raise his passion above his understanding. But in all concessions of this kind, a man should consider whether the present he makes flows from his own love, or the importunity of his beloved. If from the latter, he is her slave; if from the former, her friend. We laugh it off, and do not weigh this subjection to women with that seriousness which so important a circumstance deserves. Why was courage given to man, if his wife's fears are to frustrate it? When this is once indulged, you are no longer her guardian and protector, as you were designed by nature; but, in compliance to her weaknesses, you have disabled yourself from avoiding the misfortunes into which they will lead you both, and you are to see the hour in which you are to be reproached by herself for that very complaisance to her. It is indeed the most difficult mastery over ourselves we can possibly attain, to resist the grief of her who charms us; but let the heart ache, be the anguish never so quick and painful, it is what must be suffered and passed through, if you think to live like a gentleman, or be conscious to yourself that you are a man of honesty. The old argument, that 'you do not love me if you deny me this,' which first was used to obtain a trifle, by habitual success, will oblige the unhappy man who gives way to it, to resign the cause even of his country and his honour.

STABLE.

T.

N^o 511. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1712.

Quis non invenit turba quod amaret in illa?
OVID. *ARS AM. L.* ver. 173.

— Who could fail to find,
In such a crowd, a mistress to his mind?

'DEAR SPEC,
' FINDING that my last letter took, I do intend to continue my epistolary correspondence with thee, on those dear confounded creatures, women. Thou knowest all the little learning I am master of upon that subject; I never looked in a book, but for their sakes. I have lately met with two parables for a Spectator, which I am sure will please mightily, if they pass through thy hands. The first of them I found by chance in an English book, called *Herodotus*, that lay in my friend Dapperwit's window, as I visited him one morning. It luckily opened in the place where I met with the following account. He tells us, that it was the manner among the Persians to have several fairs in the kingdom, at which all the young unmarried women were annually exposed to sale. The men who wanted wives came thither to provide themselves. Every woman was given to the highest bidder, and the money which she fetched laid aside for the public use, to be employed as thou shalt hear by and by. By this means the richest people had the choice of the market, and called out the most extraordinary beauties. As soon as the fair was thus picked, the refuse was to be distributed among the poor, and among those who could not go to the price of a beauty. Several of these married the agreeables, without paying a farthing for them, unless somebody chanced to think a worth his while to bid for them, in which case the best bidder was always the purchaser. But now you must know, Spec, it happened in Persia, as it does in our own country, that there were as many ugly women as beauties or agreeables; so that by consequence, after the magistrates had put off a great many, there were still a great many that stuck upon their hands. In order therefore to clear the market, the money which the beauties had sold for, was disposed of among the ugly; so that a poor man, who could not afford to have a beauty for his wife, was forced to take up with a homely; the greatest portion being always given to the most deformed. To this the author adds, that every poor man was forced to live kindly with his wife, or, in case he repented of his bargain, to return her portion with her to the next public sale.

'What I would recommend to thee on this occasion is, to establish such an imaginary fair in Great Britain: thou couldst make it very pleasant, by matching women of quality with coblers and carmen, or describing titles and garters leading off in great ceremony shopkeepers and farmers' daughters. Though, to tell thee the truth, I am considerably afraid, that as the love of money prevails in our island more than it did in Persia, we should find that some of our greatest men would choose out the portions, and rival one another for the richest piece of deformity: and that, on the contrary, the toasts and belles would be bought up by extravagant heirs, gamblers, and spendthrifts. Thou couldst make very pretty reflections upon this occasion in honour of the Persian politics, as he took care, by such marriages, to beautify the upper part of the species, and to make the greatest per-

as in the government the most graceful. But this shall leave to thy judicious pen.

'I have another story to tell thee, which I likewise met with in a book. It seems the general of Tartars, after having laid siege to a strong town in China, and taken it by storm, would set to all the women that were found in it. Accordingly he put each of them into a sack, and, after viewing thoroughly considered the value of the woman who was inclosed, marked the price that was demanded for her upon the sack. There were a great confluence of chapmen, that resorted from every part, with a design to purchase, which they were to do "unsight unseen." The book mentions a merchant in particular, who, observing one of the sacks to be marked pretty high, bargained for and carried it off with him to his house. As he was resting with it upon a half-way bridge, he was obliged to take a survey of his purchase: upon opening the sack, a little old woman popped her head out of it; at which the adventurer was in so great a rage, that he was going to shoot her out to the river. The old lady, however, begged him to let all to hear her story, by which he learned that she was sister to a great Mandarin, who would willingly make the fortune of his brother-in-law as much as he should know to whose lot she fell. Upon which the merchant again tied her up in his sack, and carried her to his house, where she proved an excellent wife, and procured him all the riches of her brother that she had promised him.

'I fancy, if I was disposed to dream a second time, I could make a tolerable vision upon this subject. I would suppose all the unmarried women of London and Westminster brought to market in sacks, with their respective prices on each sack. The first sack that is sold is marked with five thousand pound. Upon the opening of it, I find it filled with an admirable housewife, of an agreeable countenance. The purchaser, upon hearing of good qualities, pays down her price very cheerfully. The second I would open, should be a five hundred pound sack. The lady in it, to our surprise, has the face and person of a toast. As we are wondering how she came to be set at so low a price, we hear that she would have been valued at a thousand pound, but that the public had made great abatements for her being a scold. I would afterwards find some beautiful, modest, and discreet woman, that should be the top of the market: I perhaps discover half a dozen romps tied up together in the same sack, at one hundred pound head. The prude and the coquette should be used at the same price, though the first should go for the better of the two. I fancy thou wouldst see such a vision, had I time to finish it; because, to talk in thy own way, there is a moral in it. Whatever thou mayest think of it, pray thee do not make any of thy queer apologies for this letter, as we didst for my last. The women love a gay lively fellow, and are never angry at the raileries of one who is their known admirer. I am always tender upon them, but well with them.

'Thine,

'NONEYCOMB.'

O.

ADDISON.

Nº 512. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1712.

Lectorem delectando, pariterque monendo.

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 344.

Mixing together profit and delight.

THERE is nothing which we receive with so much reluctance as advice. We look upon the man who gives it us as offering an affront to our understanding, and treating us like children or idiots. We consider the instruction as an implicit censure, and the zeal which any one shows for our good on such an occasion as a piece of presumption or impertinence. The truth of it is, the person who pretends to advise, does, in that particular, exercise a superiority over us, and can have no other reason for it, but that, in comparing us with himself, he thinks us defective either in our conduct or our understanding. For these reasons, there is nothing so difficult as the art of making advice agreeable; and indeed all the writers, both ancient and modern, have distinguished themselves among one another, according to the perfection at which they have arrived in this art. How many devices have been made use of to render this bitter potion palatable? Some convey their instructions to us in the best-chosen words, others in the most harmonious numbers; some in points of wit, and others in short proverbs.

But, among all the different ways of giving counsel, I think the finest, and that which pleases the most universally, is fable, in whatsoever shape it appears. If we consider this way of instructing or giving advice, it excels all others, because it is the least shocking, and the least subject to those exceptions which I have before mentioned.

This will appear to us, if we reflect in the first place, that upon the reading of a fable we are made to believe we advise ourselves. We peruse the author for the sake of the story, and consider the precepts rather as our own conclusions than his instructions. The moral insinuates itself imperceptibly, we are taught by surprise, and become wiser and better unawares. In short, by this method a man is so far over-reached as to think he is directing himself, while he is following the dictates of another, and consequently is not sensible of that which is the most unpleasant circumstance in advice.

In the next place, if we look into human nature, we shall find that the mind is never so much pleased as when she exerts herself in any action that gives her an idea of her own perfections and abilities. This natural pride and ambition of the soul is very much gratified in the reading of a fable; for, in writings of this kind, the reader comes in for half of the performance; every thing appears to him like a discovery of his own; he is busied all the while in applying characters and circumstances, and is in this respect both a reader and a composer. It is no wonder, therefore, that on such occasions, when the mind is thus pleased with itself, and amused with its own discoveries, that it is highly delighted with the writing which is the occasion of it. For this reason the *Absalom* and *Achitophel** was one of the most popular poems that ever appeared in English. The poetry is indeed very fine; but had it been much finer, it would not have so much pleased, without a plan,

* A satire written by Dryden.

which gave the reader an opportunity of exerting his own talents.

This oblique manner of giving advice is so inoffensive, that if we look into ancient histories, we find the wise men of old chose to give counsel to their kings in fables. To omit many which will occur to every one's memory, there is a pretty instance of this nature in a Turkish tale, which I do not like the worse for that little oriental extravagance which is mixed with it.

We are told that the sultan Mahmoud, by his perpetual wars abroad, and his tyranny at home, had filled his dominions with ruin and desolation, and half unpeopled the Persian empire. The visier to this great sultan (whether an humorist or an enthusiast, we are not informed) pretended to have learned of a certain dervise to understand the language of birds, so that there was not a bird that could open his mouth but the visier knew what it was he said. As he was one evening with the emperor, in their return from hunting, they saw a couple of owls upon a tree that grew near an old wall out of an heap of rubbish. 'I would fain know,' says the sultan, 'what those two owls are saying to one another; listen to their discourse, and give me an account of it.' The visier approached the tree, pretending to be very attentive to the two owls. Upon his return to the sultan, 'Sir,' says he, 'I have heard part of their conversation, but dare not tell you what it is.' The sultan would not be satisfied with such an answer, but forced him to repeat word for word every thing the owls had said. 'You must know, then,' said the visier, 'that one of these owls has a son, and the other a daughter, between whom they are now upon a treaty of marriage. The father of the son said to the father of the daughter, in my hearing, "Brother, I consent to this marriage, provided you will settle upon your daughter fifty ruined villages for her portion." To which the father of the daughter replied, "Instead of fifty, I will give her five hundred, if you please. God grant a long life to sultan Mahmoud: whilst he reigns over us, we shall never want ruined villages *."

The story says, the sultan was so touched with the fable, that he rebuilt the towns and villages which had been destroyed, and from that time forward consulted the good of his people.

To fill up my paper, I shall add a most ridiculous piece of natural magic, which was taught by no less a philosopher than Democritus, namely, that if the blood of certain birds, which he mentioned, were mixed together, it would produce a serpent of such a wonderful virtue, that whoever did eat it should be skilled in the language of birds, and understand every thing they said to one another. Whether the dervise above mentioned might not have eaten such a serpent, I shall leave to the determination of the learned.

ADDISON.

O.

* This story will be found in the superb Persian MS. in the public library at Cambridge.

Nº 513. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1722

— *Afflata est munime quando*
Jam propiore Dei —

VIRG. *Æn.* vi. 17

When all the God came rushing on her soul.
DRYDEN.

THE following letter comes to me from that excellent man in holy orders, whom I have more than once as one of that society who to me in my speculations. It is a thought in some and of a very serious nature, for which read give it a place in the paper of this day.

SIR,

'THE indisposition which has long hung upon me is at last grown to such a head, that it must make an end of me, or of itself. You may imagine, that whilst I am in this bad state of health there are none of your works which I read with greater pleasure than your Saturday's paper. I should be very glad if I could furnish you with any hints for that day's entertainment. Were I able to dress up several thoughts of a serious nature which have made great impressions upon my mind during a long fit of sickness, they might be an improper entertainment for that occasion.

'Among all the reflections which usually come in the mind of a sick man, who has time and inclination to consider his approaching end, there is none more natural than that of his going to be naked and unbodied before Him who made him. When a man considers, that, as soon as the present union is dissolved, he shall see the Supreme Being whom he now contemplates at a distance, as it were, in his works; or, to speak more philosophically, when, by some faculty in the soul, he shall apprehend the Divine Being, and be more sensible of his presence, than we are now of the presence of any object which the eye beholds, a man may be lost in carelessness and stupidity, who is alarmed at such a thought. Dr. Sherlock's excellent treatise upon Death, has represented it in very strong and lively colours, the state of the soul in its first separation from the body, with respect to that invisible world which every where surrounds us, though we are not able to discern it through this grosser world of matter, which is accommodated to our senses in this life. His words are as follow:

"That death, which is our leaving the body, is nothing else but our putting off these bodies which teaches us, that it is only our union to these bodies which intercepts the sight of the other world. The other world is not at such a distance from us as we may imagine; the throne of God indeed is at a great remove from this earth, above the third heavens, where he displays his glory to those blessed spirits which encompass his throne; but as soon as we step out of these bodies we step into the other world, which is not so properly another world, as there is the same heaven and earth still, as in this state of life. To live in these bodies is to live in this world; to live out of them is to remove to the next: for while our souls are confined to these bodies, and can look only through these material casements, nothing but what is material can reach us; nay, nothing but what is so gross, that it cannot reflect light, and convey the shapes and colours of things with it to the eye: so that, though our

is visible world there be a more glorious scene of things than what appears to us, we perceive nothing at all of it; for this veil of flesh parts the visible and invisible world; but when we put off these bodies, there are new and surprising wonders present themselves to our views; when these material spectacles are taken off, the soul with its naked eyes sees what was invisible before: and then we are in the other world, when we can see it, and converse with it. Thus St. Paul tells us, that 'when we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; but when we are absent from the body, we are present with the Lord,' Cor. v. 6, 8. And methinks this is enough to reassure of our fondness for these bodies, unless we think it more desirable to be confined to a prison, and to look through a grate all our lives, which gives us but a very narrow prospect, and that none of the best neither, than to be set at liberty to view the glories of the world. What would we give for the least glimpse of that invisible world, which the first step we take out of these bodies will present us with? There are such things 'as we bath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive.' Death opens our eyes, enlarges our prospect, presents us with a new and more glorious world, which we can never see while we are shut up in flesh; which could make us as willing to part with this veil, as to take the film off of our eyes which hinders our sight."

'As a thinking man cannot but be very much affected with the idea of his appearing in the presence of that Being "whom none can see and feel," he must be much more affected when he considers that this Being which he appears before will examine all the actions of his past life, and reward or punish him accordingly. I must confess that I think there is no scheme of religion, besides that of Christianity, which can possibly support the most virtuous person under this thought. Let a man's innocence be what it will, let his virtues rise to the highest pitch of perfection attainable in this life, there will be still in him so many secret vices, many human frailties, so many offences of ignorance, passion, and prejudice, so many unguarded words and thoughts, and, in short, so many defects in his best actions, that, without the advantages of such an expiation and atonement as Christianity is revealed to us, it is impossible that he should be cleared before his Sovereign Judge, or that he could be able to "stand in his sight." Our holy religion suggests to us the only means whereby our guilt may be taken away, and our imperfect obedience accepted.

'It is this series of thought that I have endeavoured to express in the following hymn, which I have composed during this my sickness:

"When, rising from the bed of death,
O'erwhelm'd with guilt and fear,
I see my Maker, face to face,
O how shall I appear!

"If yet, while pardon may be found,
And mercy may be sought,
My heart with inward horror shrinks,
And trembles at the thought;

"When thou, O Lord, shalt stand disclosed
In majesty severe,
And sit in judgment on my soul,
O how shall I appear!

"But thou hast told the troubled mind,
Who does her sins lament,
The timely tribute of her tears
Shall endless woe prevent.

"Then see the sorrow of my heart,
Ere yet it be too late;
And hear my Saviour's dying groans,
To give those sorrows weight.

"For never shall my soul despair,
Her pardon to procure,
Who knows thine only son has dy'd
To make her pardon sure."

'There is a noble hymn in French, which Monsieur Bayle has celebrated for a very fine one, and which the famous author of the Art of Speaking calls an admirable one, that turns upon a thought of the same nature. If I could have done it justice in English, I would have sent it you translated; it was written by Monsieur des Barreaux, who had been one of the greatest wits and libertines in France, but in his last years was as remarkable a penitent.

*"Grand Dieu, tes jugemens sont remplis d'équité;
Toujours tu prens plaisir à nous être propice.
Mais j'ai tant fait de mal, que jamais tu boudé
Ne me pardonneras, sans choquer ta justice.
Oui, mon Dieu, la grandeur de mon impiété
Ne laisse à ton pouvoir que le choix du supplice:
Ton intérêt s'oppose à ma félicité:
Et ta clemence même attend que je perisse.
Contente ton désir, puis qu'il t'est glorieux:
Offense toy des pleurs qui coulent de mes yeux;
Tonne, frappe, il est tems, rends moi guerre pour guerre,
J'adore en perissant la raison qui l'aigrit.
Mais dessus quel endroit tombera ton tonnerre,
Qui ne soit tout couvert du sang de Jesus Christ?"*

'If these thoughts may be serviceable to you, I desire you would place them in a proper light, and am ever, with great sincerity,

'sir, yours, &c.'

O.

ADDISON.

Nº 514. MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1712.

*— Me Parnassi deserti per ardua dulcis
Raptat amor; juxta ire jugis qua nulla priorem
Castaliam molis divertitur orbita clivo.*
VIRG. Georg. III. ver. 291.

But the commanding Muse my chariot guides,
Which o'er the dubious cliff securely rides:
And pleas'd I am no beaten road to take,
But first the way to new discoveries make.

DRYDEN.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I CAME home a little later than usual the other night; and, not finding myself inclined to sleep, I took up Virgil to divert me till I should be more disposed to rest. He is the author whom I always choose on such occasions; no one writing in so divine, so harmonious, nor so equal a strain, which leaves the mind composed and softened into an agreeable melancholy; the temper, in which, of all others, I choose to close the day. The passages I turned to were those beautiful raptures in his Georgics, where he professes himself entirely given up to the Muses, and smit with the love of poetry, passionately wishing to be transported to the cool shades and retirements of the mountain Hæmus. I closed the book and went to bed. What I had just before been reading made so strong an impression on my mind, that fancy seemed almost to fulfil to me the wish of Virgil, in presenting to me the following vision:

'Methought I was on a sudden placed in the plains of Boeotia, where at the end of the horizon I saw the mountain Parnassus rising before me.

The prospect was of so large an extent, that I had long wandered about to find a path which should directly lead me to it, had I not seen at some distance a grove of trees, which, in a plain that had nothing else remarkable enough in it to fix my sight, immediately determined me to go thither. When I arrived at it, I found it parted out into a great number of walks and alleys, which often widened into beautiful openings, as circles or ovals, set round with yews and cypresses, with niches, grottos, and caves, placed on the sides, encompassed with ivy. There was no sound to be heard in the whole place, but only that of a gentle breeze passing over the leaves of the forest; every thing beside was buried in a profound silence. I was captivated with the beauty and retirement of the place, and never so much, before that hour, was pleased with the enjoyment of myself. I indulged the humour, and suffered myself to wander without choice or design. At length, at the end of a range of trees, I saw three figures seated on a bank of moss, with a silent brook creeping at their feet. I adored them as the tutelary divinities of the place, and stood still to take a particular view of each of them. The middlemost, whose name was Solitude, sat with her arms across each other, and seemed rather pensive, and wholly taken up with her own thoughts, than any ways grieved or displeased. The only companions which she admitted into that retirement was, the goddess Silence, who sat on her right hand with her finger on her mouth, and on her left Contemplation, with her eyes fixed upon the heavens. Before her lay a celestial globe, with several schemes of mathematical theorems. She prevented my speech with the greatest affability in the world. "Fear not," said she, "I know your request before you speak it; you would be led to the mountain of the Muses; the only way to it lies through this place, and no one is so often employed in conducting persons thither as myself." When she had thus spoken, she rose from her seat, and I immediately placed myself under her direction; but whilst I passed through the grove I could not help inquiring of her who were the persons admitted into that sweet retirement. "Surely," said I, "there can nothing enter here but virtue and virtuous thoughts; the whole wood seems designed for the reception and reward of such persons as have spent their lives according to the dictates of their conscience, and the commands of the gods."—"You imagine right," said she; "assure yourself this place was at first designed for no other: such it continued to be in the reign of Saturn, when none entered here but holy priests, deliverers of their country from oppression and tyranny, who reposed themselves here after their labours, and those whom the study and love of wisdom had fitted for divine conversation. But now it is become no less dangerous than it was before desirable: vice has learned so to mimic virtue, that it often creeps in hither under its disguise. See there! just before you, Revenge stalking by, habited in the robe of Honour. Observe not far from him Ambition standing alone; if you ask him his name, he will tell you it is Emulation, or Glory. But the most frequent intruder we have is Lust, who succeeds now the deity to whom in better days this grove was entirely devoted. Virtuous Love, with Hymen and the Graces attending him, once reigned in this happy place: a whole train of virtues waited on him, and no dishonourable thought durst presume for admittance. But now, how is the whole prospect changed! and how seldom renewed by some few who dare despise

sordid wealth, and imagine themselves fit for notions for so charming a divinity!"

The goddess had no sooner said this, but we were arrived at the utmost boundaries of the plain which lay contiguous to a plain that ended at the foot of the mountain. Here I kept close to the guide, being solicited by several phantoms, who assured me they would show me a nearer way to the mountain of the Muses. Among the rest, one was extremely importunate, having described infinite numbers, whom I saw wandering at the foot of the hill. I turned away from these, and followed my guide with disdain; and, addressing him, he should be able to reach up part of the ascent, I despaired of having strength enough to attain the plain on the top. But, being informed by him it was impossible to stand upon the sides, unless if I did not proceed onwards I should immediately fall down to the lowest verge, I resolved to exert any labour and hardship in the attempt: so that I desired had I of enjoying the satisfaction I had, to meet with at the end of my enterprise!

There were two paths, which led up by different ways to the summit of the mountain; the one was guarded by the genius which presides over the moment of our births. He had it in charge to examine the several pretensions of those who desired to pass that way, but to admit none, excepting those only on whom Melpomene had cast with a propitious eye at the hour of their nativity. The other way was guarded by Diligence, to whom many of those persons applied who had not a denial the other way; but he was so tedious in granting their request, and indeed after a long time the way was so very intricate and laborious, that many, after they had made some progress, chose rather to return back than proceed, as very few persisted so long as to arrive at the summit they proposed. Besides these two paths, which length severally led to the top of the mountain, there was a third made up of these two, which a little after the entrance joined in one. These carried those happy few, whose good fortune it was to find it, directly to the throne of Apollo. I did not know whether I should even now have had the resolution to have demanded entrance at either of these doors, had I not seen a pleasant-looking man (followed by a numerous and lovely train of youth of both sexes) insist upon entrance for all whom he led up. He put me in mind of the clown who is painted in the map for leading poor Eugene over the Alps. He had a bundle of papers in his hand; and, producing several, that he said were given to him by hands which he knew Apollo would allow as passes; among which, I thought I saw some of my own writings; the whole assembly was admitted, and gave by their presence a new beauty and pleasure to these happy mansions. I found the man did not pretend to enter himself, but served as a kind of porter in the laws, to direct passengers, who by their own merit, or instruction he procured for them, had virtue enough to travel that way. I looked very attentively upon this kind homely benefactor, and forgive me, Mr. Spectator, if I own to you I took him for yourself. We were no sooner entered, but we were sprinkled three times with the waters of the fountain of Aganippe, which had power to deliver us from all harms, but only envy, which reacheth even to the end of our journey. We did not proceed far in the middle path, when we arrived at the summit of the hill, where there immediately appeared to us two figures, which extremely

engaged my attention; the one was a young nymph in the prime of her youth and beauty; she had wings on her shoulders and feet, and was able to transport herself to the most distant regions in the smallest space of time. She was continually varying her dress, sometimes into the most natural and becoming habits in the world, and at others into the most wild and freakish garb that can be imagined. There stood by her a man full aged and of great gravity, who corrected her inconsistencies by showing them in his mirror, and still hung her affected and unbecoming ornaments down the mountain, which fell in the plain below, and were gathered up and wore with great satisfaction by those that inhabited it. The name of the nymph was Fancy, the daughter of Liberty, the most beautiful of all the mountain nymphs: the other was Judgment, the offspring of Time, and the only child he acknowledged to be his. A youth, who sat upon a throne just between them, was their genuine offspring; his name was Wit, and his seat was composed of the works of the most celebrated authors. I could not but see with a secret joy, that though the Greeks and Romans made the majority, yet our own countrymen were the next both in number and dignity. I was now at liberty to take a full prospect of that delightful region. I was inspired with new vigour and life, and saw every thing in nobler and more pleasing views than before: I breathed a purer ether in a sky which was a continued azure, gilded with perpetual sunshine. The two summits of the mountain rose on each side, and formed in the midst a most delicious vale, the habitation of the Muses, and of such as had composed works worthy of immortality. Apollo was seated upon a throne of gold, and for canopy an aged laurel spread its boughs and its shade over his head. His bow and quiver lay at his feet. He held his harp in his hand, whilst the Muses sung about him celebrated with hymns his victory over the serpent Python, and sometimes sung in softer notes the loves of Leucothoe and Daphnê. Homer, Virgil, and Milton, were seated the next to them. Behind were a great number of others; among whom I was surprised to see some in the habit of Laplanders, who, notwithstanding the unbecomingness of their dress, had lately obtained a place upon the mountain. I saw Pindar walking all alone, no one daring to accost him, till Cowley joined himself to him: but, growing weary of one who almost walked him out of breath, he left him for Horace and Anacreon, with whom he seemed infinitely delighted.

A little further I saw another group of figures; made up to them, and found it was Socrates dictating to Xenophon, and the spirit of Plato; but, most of all, Musæus had the greatest audience about him. I was at too great a distance to hear what he said, or to discover the faces of his hearers; only I thought I now perceived Virgil, who had joined them, and stood in a posture full of admiration at the harmony of his words.

Lastly, at the very brink of the hill, I saw localini sending dispatches to the world below of what happened upon Parnassus; but I perceived he did it without leave of the Muses, and by stealth, and was unwilling to have them revised by Apollo. I could now, from this height and serenity, behold the infinite cares and anxieties with which mortals below sought out their way through the maze of life. I saw the path of Virtue lie straight before them, whilst Interest, or some malicious demon, still hurried them out of the way. I was at once touched with pleasure at my own

happiness, and compassion at the sight of their inextricable errors. Here the two contending passions rose so high, that they were inconsistent with the sweet repose I enjoyed; and, awaking with a sudden start, the only consolation I could admit of for my loss, was the hopes that this relation of my dream will not displease you.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 515. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1712.

*Pudet me et miseri, qui harum moris cantabat mihi,
Mouisse frustra—*

TER. Heaut. act. ii. sc. 3.

I am ashamed and grieved, that I neglected his advice, who gave me the character of these creatures.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

I AM obliged to you for printing the account I lately sent you of a coquette who disturbed a sober congregation in the city of London*. That intelligence ended at her taking a coach, and bidding the driver go where he knew. I could not leave her so, but dogged her, as hard as she drove, to Paul’s Church-yard, where there was a stop of coaches attending company coming out of the cathedral. This gave me an opportunity to hold up a crown to her coachman, who gave me the signal, that he would hurry on, and make no haste, as you know the way is when they favour a chase. By his many kind blunders, driving against other coaches, and slipping off some of his tackle, I could keep up with him, and lodged my fine lady in the parish of St. James’s. As I guessed, when I first saw her at church, her business is to win hearts, and throw them away, regarding nothing but the triumph. I have had the happiness, by tracing her through all with whom I heard she was acquainted, to find one who was intimate with a friend of mine, and to be introduced to her notice. I have made so good use of my time, as to procure from that intimate of hers one of her letters, which she writ to her when in the country. This epistle of her own may serve to alarm the world against all her ordinary life, as mine, I hope, did those who shall behold her at church. The letter was written last winter to the lady who gave it me; and I doubt not but you will find it the soul of an happy self-loving dame, that takes all the admiration she can meet with, and returns none of it in love to her admirers.

“DEAR JENNY,

I AM glad to find you are likely to be disposed of in marriage so much to your approbation as you tell me. You say you are afraid only of me, for I shall laugh at your spouse’s airs. I beg of you not to fear it, for I am too nice a discerner to laugh at any, but whom most other people think fine fellows; so that your dear may bring you hither as soon as his horses are in case enough to appear in town, and you be very safe against any railillery you may apprehend from me; for I am surrounded with coxcombs of my own making, who are all ridiculous in a manner your good man, I presume, cannot exert himself. As men who cannot raise their fortunes, and are uneasy under the incapacity of shining at court, rail at ambition; so do awkward and insipid women, who cannot warm the hearts and charm the eyes of men, rail

at affectation: but she that has the joy of seeing a man's heart leap into his eyes at beholding her, is in no pain for want of esteem among the crew of that part of her own sex, who have no spirit but that of envy, and no language but that of malice. I do not in this, I hope, express myself insensible of the merit of Leodacia, who lowers her beauty to all but her husband, and never spreads her charms but to gladden him who has a right in them; I do honour to those who can be coquettes, and are not such; but I despise all who would be so; and, in despair of arriving at it themselves, hate and villify all those who can. But be that as it will, in answer to your desire of knowing my history: one of my chief present pleasures is in country dances; and, in obedience to me, as well as the pleasure of coming up to me with a good grace, showing themselves in their address to others in my presence, and the like opportunities, they are all proficient that way; and I had the happiness of being the other night where we made six couple, and every woman's partner a professed lover of mine. The wildest imagination cannot form to itself, on any occasion, higher delight than I acknowledge myself to have been in all that evening. I chose out of my admirers a set of men who most love me, and gave them partners of such of my own sex who most envied me.

"My way is, when any man who is my admirer pretends to give himself airs of merit, as at this time a certain gentleman you know did, to mortify him by favouring in his presence the most insignificant creature I can find. At this ball I was led into the company by pretty Mr. Fanny, who, you know, is the most obsequious, well shaped, well bred woman's man in town. I at first entrance declared him my partner if I danced at all; which put the whole assembly into a grin, as forming no terrors from such a rival. But we had not been long in the room before I overheard the meritorious gentleman above mentioned say with an oath, 'There is no raillery in the thing, she certainly loves the puppy.' My gentleman, when we were dancing, took an occasion to be very soft in his ogling upon a lady he danced with, and whom he knew of all women I love most to outshine. The contest began who should plague the other most. I, who do not care a farthing for him, had no hard task to outvex him. I made Fanny, with a very little encouragement, cut capers coupees, and then sink with all the air and tenderness imaginable. When he performed this, I observed the gentleman you know of, fall into the same way, and imitate, as well as he could, the despised Fanny. I cannot well give you, you are so grave a country lady, the idea of the joy we have when we see a stubborn heart breaking, or a man of sense turning fool for our sakes; but this happened to our friend, and I expect his attendance whenever I go to church, to court, to the play, or the park. This is a sacrifice due to us women of genius, who have the eloquence of beauty, an easy mien. I mean by an easy mien, one which can be on occasion easily affected: for I must tell you, dear Jenny, I hold one maxim, which is an uncommon one, to wit, that our greatest charms are owing to affectation. It is to that our arms can lodge so quietly just over our hips, and the fan can play without any force or motion but just of the wrist. It is to affectation we owe the pensive attention of Deidamia at a tragedy, the scornful approbation of Dulcimara at a comedy, and the lowly aspect of Lanquicela at a sermon.

"To tell you the plain truth, I know no plea-

sure but in being admired, and have yet never failed of attaining the approbation of the men whose regard I had a mind to. You see all the men who make a figure in the world (as we look as they are pleased to put upon the matter) are moved by the same vanity as I am. What is there in ambition, but to make other people's wish depend upon your's? This indeed is not to be aimed at by one who has a genius no higher than I think of being a very good housewife in a country gentleman's family. The care of poultry and pe are great enemies to the countenance; the vacant look of a fine lady is not to be preserved, if she admits any thing to take up her thoughts but her own dear person. But I interrupt you too long from your cares, and myself from my conquests.

"I am, MADAM,
"Your most humble servant."

'Give me leave, Mr. Spectator, to add to friend's answer to this epistle, who is a very discreet ingenious woman.

"DEAR GATTY,
"I TAKE your raillery in very good part, and am obliged to you for the free air with which you speak of your own gaieties. But this is but a barren superficial pleasure; for, indeed, GATTY, you are made for man; and in serious and manly I tell you, whether you yourself know it or no, all these gallantries tend to no other end but to be a wife and a mother as fast as you can.

"I am, MADAM,
"Your most humble servant."

STEEL.

7.

Nº 516. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1712

*Immortale odium et nunquam ornabile robur.
Inde furor vulgo, quod numina vicinorum
Odii uterque locus, quum solus credit habenda
Est deos quos ipse colit—*

JUV. Sat. xv. ver. 2.

— A grutch, time out of mind begun,
And mutually bequeath'd from sire to son:
Religious spite and pious spleen bred first
The quarrel which so long the bigots warr'd;
Each calls the other's god a senseless stock;
His own divine.

TATE.

Of all the monstrous passions and opinions which have crept into the world, there is none so wonderful as that those, who profess the common sense of Christians, should pursue each other with so much and hatred for differences in their views following the example of their Saviour. It seems so natural that all who pursue the steps of our leader should form themselves after his example that it is impossible to account for effects so different from what we might expect from those who profess themselves followers of the highest principle of meekness and charity, but by ascribing such effects to the ambition and corruption of those who are so audacious, with souls full of fury, as at the altars of the God of Peace.

The massacres to which the Church of Rome has animated the ordinary people, are dreadful instances of the truth of this observation; and whoever reads the history of the Irish rebellion, and the cruelties which ensued thereupon, will be sufficiently convinced to what rage poor ignorance may be worked up by those who profess holiness, and become incendiaries, and under the pretence of grace promote evils abhorrent to nature.

This subject and catastrophe, which deserves so well to be remarked by the protestant world, will, I doubt not, be considered, by the reverend and earned prelate that preaches to-morrow before many of the descendants of those who perished on that lamentable day, in a manner suitable to the occasion, and worthy his own great virtue and eloquence.

I shall not dwell upon it any further, but only transcribe out of a little tract, called 'The Christian Hero,' published in 1701, what I find there in honour of the renowned hero, William III. who rescued that nation from the repetition of the same disasters. His late majesty, of glorious memory, and the most christian king, are considered at the conclusion of that treatise as heads of the protestant and Roman catholic world in the following manner:

'There were not ever, before the entrance of the Christian name into the world, men who have maintained a more renowned carriage, than the two great rivals who possess the full fame of the present age, and will be the theme and examination of the future. They are exactly formed by nature for those ends to which heaven seems to have put them amongst us: both animated with a restless desire of glory, but pursue it by different means, and with different motives. To one it consists in an extensive undisputed empire over his subjects, to the other in their rational and voluntary obedience. One's happiness is founded in his want of power, the other's in their want of desire to oppose him. The one enjoys the summit of fortune with the luxury of a Persian, the other with the moderation of a Spartan. One is made to oppress, the other to relieve the oppressed. The one is satisfied with the pomp and ostentation of power to prefer and debase his inferiors, the other delighted only with the cause and foundation of it to cherish and protect them. To one therefore religion is but a convenient disguise, to the other a rigorous motive of action.

'For, without such ties of real and solid honour, there is no way of forming a monarch, but after the Machiavelian scheme, by which a prince must never seem to have all virtues, but really to be master of none; but is to be liberal, merciful, and just, only as they serve his interests; while, with the noble art of hypocrisy, empire would be to be extended, and new conquests be made by new devices, by which prompt address his creatures might sensibly give law in the business of life, by leading men in the entertainment of it.

'Thus, when words and show are apt to pass for substantial things they are only to express, here would need no more to enslave a country than to adorn a court; for, while every man's envy makes him believe himself capable of becoming luxury, enjoyments are a ready bait for offerings, and the hopes of preferment invitations to servitude; which slavery would be coloured with all the agreements, as they call it, imaginable. The noblest arts and artists, the finest pens and most elegant minds, jointly employed to set it off with the various embellishments of sumptuous entertainments, charming assemblies, and polished discourses, and those apostate abilities of men, the adored monarch might profusely and skillfully encourage, while they flatter his virtue, and gild his vice at so high a rate, that he, without scorn of being one, or love of the other, would alternately and occasionally use both: so that his bounty should support him in his rapine, his mercy in his cruelties.

'Nor is it to give things a more severe look than is natural, to suppose such must be the consequences of a prince's having no other pursuit than that of his own glory; for if we consider an infant born into the world, and beholding itself the mightiest thing in it, itself the present admiration and future prospect of a fawning people, who profess themselves great or mean, according to the figure he is to make amongst them, what fancy would not be debauched to believe they were but what they professed themselves, his mere creatures, and use them as such by purchasing with their lives a boundless renown, which he, for want of a more just prospect, would place in the number of his slaves, and the extent of his territories? Such undoubtedly would be the tragical effects of a prince's living with no religion, which are not to be surpassed but by his having a false one.

'If ambition were spirited with zeal, what would follow, but that his people should be converted into an army, whose swords can make right in power, and solve controversy in belief? And if men should be stiff-necked to the doctrine of that visible church, let them be contented with an oar and a chain, in the midst of stripes and anguish, to contemplate on him, whose yoke is easy, and whose burden is light.

'With a tyranny begun on his own subjects, and indignation that others draw their breath independent of his frown or smile, why should he not proceed to the seizure of the world? And if nothing but the thirst of sway were the motive of his actions, why should treaties be other than mere words, or solemn national compacts be any thing but an halt in the march of that army, who are never to lay down their arms till all men are reduced to the necessity of hanging their lives on his wayward will; who might supinely, and at leisure, expiate his own sins by other men's sufferings, while he daily meditates new slaughter and new conquests?

'For mere man, when giddy with unbridled power, is an insatiate idol, not to be appeased with myriads offered to his pride, which may be puffed up by the adulation of a base and prostrate world, into an opinion that he is something more than human, by being something less: and, alas, what is there that mortal man will not believe of himself, when complimented with the attributes of God? He can then conceive thoughts of a power as omnipresent as his. But, should there be such a foe of mankind now upon earth, have our sins so far provoked Heaven, that we are left utterly naked to his fury? Is there no power, no leader, no genius, that can conduct and animate us to our death, or our defence? Yes; our great God never gave one to reign by his permission, but he gave to another also to reign by his grace.

'All the circumstances of the illustrious life of our prince seem to have conspired to make him the check and bridle of tyranny; for his mind has been strengthened and confirmed by one continued struggle, and Heaven has educated him by adversity to a quick sense of the distresses and miseries of mankind, which he was born to redress. In just scorn of the trivial glories and light ostentations of power, that glorious instrument of Providence moves, like that, in a steady, calm, and silent course, independent either of applause or calumny; which renders him, if not in a political, yet in a moral, a philosophic, an heroic, and a Christian sense, an absolute monarch; who, satisfied with this unchangeable, just, and ample glory, must needs turn all his regards from himself to the service of others; for he begins his

enterprises with his own share in the success of them; for integrity bears in itself its reward, nor can that which depends not on event ever know disappointment.

‘With the undoubted character of a glorious captain, and (what he much more values than the most splendid titles) that of a sincere and honest man, he is the hope and stay of Europe, an universal good; not to be engrossed by us only, for distant potentates implore his friendship, and injured empires court his assistance. He rules the world, not by an invasion of the people of the earth, but the address of its princes; and, if that world should be again roused from the repose which his prevailing arms had given it, why should we not hope that there is an Almighty, by whose influence the terrible enemy that thinks himself prepared for battle may find he is but ripe for destruction?—and that there may be in the womb of time great incidents, which may make the catastrophe of a prosperous life as unfortunate as the particular scenes of it were successful?—for there does not want a skilful eye and resolute arm to observe and grasp the occasion. A prince, who from—

“ — *Fuit Illium et ingens
Gloria* —

VIRG. *Æn. li. ver. 325.*

“ Troy is no more, and Illium was a town.”
DRYDEN.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 517. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1712.

Mou pietas! heu pricea fides! —

VIRG. *Æn. vi. ver. 578.*

Mirror of ancient faith!
Undaunted worth! Inviolable truth!
DRYDEN.

WE last night received a piece of ill news at our club, which very sensibly afflicted every one of us. I question not but my readers themselves will be troubled at the hearing of it. To keep them no longer in suspense, Sir Roger de Coverley is dead *. He departed this life at his house in the country, after a few weeks sickness. Sir Andrew Freeport has a letter from one of his correspondents in those parts, that informs him the old man caught a cold at the county-sessions, as he was very warmly promoting an address of his own penning in which he succeeded according to his wishes. But this particular comes from a whig justice of peace, who was always Sir Roger's enemy and antagonist. I have letters both from the chaplain and Captain Sentry, which mention nothing of it, but are filled with many particulars to the honour of the good old man. I have likewise a letter from the butler, who took so much care of me last summer when I was at the knight's house. As my friend the butler mentions, in the simplicity of his heart, several circumstances the others have passed over in silence,

* Budgell, in a weekly pamphlet which he set up in 1732-3, under the title of *The Bee*, says: ‘Mr. Addison was so fond of this character; that a little before he laid down the *Spectator*, (foreseeing that some nimble gentleman would catch up his pen the moment he quitted it) he said to an intimate friend, with a certain warmth in his expression, which he was not often guilty of, “By G—, I’ll kill Sir Roger, that nobody else may murder him.” Accordingly the whole *Spectator*, Nº 517, consists of nothing else but an account of the old knight's death, and some moving circumstances which attended it.’—It is, however, very probable that the character of Sir Roger de Coverley was originally the invention of Steele, and afterwards wrought up by Addison.

I shall give my reader a copy of his letter, without any alteration or diminution.

‘HONOURED SIR,

‘KNOWING that you was my old master's good friend, I could not forbear sending you the melancholy news of his death, which has afflicted the whole country, as well as his poor servants. I loved him, I may say, better than we did our lord. I am afraid he caught his death the last county-sessions, where he would go to see justice done to a poor widow woman, and her fatherless children, that had been wronged by a neighbouring gentleman; for you know, sir, my good master was always the poor man's friend. Upon his coming home, the first complaint he made was, that he had lost his roast-beef stomach, not being able to touch a sirloin, which was served up according to custom: and you know he used to take great delight in it. From that time forward he grew worse and worse, but still kept a good heart to the last. Indeed we were once in great hope of his recovery, upon a kind message that was sent him from the widow lady whom he had made love to the forty last years of his life; but this proved a lightning before death. He has bequeathed to this lady, as a token of his love, a great pearl necklace, and a couple of silver bracelets set with jewels, which belonged to a good old lady his mother. He has bequeathed the fine white gelding that he used to ride a hunting upon, to his chaplain, because he thought he was kind to him, and has left you all his books. He has, moreover, bequeathed to the chaplain a very pretty tenement with good lands about it. It being a very cold day when he made his will, he left for mourning to every man in the parish a grey-frize-coat, and to every woman a black riding-hood. It was a most moving sight to see him take leave of his poor servants, commending us all to our fidelity, whilst we were not able to speak a word for weeping. As we most of us are grown grey-headed in our dear master's service, he has left us pensions and legacies, which we may live very comfortably upon the remaining part of our days. He has bequeathed a great deal more of charity, which is not yet come to my knowledge, and it is peremptorily said in the parish, that he has left money to build a steeple to the church; for he was heard to say some time ago, that, if he lived two years longer, Coverley church should have a steeple to it. The chaplain tells every body that he made a very good end, and never speaks of him without tears. He was buried, according to his own directions, among the family of the Coverleys, on the left hand of his father Sir Arthur. The coffin was carried by six of his tenants, and the pall held up by six of the quorum. The whole parish followed the corpse with heavy hearts, and in their mourning suits; the men in frize, and the women in riding-hoods. Captain Sentry, my master's nephew, has taken possession of the Hall-house, and the whole estate. When my old master saw him a little before his death, he shook him by the hand, and wished him joy of the estate which was falling to him, desiring him only to make a good use of it, and to pay the several legacies, and the gifts of charity, which he said him he had left as quit-rents upon the estate. The captain truly seems a courteous man, though he says but little. He makes much of those whom my master loved, and shows great kindness to the old house-dog, that you know my poor master was so fond of. It would have gone to your heart to

ave heard the moans the dumb creature made on the day of my master's death. He has never joyed himself since; no more has any of us. It was the melancholiest day for the poor people that ever appened in Worcestershire. This is all from,

HONOURED SIR,
'Your most sorrowful servant,
EDWARD BISCOIT.

'P. S. My master desired, some weeks before he died, that a book, which comes up to you by the carrier, should be given to Sir Andrew Freeport in its name.'

This letter, notwithstanding the poor butler's manner of writing it, gave us such an idea of our good old friend, that upon the reading of it there was not a dry eye in the club. Sir Andrew opening the book, found it to be a collection of acts of parliament. There was in particular the Act of Uniformity, with some passages in it marked by Sir Roger's own hand. Sir Andrew found that they related to two or three points which he had disputed with Sir Roger the last time he appeared at the club. Sir Andrew, who would have been merry at such an incident on another occasion, at the sight of the old man's hand-writing burst into tears, and put the book into his pocket. Captain Sentry informs me that the knight has left rings and mourning for every one in the club.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 518. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1712.

*Miserum est aliena incumbere fama,
Ne collopea ruant subdactis tecta columnis.*
JUV. Sat. viii. ver. 76.

'Tis poor relying on another's fame;
For, take the pillars but away, and all
The superstructure must in ruins fall.
STEPNEY.

'When being a day of business with me, I must make the present entertainment like a treat at an housewarming, out of such presents as have been sent me by my guests. The first dish which I serve up is a letter come fresh to my hand.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

It is with inexpressible sorrow that I hear of the death of good Sir Roger, and do heartily condole with you upon so melancholy an occasion. I think you ought to have blackened the edges of a paper which brought us so ill news, and to have had it tamped likewise in black. It is expected of you that you should write his epitaph, and if possible fill his place in the club with as worthy and diverting a member. I question not but you will receive many recommendations from the public of such as will appear candidates for that post.

'Since I am talking of death, and have mentioned an epitaph, I must tell you, sir, that I have made discovery of a church-yard, in which I believe you might spend an afternoon, with great pleasure to yourself and to the public. It belongs to the church of Stebon-Heath, commonly called Stepney. Whether or no it be that the people of that parish have a particular genius for an epitaph, or that there be some poet among them who undertakes that work by the great, I cannot tell; but here are more remarkable inscriptions in that place than in any other I have met with; and I

may say, without vanity, that there is not a gentleman in England better read in tomb-stones than myself, my studies having laid very much in church-yards. I shall beg leave to send you a couple of epitaphs, for a sample of those I have just now mentioned. They are written in a different manner: the first being in the diffused and luxuriant, the second in the close contracted style. The first has much of the simple and pathetic; the second is something light, but nervous. The first is thus:

"Here Thomas Sapper lies interr'd. Ah why!
Born in New England, did in London die;
Was the third son of eight, begot upon
His mother Martha, by his father John.
Much favour'd by his prince he 'gan to be,
But nipt by death at th' age of twenty-three.
Fatal to him was that we small-pox name,
By which his mother and two brethren came
Also to breathe their last, nine years before,
And now have left their father to deplore
The loss of all his children, with his wife,
Who was the joy and comfort of his life."

'The second is as follows:

"Here lies the body of Daniel Sanl,
Spittlefields weaver, and that's all."

'I will not dismiss you, whilst I am upon this subject, without sending a short epitaph which I once met with, though I cannot possibly recollect the place. The thought of it is serious, and in my opinion the finest that I ever met with upon this occasion. You know, sir, it is usual, after having told us the name of the person who lies interred, to launch out into his praises. This epitaph takes a quite contrary turn, having been made by the person himself some time before his death.

"Hic jacet R. C. in expectatione diei supremi. Qualis erat, dies iste indicabit."

"Here lieth R. C. in expectation of the last day. What sort of a man he was, that day will discover."

'I am, sir, &c.' *

The following letter is dated from Cambridge:

'SIR,

'HAVING lately read among your speculations an essay upon Physiognomy†, I cannot but think that, if you made a visit to this ancient university, you might receive very considerable lights upon that subject, there being scarce a young fellow in it who does not give certain indications of his particular humour and disposition, conformable to the rules of that art. In courts and cities every body lays a constraint upon his countenance, and endeavours to look like the rest of the world; but the youth of this place, having not yet formed themselves by conversation and the knowledge of the world, give their limbs and features their full play.

'As you have considered human nature in all its lights, you must be extremely well apprised, that there is a very close correspondence between the outward and the inward man; that scarce the least dawning, the least puerility towards a thought can be stirring in the mind of man, without pro-

* A writer in the European Magazine gives the following as an exact copy of this epitaph on Thomas Crouch, who died in 1679.

'Aperiet Deus tumulos, et educet nos de sepulchris.
Qualis eram, dies isthæc cum venerit, aget.'
Europ. Mag. July 1787, p. 9.

† See Nos. 86 and 906.

ducing a suitable revolution in his exterior, which will easily discover itself to an adept in the theory of the phiz. Hence it is that the intrinsic worth and merit of a son of Alma Mater is ordinarily calculated from the cast of his visage, the contour of his person, the mechanism of his dress, the disposition of his limbs, the manner of his gait and air, with a number of circumstances of equal consequence and information. The practitioners in this art often make use of a gentleman's eyes to give them light into the posture of his brains; take a handle from his nose to judge of the size of his intellects; and interpret the overmuch visibility and pertness of one ear as an infallible mark of reprobation, and a sign the owner of so saucy a member fears neither God nor man. In conformity to this scheme, a contracted brow, a lumpish down-cast look, a sober sedate pace, with both hands dangling quiet and steady in lines exactly parallel to each lateral pocket of his galligaskins, is logic, metaphysics, and mathematics, in perfection. So likewise the belles lettres are typified by a manner in the gait, a fall of one wing of the peruke backward, an insertion of one hand in the fob, and a negligent swing of the other, with a pinch of right and fine Barcelona between finger and thumb, a due quantity of the same upon the upper lip, and a noddle-case loaden with pulvil. Again, a grave solemn staking pace is heroic poetry, and politics; an unequal one, a genius for the ode, and the modern ballad; and an open breast, with an audacious display of the Holland shirt, is construed a fatal tendency to the art military.

'I might be much larger upon these hints, but I know whom I write to. If you can graft any speculation upon them, or turn them to the advantage of the persons concerned in them, you will do a work very becoming the British Spectator, and oblige

'Your very humble servant,
'TOM TWEED *.'

N° 519. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1712.

*Inde hominum pecudumque genus, ceteraque volentem,
Et que marmore fert monstra sub equore pontus.*
VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 728.

Hence men and beasts the breath of life obtain,
And birds of air, and monsters of the main.
DRYDEN.

THOUGH there is a great deal of pleasure in contemplating the material world, by which I mean that system of bodies into which nature has so curiously wrought the mass of dead matter, with the several relations which those bodies bear to one another; there is still, methinks, something more wonderful and surprising in contemplations on the world of life, by which I mean all those animals with which every part of the universe is furnished. The material world is only the shell of the universe; the world of life are its inhabitants.

If we consider those parts of the material world which lie the nearest to us, and are therefore subject to our observations and inquiries, it is amazing to consider the infinity of animals with which it is stocked. Every part of matter is peopled; every green leaf swarms with inhabitants. There is scarce a single humour in the body of a man, or of any other animal, in which our glasses do not discover

myriads of living creatures. The surface of animals is also covered with other animals, which in the same manner the basis of other animals live upon it; nay, we find in the most solid bodies as in marble itself, innumerable cells and caverns that are crowded with such imperceptible inhabitants, as are too little for the naked eye to discover. On the other hand, if we look into the more bulky parts of nature, we see the sea, lakes and rivers, teeming with numberless kinds of living creatures. We find every mountain and mark of deserts and wood, plentifully stocked with men and beasts; and every part of matter affords proper necessaries and conveniences for the behoof of multitude which inhabit it.

The author of the Plurality of worlds draws a very good argument from this consideration for the peopling of every planet; as indeed it seems very probable, from the analogy of reason, that if a part of matter, which we are acquainted with, is waste and useless, those great bodies, which are at such a distance from us, should not be desert and unpeopled, but rather that they should be furnished with beings adapted to their respective situations.

Existence is a blessing to those beings only who are endowed with perception; and in a mass thrown away upon dead matter, any further use as it is subservient to beings which are conscious of their existence. Accordingly we find, from the bodies which lie under our observation, that matter is only made as the basis and support of animas; and that there is no more of the one than what is necessary for the existence of the other.

Infinite goodness is of so communicative a nature, that it seems to delight in the conferring of existence upon every degree of perceptive being. As this is a speculation which I have often pursued with great pleasure to myself, I shall enlarge further upon it, by considering that part of the world of beings which comes within our knowledge.

There are some living creatures which are more but just above dead matter. To mention only the species of shell-fish, which are formed in the folds of a cone, that grow to the surface of several rocks, and immediately die upon their being severed from the place where they grow. There are many more creatures but one remove from these, which have no other sense but that of feeling and taste. Others have still an additional one of hearing; others of smell, and others of sight. It is wonderful to observe by what a gradual progress the world of beings advances through a prodigious variety of species before a creature is formed that is complete in its senses; and even among these there is such a different degree of perfection in the sense that one animal enjoys beyond what appears in another that though the sense in different animals be distinguished by the same common denomination, it seems almost of a different nature. If after we look into the several inward perfections of cunning and sagacity, or what we generally call instinct, we find them rising after the same manner imperceptibly one above another, and receiving additional improvements, according to the species in which they are implanted. This progress of nature is so very gradual, that the most perfect of an inferior species comes very near to the most imperfect of that which is immediately above it.

The exuberant and overflowing goodness of the Supreme Being, whose mercy extends to all his works, is plainly seen, as I have before hinted

* This last letter was written by the noted orator Hanley.

* Fontenelle.

on his having made so very little matter, at least that falls within our knowledge, that does not harm with life. Nor is his goodness less seen in the diversity than in the multitude of living creatures. Had he only made one species of animals, one of the rest would have enjoyed the happiness of existence; he has, therefore, specified in his creation every degree of life, every capacity of being. The whole chasm of nature, from a plant to a man, is filled up with diverse kinds of creatures, rising one over another, by such a gentle and easy ascent, that the little transitions and deviations from one species to another are almost insensible. This intermediate space is so well husbanded and managed, that there is scarce a degree of perception which does not appear in some one part of the world of life. Is the goodness or wisdom of the Divine Being more manifested in this his proceeding?

There is a consequence, besides those I have ready mentioned, which seems very naturally deducible from the foregoing considerations. If a scale of being rises by such a regular progress, as high as man, we may, by a parity of reason, suppose that it still proceeds gradually through other beings which are of a superior nature to him; since there is an infinitely greater space and room for different degrees of perfection, between the supreme Being and man, than between man and the most despicable insect. The consequence of so great a variety of beings which are superior to us, is that variety which is inferior to us, is made up. Mr. Locke, in a passage which I shall here set out, after having premised, that notwithstanding there is such infinite room between man and his Maker for the creative power to exert itself in, it is impossible that it should ever be filled up, since there will be still an infinite gap or distance between the highest created being and the Power which produced him.

'That there should be more species of intelligent creatures above us, than there are of sensible and material below us, is probable to me from hence: at in all the visible corporeal world we see no seams, or no gaps. All quite down from us the ascent is by easy steps, and a continued series of beings, that in each remove differ very little one from the other. There are fishes that have wings, and are not strangers to the airy region; and there are some birds that are inhabitants of the water; whose blood is cold as fishes, and their flesh so like to ours, that the scrupulous are allowed them on all days. There are animals so near of kin both to birds and beasts, that they are in the middle between both. Amphibious animals link the terrestrial and aquatic together. Seals live at land and at sea, and porpoises have the warm blood and trails of a hog; not to mention what is constantly reported of mermaids, or sea-men, there are some brutes that seem to have as much knowledge and reason as some that are called men; and the animal and vegetable kingdoms are so nearly mixed, that if you will take the lowest of one, and the highest of the other, there will scarce be perceived any great difference between them: and so on, till we come to the lowest and the most inorganic parts of matter, we shall find every where that the several species are linked together, and differ but in almost insensible degrees. And, when we consider the infinite power and wisdom of the Maker, we have reason to think that it is suitable to the magnificent harmony of the universe, and the great design and infinite goodness of the architect, that the species of creatures should also by

gentle degrees ascend upward from us toward his infinite perfection, as we see they gradually descend from us downward; which if it be probable, we have reason then to be persuaded that there are far more species of creatures above us than there are beneath; we being in degrees of perfection much more remote from the infinite being of God, than we are from the lowest state of being, and that which approaches nearest to nothing. And yet of all those distinct species we have no clear distinct ideas.'

In this system of being, there is no creature so wonderful in its nature, and which so much deserves our particular attention, as man, who fills up the middle space between the animal and intellectual nature, the visible and invisible world, and is that link in the chain of beings which has been often termed the *nexus utriusque mundi* . So that he who in one respect is associated with angels and archangels, may look upon a Being 'of infinite perfection' as his father, and the highest order of spirits as his brethren, may in another respect say to corruption, 'Thou art my father; and to the worm, 'Thou art my mother and my sister.'

ADDISON.

O.

N^o 520. MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1712.

*Quis desiderio sit pudor aut modus
Tam chari capitis?*

HOR. Od. xxiv. l. 1. ver. L.

And who can grieve too much? What time shall end
Our mourning for so dear a friend?
CREECH.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THE just value you have expressed for the matrimonial state is the reason that I now venture to write to you, without fear of being ridiculous, and confess to you, that, though it is three months since I lost a very agreeable woman, who was my wife, my sorrow is still fresh; and I am often, in the midst of company, upon any circumstance that revives her memory, with a reflection what she would say or do on such an occasion: I say, upon any occurrence of that nature, which I can give you a sense of, though I cannot express it wholly, I am all over softness, and am obliged to retire and give way to a few sighs and tears before I can be easy. I cannot but recommend the subject of male widowhood to you, and beg of you to touch upon it by the first opportunity. To those who have not lived like husbands during the lives of their spouses, this would be a tasteless jumble of words; but to such (of whom there are not a few) who have enjoyed that state with the sentiments proper for it, you will have every line, which hits the sorrow, attended with a tear of pity and consolation; for I know not by what goodness of Providence it is that every gush of passion is a step towards the relief of it; and there is a certain comfort in the very act of sorrowing, which, I suppose, arises from a secret consciousness in the mind, that the affliction it is under flows from a virtuous cause. My concern is not indeed so outrageous as at the first transport; for I think it has subsided rather into a sober state of mind than any actual perturbation of spirit. There might be rules formed for men's behaviour on this great incident to bring them from that misfortune into the condition I am at present; which is, I think, that my sorrow has converted all roughness of temper into meekness, good-nature, and complacency. But indeed, when in a serious

and lonely hour I present my departed consort to my imagination, with that air of persuasion in her countenance when I have been in passion, that sweet affability when I have been in good-humour, that tender compassion when I have had any thing which gave me uneasiness; I confess to you I am inconsolable, and my eyes gush with grief, 'as if I had seen her but just then expire. In this condition I am broken in upon by a charming young woman, my daughter, who is the picture of what her mother was on her wedding-day. The good girl strives to comfort me; but how shall I let you know that all the comfort she gives me is to make my tears flow more easily? The child knows she quickens my sorrows, and rejoices my heart at the same time. Oh, ye learned! tell me by what word to speak a motion of the soul for which there is no name. When she kneels, and bids me be comforted, she is my child; when I take her in my arms, and bid her say no more, she is my very wife, and is the very comforter I lament the loss of. I banish her the room, and weep aloud that I have lost her mother, and that I have her.

'Mr. Spectator, I wish it were possible for you to have a sense of these pleasing perplexities; you might communicate to the guilty part of mankind that they are incapable of the happiness which is in the very sorrows of the virtuous.

'But pray spare me a little longer; give me leave to tell you the manner of her death. She took leave of all her family, and bore the vain application of medicines with the greatest patience imaginable. When the physician told her she must certainly die, she desired, as well as she could, that all who were present, except myself, might depart the room. She said she had nothing to say, for she was resigned, and I knew all she knew that concerned us in this world; but she desired to be alone, that in the presence of God only she might, without interruption, do her last duty to me, of thanking me for all my kindness to her; adding, that she hoped in my last moments I should feel the same comfort for my goodness to her, as she did in that she had acquitted herself with honour, truth, and virtue, to me.

'I curb myself, and will not tell you that this kindness cut my heart in twain, when I expected an accusation for some passionate starts of mine, in some parts of our time together, to say nothing but thank me for the good, if there was any good suitable to her own excellence! All that I had ever said to her, all the circumstances of sorrow and joy between us, crowded upon my mind in the same instant: and when, immediately after, I saw the pangs of death come upon that dear body which I had often embraced with transport; when I saw those cherishing eyes begin to be ghastly, and their last struggle to be to fix themselves on me, how did I lose all patience! She expired in my arms, and in my distraction I thought I saw her bosom still heave. There was certainly life yet still left. I cried, "She just now spoke to me." But alas! I grew giddy, and all things moved about me, from the distemper of my own head; for the best of women was breathless, and gone for ever.

'Now the doctrine I would, methinks, have you raise from this account I have given you, is, that there is a certain equanimity in those who are good and just, which runs into their very sorrow, and disappoints the force of it. Though they must pass through afflictions in common with all who are in human nature, yet their conscious integrity shall undermine their affliction; nay, that very affliction shall add force to their integrity, from a

reflection of the use of virtue in the hour of affliction. I sat down with a design to put you upon giving us rules how to overcome such griefs as these, but I should rather advise you to teach men to be capable of them.

'You men of letters have what you call a taste in your apprehensions of what is proper done or said. There is something like this grafted in the soul of him who is honest and careful in all his thoughts and actions. Every thing which is false, vicious, or unworthy, is disagreeable to him, though all the world should approve it. At the same time he has the most lively sense in all enjoyments and sufferings which it is proper for him to have, where any duty of life is concerned. To want sorrow when you in decay and truth should be afflicted, is, I should think, a greater instance of a man's being a blockhead, as not to know the beauty of any passage in Virgil. You have not yet observed, Mr. Spectator, that the fine gentlemen of this age set up for heroes of heart, and humanity has very little share in their pretences. He is a brave fellow who is always ready to kill a man he hates, but he does not start in the same degree of esteem who laments for a woman he loves. I should fancy you might wrap up a thousand pretty thoughts, by reflecting that the persons most susceptible of the sort of sorrow I have spoken of; and I dare say you will find upon examination, that they are the wisest and the bravest of mankind who are the most capable of it.

Norwich,
7th October,
1712.

STEELE.

'I am, SIR,
'Your most humble servant.
'F. J.'

7.

N^o 521. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1712

Vera redit facies, dissimulata perit.

P. 424

The real face returns, the counterfeit is lost.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I HAVE been for many years loud in this assertion, that there are very few that can see or hear I mean, that can report what they have seen or heard; and this through incapacity or prejudice, one of which disables almost every man who is to you from representing things as he ought. For which reason I am come to a resolution of bearing nothing I hear; and I condemn the man gives a narration under the appellation of "a matter-of-fact man:" and, according to me, a matter-of-fact man is one whose life and conversation is spent in the report of what is not matter of fact.

'I remember when Prince Eugene was killed there was no knowing his height or figure, till Mr. Spectator, gave the public satisfaction in this matter. In relations, the force of the expression lies very often more in the look, the tone of voice, or the gesture, than the words themselves; and being repeated in any other manner by the addressee, bear a very different interpretation from the original meaning. I must confess I have turned this humour of mine to very good account; for whenever I heard any narration filled with extraordinary vehemence, and grounded on

* Though this paper bears Steele's editorial signature, the letter is believed to have been written by a Mr. Parnell of Norwich.

considerable authority, I was always ready to lay any wager that it was not so. Indeed I never pretended to be so rash as to fix the matter any particular way in opposition to theirs; but, as there are a hundred ways of any thing happening, besides that it has happened, I only controverted its falling out in that one manner as they settled it, and left it to the ninety-nine other ways, and consequently had more probability of success. I had arrived at a particular skill in warming a man so far in his narration, as to make him throw in a little of the marvellous, and then, if he has much ire, the next degree is the impossible. Now this is always the time for fixing the wager. But this requires the nicest management, otherwise very probably the dispute may arise to the old determination by battle. In these conceits I have been very fortunate, and have won some wagers of those who have professedly valued themselves upon intelligence, and have put themselves to great charge and expence to be misinformed considerably sooner than the rest of the world.

‘Having got a comfortable sum by this my opposition to public report, I have brought myself now to so great a perfection in inattention, more especially to party-relations*, that at the same time I seem with greedy ears to devour up the discourse, I certainly do not know one word of it, but pursue my own course of thought, whether upon business or amusement, with much tranquillity; I say inattention, because a late act of parliament has secured all party-liars from the penalty of a wager†, and consequently made it unprofitable to attend to them. However, good-breeding obliges a man to maintain the figure of the keenest attention, the true posture of which in a coffee-house I take to consist in leaning over a table with the edge of it pressing hard upon your stomach: for the more pain the narration is received with, the more gracious is your bending over; besides that the narrator thinks you forget your pain by the pleasure of hearing him.

‘Fort Knock has occasioned several very perplexed and inelegant heats and animosities; and there was one the other day in a coffee-house where I was, that took upon him to clear that business to me, for he said he was there. I knew him to be that sort of man that had not strength of capacity to be informed of any thing that depended merely upon his being an eye-witness, and therefore was fully satisfied he could give me no information, for the very same reason he believed he could, for he was there. However, I heard him with the same greediness as Shakspeare describes in the following lines:

“I saw a smith stand on his hammer, thus,
With open mouth, swallowing a tailor’s news.”

‘I confess of late I have not been so much amazed at the declaimers in coffee-houses as I formerly was, being satisfied that they expect to be rewarded for their vociferations. Of these liars there are two sorts: the genius of the first consists in much impudence and a strong memory; the others have added to these qualifications a good understanding and smooth language. These therefore have only certain heads, which they are as eloquent upon as they can, and may be called “embellishers;” the others repeat only what they

hear from others as literally as their parts or zeal will permit, and are called “reciters.” Here was a fellow in town some years ago, who used to divert himself by telling a lie at Charing-cross in the morning at eight of the clock, and then following it through all parts of the town till eight at night; at which time he came to a club of his friends, and diverted them with an account what censure it had at Will’s in Covent-garden, how dangerous it was believed to be at Child’s, and what inference they drew from it with relation to stocks at Jonathan’s. I have had the honour to travel with this gentleman I speak of in search of one of his falsehoods; and have been present when they have described the very man they have spoken to, as him who first reported it, tall or short, black or fair, a gentleman or a raggamuffin, according as they liked the intelligence. I have heard one of our ingenious writers of news say, that, when he has had a customer come with an advertisement of an apprentice or a wife run away, he has desired the advertiser to compose himself a little before he dictated the description of the offender: for when a person is put into a public paper by a man who is angry with him, the real description of such person is hid in the deformity with which the angry man describes him; therefore this fellow always made his customers describe him as he would the day before he offended, or else he was sure he would never find him out. These and many other hints I could suggest to you for the elucidation of all fictions; but I leave it to your own sagacity to improve or neglect this speculation.

‘I am, sir,
‘Your most obedient,
‘humble servant,’

STEEL.

T.

Nº 522. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1719.

—*Adjuro nunquam eam me deserturum;
Non, si capiundos mihi sciam esse inimicos omnes homines.
Hanc mihi expetivi, contigit: conveniunt mores: valeant,
Qui inter nos discidium volunt: hanc, nisi mors, mihi adimet nemo.*

TER. Andr. act. iv. sc. 2.

I swear never to forsake her; no, though I were sure to make all men my enemies. Her I desired; her I have obtained; our humours agree. Perish all those who separate us; Death alone shall deprive me of her.

I SHOULD esteem myself a very happy man if my speculations could in the least contribute to the rectifying the conduct of my readers in one of the most important affairs of life, to wit; their choice in marriage. This state is the foundation of community, and the chief band of society; and I do not think I can be too frequent on subjects which may give light to my unmarried readers in a particular which is so essential to their following happiness or misery. A virtuous disposition, a good understanding, an agreeable person, and an easy fortune, are the things which should be chiefly regarded on this occasion. Because my present view is to direct a young lady, who I think is now in doubt whom to take of many lovers, I shall talk at this time to my female readers. The advantages, as I was going to say, of sense, beauty, and riches, are what are certainly the chief motives to a prudent young woman of fortune for changing her condition; but, as she is to have her eye upon each of these, she is to ask herself, whether the man who has most of these recommendations in the lump is not the most desirable. He that has excellent ta-

4 L

* See Nº 507.

† 7 Anne, cap. 17. whereby all wagers laid upon a contingency relative to the war with France were declared null and void.

lents, with a moderate estate, and an agreeable person, is preferable to him who is only rich, if it were only that good faculties may purchase riches, but riches cannot purchase worthy endowments. I do not mean that wit, and a capacity to entertain, is what should be highly valued, except it is founded upon good-nature and humanity. There are many ingenious men, whose abilities do little else but make themselves and those about them uneasy. Such are those who are far gone in the pleasures of the town, who cannot support life without quick sensations and gay reflections, and are strangers to tranquillity, to right reason, and a calm motion of spirits, without transport or dejection. These ingenious men, of all men living, are most to be avoided by her who would be happy in a husband. They are immediately sated with possession, and must necessarily fly to new acquisitions of beauty to pass away the whiling moments and intervals of life; for with them every hour is heavy that is not joyful. But there is a sort of man of wit and sense, that can reflect upon his own make, and that of his partner, with the eyes of reason and honour, and who believes he offends against both these, if he does not look upon the woman who chose him, to be under his protection in sickness and health, with the utmost gratitude, whether from that moment she is shining or defective in person or mind: I say, there are those who think themselves bound to supply with good-nature the failings of those who love them, and who always think those the objects of love and pity who came to their arms the objects of joy and admiration.

Of this latter sort is Lysander, a man of wit, learning, sobriety, and good-nature; of birth and estate below no woman to accept; and of whom it might be said, should he succeed in his present wishes, his mistress raised his fortune, but not that she made it. When a woman is deliberating with herself whom she shall choose of many near each other in other pretensions, certainly he of best understanding is to be preferred. Life hangs heavily in the repeated conversation of one who has no imagination to be fired at the several occasions and objects which come before him, or who cannot strike out of his reflections new paths of pleasing discourse. Honest Will Thrush and his wife, though not married above four months, have scarce had a word to say to each other these six weeks; and one cannot form to one's self a sillier picture than these two creatures in solemn pomp and plenty, unable to enjoy their fortunes, and at a full stop among a crowd of servants, to whose taste of life they are beholden for the little satisfactions by which they can be understood to be so much as barely in being. The hours of the day, the distinctions of noon and night, dinner and supper, are the greatest notices they are capable of. This is perhaps representing the life of a very modest woman, joined to a dull fellow, more insipid than it really deserves; but I am sure it is not to exalt the commerce with an ingenious companion too high, to say that every new accident or object which comes into such a gentleman's way, gives his wife new pleasures and satisfactions. The approbation of his words and actions is a continual new feast to her; nor can she enough applaud her good fortune in having her life varied every hour, her mind more improved, and her heart more glad, from every circumstance which they meet with. He will lay out his invention in forming new pleasures and amusements, and make the fortune she has brought him subservient to the honour and reputation of her and hers. A man of sense, who is

thus obliged, is ever contriving the happiness of her who did him so great a distinction; while the fool is ungrateful without vice, and never returns a favour because he is not sensible of it. I would, methinks, have so much to say for myself, that, if I fell into the hands of him who treated me ill, he should be sensible when he did so. His conscience should be of my side, whatever became of his inclination. I do not know but it is the insipid charm which has been made by those who have the care of young women, that the marriage state itself has been liable to so much ridicule. But a well-chosen love, moved by passion on both sides, and perfected by the generosity of one party, must be adorned with so many handsome incidents on the other, that every particular couple would be an example in many circumstances to all the rest of the species. I shall end the chat upon this subject with a couple of letters, one from a lover, who is very well acquainted with the way of bargaining on these occasions; and the other from his rival, who has less estate, but great gallantry of temper. As my man of prudence, he makes love, as he says, if he were already a father, and, laying aside his passion, comes to the reason of the thing.

'MADAM,

'My counsel has perused the inventory of your estate, and considered what estate you have, viz. it seems is only yours, and to the male-heirs of your body; but, in default of such issue, to the male-heirs of your uncle Edward for ever. Thus, madam, I am advised you cannot (the remainder not being in you) dock the entail; by which means my rival, which is fee-simple, will come by the settlements proposed to your children begotten by me, whether they are males or females; but my children begotten upon you will not inherit your land, except I beget a son. Now, madam, since things are so, you are a woman of that prudence, as I understand the world so well, as not to expect I should give you more than you can give me.

'I am, MADAM,

'(with great respect)

'Your most obedient humble servant,

'T. U.

The other lover's estate is less than this gentleman's, but he expressed himself as follows:

'MADAM,

'I HAVE given in my estate to your counsel, and desired my own lawyer to insist upon so terms which your friends can propose for your certain ease and advantage; for indeed I have no mind of making difficulties of presenting you with what cannot make me happy without you.

'I am, MADAM,

'Your most devoted humble servant.

'A. T.

You must know the relations have met upon this; and the girl, being mightily taken with the latter epistle, she is laughed at, and uncle Edward is to be dealt with to make her a suitable match to the worthy gentleman who has told her he does not care a farthing for her. All I hope for is, that the fair lady will make use of the first light which shows B. T. she understands a marriage is not to be considered as a common bargain.

STEEL.

J.

N^o 523. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1712.

*Nunc augur Apollo,
Nunc Lycia sorles, nunc et Jove misus ab ipso
Interpres divum fers horridi jussa per auras.
Scilicet is superis labor*

VIRG. Æn. iv. ver. 376.

Now Lycian lots, and now the Delian god;
Now Hermes is employ'd from Jove's abode,
To warn him hence, as if the peaceful state
Of heav'nly pow'rs were touch'd with human fate!

DRYDEN.

I AM always highly delighted with the discovery of any rising genius among my countrymen. For his reason I have read over, with great pleasure, the late miscellany published by Mr. Pope, in which there are many excellent compositions of that ingenious gentleman. I have had a pleasure of the same kind in perusing a poem that is just published, *On the Prospect of Peace**; and which, I hope, will meet with such a reward from its patrons as so noble a performance deserves. I was particularly well pleased to find that the author had not amused himself with fables out of the pagan theology, and that when he hints at any thing of this nature he alludes to it only as to a fable.

Many of our modern authors, whose learning very often extends no further than Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, do not know how to celebrate a great man, without mixing a parcel of school-boy tales with the recital of his actions. If you read a poem on a fine woman, among the authors of this class, you shall see that it turns more upon Venus or Helen than on the party concerned. I have known a copy of verses on a great hero highly commended; but, upon asking to hear some of the beautiful passages, the admirer of it has repeated to me a speech of Apollo, or a description of Polypheme. At other times, when I have searched for the actions of a great man, who gave a subject to the writer, I have been entertained with the exploits of a river god, or have been forced to attend to his fury in her mischievous progress, from one end of the poem to the other. When we are at school it is necessary for us to be acquainted with the system of pagan theology; and may be allowed to revive a theme, or point an epigram with an heathen god; but when we would write a manly paenegyric, that should carry in it all the colours of truth, nothing can be more ridiculous than to have recourse to our Jupiters and Junos.

No thought is beautiful which is not just; and no thought can be just which is not founded in truth, or at least in that which passes for such.

In mock heroic poems the use of the heathen mythology is not only excusable, but graceful, because it is the design of such compositions to divert, by adapting the fabulous machines of the ancients to low subjects, and at the same time by ridiculing such kinds of machinery in modern writers. If any are of opinion that there is a necessity of admitting these classical legends into our serious compositions, in order to give them a more poetical turn, I would recommend to their consideration the pastoral of Mr. Phillips. One would have thought it impossible for this kind of poetry to have subsisted without fawns and satyrs, wood-nymphs and water-nymphs, with all the tribe of rural deities. But we see he has given a new life and a more

natural beauty to this way of writing, by substituting in the place of these antiquated fables, the superstitious mythology which prevails among the shepherds of our own country.

Virgil and Homer might compliment their heroes, by interweaving the actions of deities with their achievements; but for a Christian author to write in the pagan creed, to make Prince Eugene a favourite of Mars, or to carry on a correspondence between Bellona and the Marshal de Villars, would be downright puerility, and unpardonable in a poet that is past sixteen. It is want of sufficient elevation in a genius to describe realities, and place them in a shining light, that makes him have recourse to such trifling antiquated fables; as a man may write a fine description of Bacchus or Apollo that does not know how to draw the character of any of his contemporaries.

In order therefore to put a stop to this absurd practice, I shall publish the following edict, by virtue of that spectatorial authority with which I stand invested:

'Whereas the time of a general peace is, in all appearance, drawing near, being informed that there are several ingenious persons who intend to show their talents on so happy an occasion; and being willing, as much as in me lies, to prevent that effusion of nonsense which we have good cause to apprehend; I do hereby strictly require every person who shall write on this subject, to remember that he is a Christian, and not to sacrifice his catechism to his poetry. In order to it, I do expect of him in the first place to make his own poem, without depending upon Phebus for any part of it, or calling out for aid upon any one of the Muses by name. I do likewise positively forbid the sending of Mercury with any particular message or dispatch relating to the peace, and shall by no means suffer Minerva to take upon her the shape of any plenipotentiary concerned in this great work. I do further declare, that I shall not allow the Destinies to have had a hand in the deaths of the several thousands who have been slain in the late war, being of opinion that all such deaths may be very well accounted for by the Christian system of powder and ball. I do therefore strictly forbid the Fates to cut the thread of man's life upon any pretence whatsoever, unless it be for the sake of the rhyme. And whereas I have good reason to fear that Neptune will have a great deal of business on his hands, in several poems which we may now suppose are upon the anvil, I do also prohibit his appearance, unless it be done in metaphor, simile, or any very short allusion; and that even here he be not permitted to enter but with great caution and circumspection. I desire that the same rule may be extended to his whole fraternity of heathen gods, it being my design to condemn every poem to the flames in which Jupiter thunders, or exercises any other act of authority which does not belong to him: in short, I expect that no pagan agent shall be introduced, or any fact related, which a man cannot give credit to with a good conscience. Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to several of the female poets in this nation, who shall still be left in full possession of their gods and goddesses, in the same manner as if this paper had never been written.'

ADDISON.

O.

* By Tickell. 'The tendency of this poem (says Johnson) was, to reclaim the nation from the pride of conquest to the pleasures of tranquillity.' *Lives of the English Poets*.

Nº 524. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1712.

Noe populo damus— SEN.

As the world leads, we follow.

WHEN I first of all took it into my head to write dreams and visions, I determined to print nothing of that nature which was not of my own invention. But several laborious dreamers have of late communicated to me works of this nature, which, for their reputations and my own, I have hitherto suppressed. Had I printed every one that came to my hands, my book of speculations would have been little else but a book of visions. Some of my correspondents have indeed been so very modest as to offer an excuse for their not being in a capacity to dream better. I have by me, for example, the dream of a young gentleman not past fifteen. I have likewise by me the dream of a person of quality, and another called *The Lady's Dream*. In these, and other pieces of the same nature, it is supposed the usual allowances will be made to the age, condition, and sex of the dreamer. To prevent this inundation of dreams, which daily flows in upon me, I shall apply to all dreamers of dreams the advice which Epictetus has couched, after his manner, in a very simple and concise precept. 'Never tell thy dream,' says that philosopher; 'for though thou thyself mayest take a pleasure in telling thy dream, another will take no pleasure in hearing it.' After this short preface, I must do justice to two or three visions which I have lately published, and which I have owned to have been written by other hands. I shall add a dream to these which comes to me from Scotland, by one who declares himself of that country; and, for all I know, may be second-sighted. There is, indeed, something in it of the spirit of John Bunyan*; but at the same time a certain sublime which that author was never master of: I shall publish it, because I question not but it will fall in with the taste of all my popular readers, and amuse the imaginations of those who are more profound; declaring, at the same time, that this is the last dream which I intend to publish this season.

'SIR,

I was last Sunday in the evening led into a serious reflection on the reasonableness of virtue, and great folly of vice, from an excellent sermon I had heard that afternoon in my parish church. Among other observations, the preacher showed us that the temptations which the tempter proposed were all on a supposition, that we are either madmen or fools, or with an intention to render us such; that in no other affair we would suffer ourselves to be thus imposed upon, in a case so plainly and clearly against our visible interest. His illustrations and arguments carried so much persuasion and conviction with them, that they remained a considerable while fresh, and working in my memory; until at last the mind, fatigued with thought, gave way to the forcible oppressions of slumber and sleep, whilst fancy, unwilling yet to drop the subject, presented me with the following vision:

I Methought I was just awoke out of a sleep that I could never remember the beginning of; the

place where I found myself to be was a wide and spacious plain, full of people that wandered and down through several beaten paths, where some few were straight and in direct lines; most of them winding and turning like a labyrinth; but yet it appeared to me afterwards that I last all met in one issue, so that many that used to steer quite contrary courses, did at length meet and face one another, to the no little amazement of many of them.

In the midst of the plain there was a great fountain; they called it the spring of Selfishness; out of it issued two rivulets to the eastward and westward; the name of the first was *Heavenly Wisdom*, its water was wonderfully clear, and had a yet more wonderful effect; the other's name was *Worldly-Wisdom*, its water was thick, and yoked from being dormant or stagnating, for it was in continual violent agitation; which kept the travellers, whom I shall mention by and by, from being sensible of the foulness and thickness of the water; which had this effect, that it intoxicated those who drank it, and made them mistake every object that lay before them. Both rivulets parted near their springs into so many others, that there were strait and crooked paths, which attended all along to their respective issues.

I observed from the several paths many travellers, and then diverting, to refresh and otherwise qualify themselves for their journey, to the several rivulets that ran near them; they contracted an observable courage and steadiness in whatever way were about, by drinking these waters. At the end of the perspective of every straight path, which did end in one issue and point, appeared a high pillar, all of diamond, casting rays as bright as those of the sun into the paths; which rays had also certain sympathizing and alluring virtues; so that whosoever had made some considerable progress in his journey onwards towards it, by the repeated impression of these rays upon him, was wrought into an habitual inclination to a conversion of his sight towards it, so that at last in a manner natural to him to look and stand upon it, whereby he was kept steady in the straight paths, which alone went to that radiant body, beholding of which was now grown a gratification to his nature.

At the issue of the crooked paths there was a great black tower, out of the centre of it streamed a long succession of flames, which rose even above the clouds; it gave a very great light to the whole plain, which did sometimes shine the light, and oppressed the beams of the adamantine pillar; though by the observations made afterwards, it appeared that it was not any diminution of light, but that this light was to travellers, who would sometimes step out of the straight paths, where they lost the full prospect of the radiant pillar, and saw it but sideways, the great light from the black tower, which was somewhat particularly scorching to them, and generally light and hasten them to their perdition again.

Round about the black tower there were many thousands of huge misshapen monsters; these had great nets, which they were perpetually plying, and casting towards the crooked paths, and they would now and then catch those that were nearest to them; these they drew up straight, and whirled over the walls of the flaming tower, and they were no more heard of.

They would sometimes cast their arms and

* Author of 'The Pilgrim's Progress,' and of 'The Holy War.'

the right paths to catch the stragglers, whose eyes, for want of frequent drinking at the brook that ran by them, grew dim, whereby they lost their way; these would sometimes very narrowly miss being caught away, but I could not hear whether any of these had ever been so unfortunate, that had been before very hearty in the straight paths.

I considered all these strange sights with great attention, till at last I was interrupted by a cluster of the travellers in the crooked paths, who came up to me, bid me go along with them, and presently fell to singing and dancing; they took me by the hand, and so carried me away along with them. After I had followed them a considerable while, I perceived I had lost the black tower of light, at which I greatly wondered; but as I looked and gazed round about me, and saw nothing, I began to fancy my first vision had been but a dream, and there was no such thing in reality; but when I considered that if I could fancy to see what was not, I might as well have an illusion wrought on me at present, and not see what was really before me. I was very much confirmed in this thought, by the effect I then just observed the water of Worldly-Wisdom had upon me; for, as I had drank a little of it again, I felt a very sensible effect in my head; methought it distracted and disordered all there; this made me stop of a sudden, suspecting some charm or enchantment. As I was casting about within myself what I should do, and whom to apply to in this case, I spied at some distance off me a man beckoning, and making signs to me to come over to him. I cried to him, I did not know the way. He then called to me audibly, to step at least out of the path I was in; for if I stayed there any longer I was in danger to be caught in a great net that was just hanging over me, and ready to catch me up; that he wondered I was so blind, or so distracted, as not to see so imminent and visible a danger, assuring me, that as soon as I was out of that way, he would come to me to lead me into a more secure path. This he did, and he brought me his palm full of the water of Heavenly-Wisdom, which was of very great use to me, for my eyes were straight cleared, and I saw the great black tower just before me; but the great net which I spied so near me cast me in such a terror, that I ran back as far as I could in one breath, without looking behind me. Then my benefactor thus bespoke me: "You have made the wonderfulest escape in the world; the water you used to drink is of a bewitching nature, you would else have been mightily shocked at the deformities and meanness of the place; for, beside the set of blind fools in whose company you was, you may now behold many others who are only bewitched after another no less dangerous manner. Look a little that way, there goes a crowd of passengers; they have indeed so good a head as not to suffer themselves to be blinded by this bewitching water; the black tower is not vanished out of their sight, they see it whenever they look up to it: but see how they go sideways, and with their eyes downwards, as if they were mad, that they may thus rush into the net, without being beforehand troubled at the thought of so miserable a destruction. Their wills are so perverse, and their hearts so fond of the pleasures of the place, that rather than forego them they will run all hazards, and venture upon all the miseries and woes before them.

See there that other company: though they should drink none of the bewitching water, yet they take a course bewitching and deluding; see how

they choose the crookedest paths, whereby they have often the black tower behind them, and sometimes see the radiant column sideways, which gives them some weak glimpse of it. These fools content themselves with that, not knowing whether any other have any more of its influence and light than themselves: this road is called that of Supersatiation or Human Invention; they grossly overlook that which the rules and laws of the place prescribe to them, and contrive some other scheme, and set of directions and prescriptions for themselves, which they hope will serve their turn." He showed me many other kind of fools, which put me quite out of humour with the place. At last he carried me to the right paths, where I found true and solid pleasure, which entertained me all the way, till we came in closer sight of the pillar, where the satisfaction increased to that measure that my faculties were not able to contain it; in the straining of them I was violently waked, not a little grieved at the vanishing of so pleasing a dream.

Glasgow, Sept. 29th.

Nº 525. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1712.

Ὁ δὲ τις το σὺνδρῶν ἐπ' ἀριστην τ' ἀγαθὴν ἔως,
Ζηλωτὸς ἀνθρωπείων.

EURIP.

That love alone which virtue's laws control
Deserves reception in the human soul.

It is my custom to take frequent opportunities of inquiring from time to time what success my speculations meet with in the town. I am glad to find, in particular, that my discourses on marriage have been well received. A friend of mine gives me to understand, from Doctors-commons, that more licenses have been taken out there of late than usual. I am likewise informed of several pretty fellows, who have resolved to commence heads of families by the first favourable opportunity. One of them writes me word that he is ready to enter into the bonds of matrimony, provided I will give it him under my hand (as I now do) that a man may show his face in good company after he is married, and that he need not be ashamed to treat a woman with kindness, who puts herself into his power for life.

I have other letters on this subject, which say that I am attempting to make a revolution in the world of gallantry, and that the consequence of it will be that a great deal of the sprightliest wit and satire of the last age will be lost; that a bashful fellow, upon changing his condition, will be no longer puzzled how to stand the raillery of his facetious companions; that he need not own he married only to plunder an heiress of her fortune, nor pretend that he uses her ill, to avoid the ridiculous name of a fond husband.

Indeed, if I may speak my opinion of great part of the writings which once prevailed among us under the notion of humour, they are such as would tempt one to think there had been an association among the wits of those times to rally legitimacy out of our island. A state of wedlock was the common mark of all the adventures in farce and comedy, as well as the essays in lampoon and

* This paper, having no signature, has been variously ascribed, to Professor Simpson, of Glasgow; to Mr. Dunlop, then Greek professor of that university; and to a Mr. Montgomery, a merchant.

nature, to shoot at : and nothing was a more standing jest, in all clubs of fashionable mirth and gay conversation. It was determined among those airy critics, that the appellation of a sober man should signify a spiritless fellow. And I am apt to think it was about the same time that good-nature, a word so peculiarly elegant in our language, that some have affirmed it cannot well be expressed in any other, came first to be rendered suspicious, and in danger of being transferred from its original sense to so distant an idea as that of folly.

I must confess it has been my ambition, in the course of my writings, to restore, as well as I was able, the proper ideas of things. And as I have attempted this already on the subject of marriage in several papers *, I shall here add some further observations which occur to me on the same head.

Nothing seems to be thought, by our fine gentlemen, so indispensable an ornament in fashionable life, as love. 'A knight errant,' says Don Quixote, 'without a mistress, is like a tree without leaves;' and a man of mode among us who has not some fair one to sigh for, might as well pretend to appear dressed without his periwig. We have lovers in prose innumerable. All our pretenders to rhyme are professed inamoratos; and there is scarce a poet, good or bad, to be heard of, who has not some real or supposed Saccharissa to improve his vein.

If love be any refinement, conjugal love must be certainly so in a much higher degree. There is no comparison between the frivolous affectation of attracting the eyes of women with whom you are only captivated by way of amusement, and of whom perhaps you know nothing more than their features, and a regular and uniform endeavour to make yourself valuable, both as a friend and lover, to one whom you have chosen to be the companion of your life. The first is the spring of a thousand soppies, silly artifices, falsehoods, and perhaps barbarities; or at best rises no higher than to a kind of dancing-school breeding, to give the person a more sparkling air. The latter is the parent of substantial virtues and agreeable qualities; and cultivates the mind while it improves the behaviour. The passion of love to a mistress, even where it is most sincere, resembles too much the flame of a fever: that to a wife is like the vital heat.

I have often thought, if the letters written by men of good-nature to their wives, were to be compared with those written by men of gallantry to their mistresses, the former, notwithstanding any inequality of style, would appear to have the advantage. Friendship, tenderness, and constancy, dressed in a simplicity of expression, recommend themselves by a more native elegance, than passionate raptures, extravagant encomiums, and slavish adoration. If we were admitted to search the cabinet of the beautiful Narcissa, among heaps of epistles from several admirers, which are there preserved with equal care, how few should we find but would make any one sick in the reading, except her who is flattered by them? But in how different a style must the wise Benevolus †, who converses with that good sense and good humour among all his friends, write to a wife who is the worthy object of his utmost affection? Benevolus, both in public and private, and all occasions of life, appears to have every good quality and desirable ornament. Abroad he is revered and esteemed; at home, beloved and happy. The satis-

faction he enjoys there settles into an habitual complacency, which shines in his countenance, and livens his wit, and seasons his conversation. Let those of his acquaintance, who have never seen him in his retirement, are sharers in the happiness of it; and it is very much owing to his being the best and best beloved of husbands, that he is the most steadfast of friends, and the most agreeable of companions.

There is a sensible pleasure in contemplating such beautiful instances of domestic life. The happiness of the conjugal state appears heightened to the highest degree it is capable of when we view two persons of accomplished minds, not only united in the same interests and affections, but in the taste of the same improvements, pleasures, and diversions. Pliny, one of the finest gentlemen and politest writers of the age in which he lived, has left us, in his letter to Hispanilla, his wife's aunt, one of the most agreeable family pieces of this kind I ever met with. I shall end the discourse with a translation of it; and I believe the reader will be of my opinion, that conjugal love is drawn in it with a delicacy which makes it appear to be, as I have represented it, an *artem* as well as a virtue.

'PLINY TO HISPANILLA.

'As I remember the great affection which exists between you and your excellent brother, and know you love his daughter as your own, so as not only to express the tenderness of the best of aunts, but even to supply that of the best of fathers; I am sure it will be a pleasure to you to hear that she proves worthy of her father, worthy of you, and of your and her ancestors. Her ingenuity is admirable; her frugality extraordinary. She loves me, the surest pledge of her virtue; and adds to this a wonderful disposition to learning, which she has acquired from her affection to me. She reads my writings, studies them, and even gets them by heart. You would smile to see the concern she is in when I have a cause to plead, and the joy she shows when it is over. She finds means to know the first news brought her of the success I meet with in court, how I am heard, and what decree is made. If I recite any thing in public, she cannot refrain from placing herself privately in some corner to hear, where, with the utmost delight, she feasts upon my applauses. Sometimes she sings my verses, and accompanies them with the lute, without any master except love, the best of instructors. From these instances I take the most certain signs of our perpetual and increasing happiness; since her affection is not founded on my youth and person, which might gradually decay, but she is in love with the immortal part of me, my glory and reputation. Nor indeed could less be expected from one who had the happiness to receive her education from you, who in your home was accustomed to every thing that was virtuous and decent, and even began to love me by your recommendation. For, as you had always the greatest respect for my mother, you were pleased from my infancy to form me, to commend me, and kindly to presage I should be one day what my wife facilitates I am. Accept therefore our united thanks, mine, that you have bestowed her on me; and hers, that you have given me to her, as a mutual grant of joy and felicity.'

RUGES.

* Nos. 33, 479, 490, 522, &c.

† Supposed to have been meant as an allusion to Steele.

N 526. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1712.

Fortius utere loris.

OVID. Met. l. iii. ver. 127.

Keep a stiff rein.

ADDISON.

am very loth to come to extremities with the young gentlemen mentioned in the following letter, and do not care to chastise them with my own hand, till I am forced by provocations too great to be suffered without the absolute destruction of your spectatorial dignity. The crimes of these offenders are placed under the observation of one of my chief officers, who is posted just at the entrance of the pass between London and Westminster. As I have great confidence in the capacity, resolution, and integrity, of the person deputed to me to give an account of enormities, I doubt not but I shall soon have before me all proper notes which are requisite for the amendment of offenders in public, and the instruction of each individual of the human species in what is due from him in respect to the whole body of mankind. The present paper shall consist only of the above-mentioned letter, and the copy of a deputation which I have given to my trusty friend Mr. John Sly; wherein he is charged to notify to me all that is necessary for my animadversion upon the delinquents mentioned by my correspondent, as well as all others described in the said deputation.

TO THE SPECTATOR-GENERAL OF GREAT-BRITAIN.

I GRANT it does look a little familiar, but I must tell you

‘DEAR DUMS,

Being got again to the further end of the Westminster’s coffee-house, I shall from hence give you an account of the behaviour of our hackney-coachmen since my last. These indefatigable gentlemen, without the least design, I dare say, of self-interest or advantage to themselves, do still pass as volunteers day and night for the good of our country. I will not trouble you with enumerating many particulars, but I must by no means omit to inform you of an infant about six foot high, and between twenty and thirty years of age, who was seen in the arms of a hackney-coachman, sitting by Will’s coffee-house in Covent-garden, between the hours of four and five in the afternoon, that very day wherein you published a memorial against them. This impudent young cur, though he could not sit in a coach-box without sliding, yet would he venture his neck, to bid defiance to your spectatorial authority, or to any thing that you countenanced. Who he was I know not, but I heard this relation this morning from a gentleman who was an eye-witness of this his impudence; and I was willing to take the first opportunity to inform you of him, as holding it extremely requisite that you should nip him in the bud. But I am myself most concerned for my fellow-templars, fellow-students, and fellow-lawyers in the law. I mean such of them as are ignominiously and distinguished under the denomination of hackney-coachmen. Such aspiring minds have these ambitious young men, that they cannot enjoy themselves out of a coach-box. It is, however, an unspeakable comfort to me that I can now

tell you that some of them are grown so bashful as to study only in the night-time, or in the country. The other night I spied one of our young gentlemen very diligent at his lucubrations in Fleet-street; and, by the way, I should be under some concern lest this hard student should one time or other crack his brain with studying, but that I am in hopes nature has taken care to fortify him in proportion to the great undertakings he was designed for. Another of my fellow-templars on Thursday last was getting up into his study at the bottom of Gray’s-inn-lane, in order, I suppose, to contemplate in the fresh air. Now, sir, my request is, that the great modesty of these two gentlemen may be recorded as a pattern to the rest; and if you would but give them two or three touches with your own pen, though you might not perhaps prevail with them to desist entirely from their meditations, yet I doubt not but you would at least preserve them from being public spectacles of folly in our streets. I say, two or three touches with your own pen; for I have really observed, Mr. Spec, that those Spectators which are so prettily laced down the sides with little c’s, how instructive soever they may be, do not carry with them that authority as the others. I do again therefore desire, that, for the sake of their dear necks, you would bestow one penful of your own ink upon them. I know you are loth to expose them; and it is, I must confess, a thousand pities that any young gentleman, who is come of honest parents, should be brought to public shame. And indeed I should be glad to have them handled a little tenderly at the first; but if fair means will not prevail, there is then no other way to reclaim them but by making use of some wholesome severities; and I think it is better that a dozen or two of such good-for-nothing fellows should be made examples of, than that the reputation of some hundreds of as hopeful young gentlemen as myself should suffer through their folly. It is not, however, for me to direct you what to do; but, in short, if our coachmen will drive on this trade, the very first of them that I do find meditating in the street, I shall make bold to “take the number of his chambers,” together with a note of his name, and dispatch them to you, that you may chastise him at your own discretion.

‘I am, DEAR SPEC,

‘For ever yours,

‘MOSES GREENBAG,

‘Esq. if you please.

‘P. S. Tom Hammercloth, one of our coachmen, is now pleading at the bar at the other end of the room, but has a little too much vehemence, and throws out his arms too much to take his audience with a good grace.’

To my loving and well-beloved John Sly, haberdasher of hats, and tobacconist, between the cities of London and Westminster†.

WHEREAS frequent disorders, affronts, indignities, omissions, and trespasses, for which there are no remedies by any form of law, but which apparently

* Alluding to the precaution of taking the number of a hackney-coach before you enter it.

† Dr. John Hoadly relates an anecdote of this eccentric character in the following words: ‘My father, on a pressing invitation, once attended, when Bishop of Bangor, one of the whig meetings at the Trumpet in Shire-lane, where Steele rather exposed himself in his zeal, having the double duty of the day upon him, as well to celebrate the immortal memory of King William, it being the 4th of November, as to drink his friend Addison up to conversation pitch, whose phlegma-

disturb and disquiet the minds of men, happen near the place of your residence; and that you are, as well by your commodious situation, as the good parts with which you are endowed, properly qualified for the observation of the said offences; I do hereby authorise and depute you, from the hours of nine in the morning till four in the afternoon, to keep a strict eye upon all persons and things that are conveyed in coaches, carried in carts, or walk on foot, from the city of London to the city of Westminster, or from the city of Westminster to the city of London, within the said hours. You are therefore not to depart from your observatory at the end of Devereux-court during the said space of each day, but to observe the behaviour of all persons who are suddenly transported from stamping on pebbles to sit at ease in chariots, what notice they take of their foot acquaintance, and send me the speediest advice, when they are guilty of over-looking, turning from, or appearing grave and distant to, their old friends. When man and wife are in the same coach, you are to see whether they appear pleased or tired with each other, and whether they carry the due mean in the eye of the world, between fondness and coldness. You are carefully to behold all such as shall have addition of honour or riches, and report whether they preserve the countenance they had before such addition. As to persons on foot, you are to be attentive whether they are pleased with their condition, and are dressed suitable to it; but especially to distinguish such as appear discreet, by a low-heel shoe, with the decent ornament of a leather garter: to write down the names of such country gentlemen as, upon the approach of peace, have left the hunting for the military cock of the bat; of all who strut, make a noise, and swear at the drivers of coaches to make haste, when they see it impossible they should pass; of all young gentlemen in coach-boxes, who labour at a perfection in what they are sure to be excelled by the meanest of the people. You are to do all that in you lies, that coaches and passengers give way according to the course of business, all the morning in term-time towards Westminster, the rest of the year towards the Exchange. Upon these directions, together with other secret articles herein inclosed, you are to govern yourself, and give advertisement thereof to me, at all convenient and spectatorial hours, when men of business are to be seen. Hereof you are not to fail. Given under my seal of office.

“THE SPECTATOR.”

STEELE.

T.

tic constitution was hardly warmed for society by that time Steele was not fit for it. Two remarkable circumstances happened:

“John Sly, the latter, of facetious memory, was in the house: and when pretty mellow took it into his head to come into the company on his knees, with a tankard of ale in his hand, to drink it off to the “immortal memory,” and to retire in the same manner. Steele, sitting next my father, whispered him, “Do laugh; ‘tis humanity to laugh.”

“Sir Richard, being in the evening too much in the same condition, was put into a chair, and sent home. Nothing would serve him but being carried to the Bishop of Bangor’s, late as it was. However, the chairmen carried him home, and got him up stairs; when his great complaisance would wait on them down stairs again, which he did, and then was got quietly to bed. Next morning he was much ashamed, and sent the bishop this distich:

“Virtue with so much ease on Bangor sits,
All faults he pardons, though he none commits.”

“On such another occasion the waiters were boasting him into a hackney coach, with some labour and pains, when a tory mob was just passing by, and their cry was “Down with the Rump,” &c. “Up with the rump,” cried Sir Richard to the waiters, “or I shall not get home to-night.”

Nº 527. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1712.

*Facile invenies et pejorem, et pejora moralem;
Meliorum neque tu reperis, neque sol cedit*
PLAUTUS in Sc.

You will easily find a worse woman; a better the men will find upon.

I AM so tender of my women-readers, that I cannot defer the publication of any thing which concerns their happiness or quiet. The report of a married woman is consulted in the first of the following letters, and the felicity of a maiden is in the second. I call it a felicity to have the addresses of an agreeable man; and I think I have not any where seen a prettier application of a poetical story than that of this, in making use of Cephalus and Procris the history picture of a fan in so gallant a manner as he addresses it. I see the letters.

“MR. SPECTATOR,

“It is now almost three months since I was interrupted about some business; and the hurry of it being over, I took a coach one afternoon, and drove to a relation, who married about six years ago a worthy citizen. I found her at home, but her husband gone to the Exchange, and expected back in an hour at the furthest. After the usual salutation of kindness, and a hundred questions about the country, we sat down to piquet, play, or three games, and drank tea. I should have told you that this was my second time of seeing her since marriage; but before, she lived at the town where I went to school; so that the private relation, added to the innocence of my acquaintance, prevailed upon her good-humour to indulge a freedom of conversation, as often, and more than the strict discipline of the school would allow of. You may easily imagine after such acquaintance we might be exceeding merry, and any offence; as in calling to mind how many conventions I have been put to in deluding the world how many hands forged for excuses, how many times been sick in perfect health; for I was the never sick but at school, and only then got out of her company. We had waited away five hours after this manner, when I found it past, and, not expecting her husband would return late, rose up, told her I should go early next morning for the country. She kindly answered she was afraid it would be long before she saw me again, so I took my leave, and parted. Now, as I had not been got home a fortnight, when I received a letter from a neighbour of theirs, that ever since that fatal afternoon the lady had been most unmanly treated, and the husband publicly said that he was made a member of too numerous society. He had, it seems, listened most of the time my cousin and I were together. As jealousy always hear double, so he heard enough to make him mad; and as jealous eyes always are through magnifying glasses, so he was certain it could be I whom he had seen, a beardless stripling, who fancied he saw a gay gentleman of the French ten years older than myself; and for that reason I presume, durst not come in, nor take any notice when I went out. He is perpetually asking his wife if she does not think the time long (in which she should) until she see her cousin again. Now, sir, what can be done in this case? I have ever since been at his house all the time.”

you expecting to see him. His answer is, it is only a trick of hers, and that he neither can nor will believe me. The parting kiss I find mightily settles him, and confirms him in all his errors. Ben Jonson, as I remember, makes a foreigner, in one of his comedies, "admire the desperate valour of the bold English, who let out their wives to all countenances." The general custom of salutation could excuse the favour done me, or you should lay down rules when such distinctions are to be seen or omitted. You cannot imagine, sir, how obliged I am for this unhappy lady's misfortune, and how you would insert this letter, that the husband may reflect upon this accident coolly. It is a small matter, the ease of a virtuous woman for her whole life. I know she will conform to any generalities (though more strict than the common laws of our country require) to which his particular temper shall incline him to oblige her. This accident puts me in mind how generously Pisistratus, the Athenian tyrant, behaved himself on a like occasion, when he was instigated by his wife to put death on a young gentleman, because, being passionately fond of his daughter, he had kissed her public as he met her in the street. "What," says he, "shall we do to those who are our enemies, we do thus to those who are our friends?" I will not trouble you much longer, but am exceedingly concerned lest this accident may cause a virtuously to lead a miserable life with a husband who has no grounds for his jealousy but what I have justly related, and ought to be reckoned none. It is to be feared too, if at last he sees his mistake, the people will be as slow and unwilling in disbelieving scandal, as they are quick and forward in believing it. I shall endeavour to enliven this plainest letter with Ovid's relation about Cybele's rage. The ship wherein it was aboard was randed at the mouth of the Tiber, and the men were unable to move it, until Claudia, a virgin, it suspected of unchastity, by a slight pull hauled in. The story is told in the fourth book of the *anti*.

"Parent of gods," began the weeping fair,
"Reward or punish, but oh! hear my pray'r:
If less incest e'er defil'd my virgin bloom;
From heaven with justice I receive my doom;
But if my honour yet has known no stain,
Thou, goddess, thou my innocence maintain;
Thou, whom the nicest rules of goodness away'd,
Vouchsafe to follow an unblemish'd maid."
She spake, and touch'd the cord with glad surprise,
(The truth was witness'd by ten thousand eyes)
The pitying goddess easily comply'd,
Follow'd in triumph, and adorn'd her guide;
While Claudia, blushing still for past disgrace,
March'd silent on, with a slow solemn pace:
Nor yet from some was all distrust remov'd,
Tho' heaven such virtue by such wonders prov'd.

' I am, SIR,

' Your very humble servant,

' PHILAGNOTES.

' MR. SPECTATOR,

You will oblige a languishing lover if you will ease to print the inclosed verses in your next paper. If you remember the *Metamorphoses*, you know Procris, the fond wife of Cephalus, is said to have made her husband, who delighted in the sports of the wood, a present of an unerring javelin. In process of time he was so much in the forest, at his lady suspected he was pursuing some nymph, under the pretence of following a chase once innocent. Under this suspicion she hid herself among the trees, to observe his motions. While she lay concealed, her husband, tired with

the labour of hunting, came within her hearing. As he was fainting with heat he cried out, *Aura venit*; "Oh, charming air, approach!"

' The unfortunate wife, taking the word air to be the name of a woman, began to move among the bushes; and the husband, believing it a deer, threw his javelin, and killed her. This history painted on a fan, which I presented to a lady, gave occasion to my growing poetical.

"Come, gentle air!" th' Æolian shepherd said,
While Procris panted in the secret shade;
"Come, gentle air!" the fairer Delia cries,
While at her feet her swain expiring lies.
Lo the glad gales o'er all her beauties stray,
Breathe on her lips, and in her bosom play.
In Delia's hand this toy is fatal found,
Nor did that fabled dart more surely wound.
Both gifts destructive to the givers prove,
Alike both lovers fall by those they love:
Yet guiltless too this bright destroyer lives,
At random wounds, nor knows the wounds she gives:
She views the story with attentive eyes,
And pities Procris, while her lover dies*.

Nº 528. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1712.

Dum potuit, solita gemitum virtute repressit.

OID. Met. ix. ver. 163.

With wonted fortitude she bore the smart,
And not a groan confess'd her burning heart.

GAY.

' MR. SPECTATOR,

' I WHO now write to you am a woman loaded with injuries; and the aggravation of my misfortune is, that they are such which are overlooked by the generality of mankind; and, though the most afflicting imaginable, not regarded as such in the general sense of the world. I have hid my vexation from all mankind; but have now taken pen, ink, and paper, and am resolved to unbosom myself to you, and lay before you what grieves me and all the sex. You have very often mentioned particular hardships done to this or that lady; but methinks you have not, in any one speculation, directly pointed at the partial freedom men take, the unreasonable confinement women are obliged to, in the only circumstance in which we are necessarily to have a commerce with them, that of love. The case of celibacy is the great evil of our nation; and the indulgence of the vicious conduct of men in that state, with the ridicule to which women are exposed, though ever so virtuous, if long unmarried, is the root of the greatest irregularities of this nation. To show you, sir, that though you never have given us the catalogue of a lady's library, as you promised, we read books of our own choosing, I shall insert on this occasion a paragraph or two out of Echard's *Roman History*. In the 44th page of the second volume the author observes that Augustus, upon his return to Rome at the end of a war, received complaints that too great a number of the young men of quality were unmarried. The emperor thereupon assembled the whole equestrian order; and, having separated the married from the single, did particular honours to the former; but he told the latter, that is to say, Mr. Spectator, he told the bachelors, that their lives and actions had been so peculiar, that he knew not by what

* These verses, and the letter by which they are introduced, were written by Pope. It is not known who wrote the rest of the paper, as it was not latticed at the end; but it might probably be Hughes. See the concluding paragraph of Nº 537.

name to call them; not by that of men, for they performed nothing that was manly; not by that of citizens, for the city might perish notwithstanding their care; nor by that of Romans, for they designed to extirpate the Roman name. Then, proceeding to show his tender care and hearty affection for his people, he further told them, that their course of life was of such pernicious consequence to the glory and grandeur of the Roman nation, that he could not choose but tell them, that all other crimes put together could not equalize theirs, for they were guilty of murder, in not suffering those to be born which should proceed from them: of impiety, in causing the names and honours of their ancestors to cease; and of sacrilege, in destroying their kind, which proceed from the immortal gods, and human nature, the principal thing consecrated to them: therefore, in this respect, they dissolved the government in disobeying its laws; betrayed their country by making it barren and waste: nay, and demolished their city, in depriving it of inhabitants. And he was sensible that all this proceeded not from any kind of virtue or abstinence, but from a looseness and wantonness which ought never to be encouraged in any civil government. There are no particulars dwelt upon that let us into the conduct of these young worthies, whom this great emperor treated with so much justice and indignation; but any one who observes what passes in this town, may very well frame to himself a notion of their riots and debaucheries all night, and their apparent preparations for them all day. It is not to be doubted but these Romans never passed any of their time innocently but when they were asleep, and never slept but when they were weary and heavy with excesses, and slept only to prepare themselves for the repetition of them. If you did your duty as a Spectator, you would carefully examine into the number of births, marriages, and burials; and when you had deducted out of your deaths all such as went out of the world without marrying, then cast up the number of both sexes born within such a term of years last past; you might, from the single people departed, make some useful inferences or guesses how many there are left unmarried, and raise some useful scheme for the amendment of the age in that particular. I have not patience to proceed gravely on this abominable libertinism; for I cannot but reflect, as I am writing to you, upon a certain lascivious manner which all our young gentlemen use in public, and examine our eyes with a petulancy in their own which is a downright affront to modesty. A disdainful look on such an occasion is returned with a countenance rebuked, but by averting their eyes from the woman of honour and decency to some flippant creature, who will, as the phrase is, be kinder. I must set down things as they come into my head, without standing upon order. Ten thousand to one but the gay gentleman who stared at the same time is an housekeeper; for you must know they have got into an humour of late of being very regular in their sins; and a young fellow shall keep his four maids and three footmen with the greatest gravity imaginable. There are no less than six of these venerable housekeepers of my acquaintance. This humour among young men of condition is imitated by all the world below them, and a general dissolution* of manners arises from this one source of libertinism, without shame or reprobation in the male youth. It is from this one fountain that so many beautiful helpless young women are sacri-

* For dissoluteness.

ficed and given up to lewdness, stinking poverty and disease. It is to this also that so many resent young women, who might be patterns of conjugal affection, and parents of a warlike nation, under unhappy passions for such as have not attention enough to observe, or virtue enough to prefer them to their common wenches. Now, Mr. Spectator, I must be free to own to you that I would suffer a tasteless insipid being, from a consideration I have for a man who would not, as he has said, my hearing, resign his liberty, as he calls it, to all the beauty and wealth the whole sex is possessed of. Such calamities as these would not happen, it could possibly be brought about that, by having bachelors as papists convicted, or the like, they were distinguished to their disadvantage from the rest of the world, who fall in with the measures of society. Lest you should think I speak of a being, according to the scemless rude phrase, malicious old maid, I shall acquaint you I am a woman of condition, not now three-and-twenty, and have had proposals from at least ten different men, and the greater number of them have upon the upshot refused me. Something or other always amiss when the lover takes to some wench. A settlement is easily overdefted upon; and there is very little recourse to avoid the worst part of our youth, but throwing themselves upon some lifeless blockhead, who, though he has a great vice, is also without virtue. Now-a-days we can be contented if we can get creatures who are not bad, good are not to be expected. Mr. Spectator, I sat near you the other day, and when I did not displease your spectatorial eye-sight; and I shall be a better judge of when I see what you take notice of these evils your own eyes print this memorial dictated from the distressed heavy heart of,

Yours,
'Your most obedient humble servant.'

'RACHEL WELLS.'

STEELE.

ADVERTISEMENT TO THIS PAPER IN THE FOLIO EDITION.

'Whereas there hath lately been published a legendary story of an unknown Theodosius, emperor of a priesthood of Christ, translated out of Saides, and by a priest of a very ancient, authentic, and remarkable tract, concerning our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the translator has taken the liberty not only to detain me, but to use my name in the title-page, thereby giving occasion to think I countenance the authority of the testimony; now these are to certify, that the person who published that pamphlet is altogether a stranger to me; and I was no ways acquainted with his design till he printed; for though the passage produced may appear credible, yet I cannot think the testimony either serious or theistic.

'Nov. 4, 1712.

BOR. KILBY

Nº 520. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1712

Singula quaque locum tenent sortiri domus
HOR. An. Pet. 1

Let every thing have its due place.
BOBODDOROC.

UPON the hearing of several late disputes concerning rank and precedence, I could not but amuse myself with some observations, which I have made upon the learned world, as to the point particular. By the learned world I mean all those who are any way conversant in works of literature, whether in the study, printing, or repeating part. To begin with the first, I have observed that the author of a libel is a

companies and conversations, sets himself above the author of a quarto; the author of a quarto, above the author of an octavo; and so on, by a gradual descent and subordination, to an author in twenty-fours. This distinction is so well observed, that, in an assembly of the learned, I have seen a wise writer place himself in an elbow chair, when the author of a duodecimo has, out of a just deference to his superior quality, seated himself upon a squab. In a word, authors are usually ranged company after the same manner as their works lie upon a shelf.

The most minute pocket author hath beneath him the writers of all pamphlets, or works that are easily stiched. As for the pamphleteer, he takes care of none but of the authors of single sheets, and of that fraternity who publish their labours on certain days, or on every day of the week. I do not find that the precedence among the individuals of this latter class of writers is yet settled.

For my own part, I have had so strict a regard to the ceremonial which prevails in the learned world, that I never presumed to take place of a pamphleteer, until my daily papers were gathered to those two first volumes which have already appeared. After which, I naturally jumped over the heads not only of all pamphleteers, but of every octavo writer in Great Britain that had written but one book. I am also informed by my bookseller, that six octavos have at all times been reckoned upon as an equivalent to a folio; which I take notice of the rather, because I would not have the learned world surprised, if, after the publication of half a dozen volumes, I take my place accordingly. When my scattered forces are thus rallied, and reduced into regular bodies, I flatter myself that I shall make no despicable figure at the head of them.

Whether these rules, which have been received me out of mind in the commonwealth of letters, were not originally established with an eye to our paper manufacture, I shall leave to the discussion of others; and shall only remark further in this place, that all printers and booksellers take the rank of one another according to the above-mentioned merits of the authors to whom they respectively belong.

I come now to that point of precedence which is settled among the three learned professions by the wisdom of our laws. I need not here take notice of the rank which is allotted to every doctor of each of these professions, who are all of them, though not so high as knights, yet a degree above squires; this last order of men, being the illiterate body of the nation, are consequently thrown together in a class below the three learned professions. I mention this for the sake of several rural squires, whose reading does not rise so high as to the present State of England, and who are often apt to usurp that precedence which by the laws of their country is not due to them. Their want of earning, which has planted them in this station, may in some measure extenuate their misdemeanour; and our professors ought to pardon them when they offend in this particular, considering that they are in a state of ignorance, or, as we usually say, do not know their right hand from their left.

There is another tribe of persons who are regulars to the learned world, and who regulate themselves upon all occasions by several laws peculiar to their body; I mean the players or actors of both sexes. Among these it is a standing and uncontroversied principle, that a tragedian always takes place of a comedian; and it is very well known the merry drolls who make us laugh are

always placed at the lower end of the table, and in every entertainment give way to the dignity of the buffoon. It is a stage maxim, 'Once a king, and always a king.' For this reason it would be thought very absurd in Mr. Bullock, notwithstanding the height and gracefulness of his person, to sit at the right hand of an hero, though he were but five foot high. The same distinction is observed among the ladies of the theatre. Queens and heroines preserve their rank in private conversation, while those who are waiting-women and maids of honour upon the stage, keep their distance also behind the scenes.

I shall only add that, by a parity of reason, all writers of tragedy look upon it as their due to be seated, served, or saluted, before comic writers, those who deal in tragi-comedy usually taking their seats between the authors of either side. There has been a long dispute for precedence between the tragic and heroic poets. Aristotle would have the latter yield the *pas* to the former; but Mr. Dryden, and many others, would never submit to this decision. Burlesque writers pay the same deference to the heroic, as comic writers to their serious brothers in the drama.

By this short table of laws order is kept up, and distinction is preserved, in the whole republic of letters.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 530. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1719.

*Sic visum Veneti; cui placet impare
Formas atque animos sub joca athenae
Sævo mittere cum joco.*

HOR. Od. xxxiii. l. 1. ver. 18.

Thus Venus sports: the rich, the base,
Unlike in fortune and in face,
To disagreeing love provokes;
When cruelly jocose,
She ties the fatal noose,
And binds unequals to the brazen yokes.
CREECH.

It is very usual for those who have been severe upon marriage, in some part or other of their lives, to enter into the fraternity which they have ridiculed, and to see their railillery return upon their own heads. I scarce ever knew a woman-hater that did not, sooner or later, pay for it. Marriage, which is a blessing to another man, falls upon such an one as a judgment. Mr. Congreve's Old Bachelor is set forth to us with much wit and humour as an example of this kind. In short, those who have most distinguished themselves by railing at the sex in general, very often make an honourable amends by choosing one of the most worthless persons of it for a companion and yoke-fellow. Hymen takes his revenge in kind on those who turn his mysteries into ridicule.

My friend Will Honeycomb, who was so unmercifully witty upon the women in a couple of letters, which I lately communicated to the public, has given the ladies ample satisfaction by marrying a farmer's daughter; a piece of news which came to our club by the last post. The Templar is very positive that he has married a dairy-maid: but Will, in his letter to me on this occasion, sets the best face upon the matter that he can, and gives a more tolerable account of his spouse. I must confess I suspected something more than ordinary, when upon opening the letter I found that Will was fallen off from his former gaiety, having changed 'Dear Spec,' which was his usual salute at the beginning of the letter, into 'My worthy Friend,' and subscribed himself in the latter end

of it at full length William Honeycomb. In short, the gay, the loud, the vain Will Honeycomb, who had made love to every great fortune that has appeared in town for above thirty years together, and boasted of favours from ladies whom he had never seen, is at length wedded to a plain country girl.

His letter gives us the picture of a converted rake. The sober character of the husband is dashed with the man of the town, and enlivened with those little cant-phrases, which have made my friend Will often thought very pretty company. But let us hear what he says for himself.

‘MY WORTHY FRIEND,

‘I QUESTION not but you, and the rest of my acquaintance, wonder that I, who have lived in the smoke and gallantries of the town for thirty years together, should all on a sudden grow fond of a country life. Had not my dog of a steward run away as he did without making up his accounts, I had still been immersed in sin and sea-coal. But since my late forced visit to my estate I am so pleased with it, that I am resolved to live and die upon it. I am every day abroad among my acres, and can scarce forbear filling my letter with breezes, shades, flowers, meadows, and purling streams. The simplicity of manners which I have heard you so often speak of, and which appears here in perfection, charms me wonderfully. As an instance of it, I must acquaint you, and by your means the whole club, that I have lately married one of my tenant's daughters. She is born of honest parents, and though she has no portion, she has a great deal of virtue. The natural sweetness and innocence of her behaviour, the freshness of her complexion, the unaffected turn of her shape and person, shot me through and through every time I saw her, and did more execution upon me in grogram, than the greatest beauty in town or court had ever done in brocade. In short, she is such an one as promises me a good heir to my estate; and if by her means I cannot leave to my children what are falsely called the gifts of birth, high titles and alliances, I hope to convey to them the more real and valuable gifts of birth, strong bodies, and healthy constitutions. As for your fine women, I need not tell thee that I know them. I have had my share in their graces, but no more of that. It shall be my business hereafter to live the life of an honest man and to act as becomes the master of a family. I question not but I shall draw upon me the raillery of the town, and be treated to the tune of ‘The Marriage-bater Matched;’ but I am prepared for it. I have been as witty upon others in my time. To tell thee truly, I saw such a tribe of fashionable young fluttering cockcocks shot up that I did not think my post of an *homme de ruelle* any longer tenable. I felt a certain stiffness in my limbs, which entirely destroyed that jantiness of air I was once master of. Besides, for I may now confess my age to thee, I have been eight-and-forty above these twelve years. Since my retirement into the country will make a vacancy in the club, I could wish you would fill up my place with my friend Tom Dapperwit. He has an infinite deal of fire, and knows the town. For my own part, as I have said before, I shall endeavour to live hereafter suitable to a man in my station, as a prudent head of a family, a good husband, a careful father (when it shall so happen), and as

‘Your most sincere friend,
‘and humble servant,
‘WILLIAM HONEYCOMB.’

ADDISON,

O.

Nº 531. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1741

Qui mare et terras atque omne mundum

Temperat horis:

Unde nil magis generatur ipso,

Nec viget quicquam simile aut secundum.

HOR. Od. III. l. 1. v. 1.

Who guides below, and rules above,
The great disposer, and the mighty King:
Than he none greater, next him none more,
That can be, is, or was;
Supreme he singly fills the throne.

CREECH.

SIXTONES being asked by Dionysius the what God was, desired a day's time to consider it before he made his reply. When the day expired he desired two days; and afterwards, instead of returning his answer, demanded still so long a time to consider of it. This great poet and philosopher, the more he contemplated the mind of the Deity, found that he wanted but the out of his depth; and that he lost himself in the thought, instead of finding an end of it.

If we consider the idea which wise men, be it in light of reason, have framed of the Divine Being, it amounts to this: that he has in him all the perfection of a spiritual nature. And, since we have no notion of any kind of spiritual perfection but what we discover in our own souls, we join attribute to each kind of these perfections, and thus a faculty in an human soul becomes an attribute to God. We exist in place and time; the Divine Being fills the immensity of space with his presence, and inhabits eternity. We are possessed of a little power and a little knowledge; the Divine Being is almighty and omniscient. In short, by adding infinity to any kind of perfection we enjoy, and by joining all these different kinds of perfection in one being, we form our idea of the great Sovereign of nature.

Though every one who thinks must have made this observation, I shall produce Mr. Locke's authority to the same purpose, out of his Essay of Human Understanding. ‘If we examine the ideas we have of the incomprehensible Supreme Being we shall find that we come by it the same way, and that the complex ideas we have both of him and separate spirits, are made up of the simple ideas we receive from reflection: v. g. having, from what we experiment in ourselves, got the ideas of existence and duration, of knowledge and power, of pleasure and happiness, and of several other qualities and powers, which it is better to have than to be without; when we would frame to us the most suitable we can to the Supreme Being, we enlarge every one of these with our ideas of infinity; and so putting them together make our complex idea of God.’

It is not impossible that there may be several kinds of spiritual perfection, besides those which are lodged in an human soul: but it is impossible that we should have the ideas of any kind of perfection, except those of which we have our own rays and short imperfect strikes in ourselves. It would be therefore a very high presumption to determine whether the Supreme Being has not more attributes than those which enter into our conceptions of him. This is certain, that, if there be any kind of spiritual perfection which is not marked out in an human soul, it belongs to the fullness to the divine nature.

Several eminent philosophers have imagined that the soul, in her separate state, may have no

ilities springing up in her, which she is not capable of exerting during her present union with the body; and whether these faculties may not correspond with other attributes in the divine nature, and open to us hereafter new matter of wonder and adoration, we are altogether ignorant. This, as I have said before, we ought to acquiesce in, that the pierceing Being, the great Author of nature, has in him all possible perfection, as well in kind as in degree; to speak according to our methods of conceiving, I shall only add under this head, that when we have raised our notion of this Infinite being as high as it is possible for the mind of man to go, it will fall infinitely short of what he really is. 'There is no end of his greatness.' The most exalted creature he has made is only capable of doing it, none but himself can comprehend it.

The advice of the son of Sirach is very just and sublime in this light. 'By his word all things consist. We may speak much, and yet come short: therefore in sum he is all. How shall we be able to magnify him? for he is great above all his works. The Lord is terrible and very great; and marvelous in his power. When you glorify the Lord, exalt him as much as you can; for even yet will he far exceed. And when you exalt him, put forth all your strength, and be not weary; for you can never go far enough. Who hath seen him, that he might tell us? and who can magnify him as he is? There are yet hid greater things than these be, for we have seen but a few of his works.'

I have here only considered the Supreme Being by the light of reason and philosophy. If we would see him in all the wonders of his mercy, we must have recourse to revelation, which represents him to us not only as infinitely great and glorious, but as infinitely good and just in his dispensations towards man. But as this is a theory which falls under every one's consideration, though indeed it can never be sufficiently considered, I shall here only take notice of that habitual worship and veneration which we ought to pay to this Almighty Being. We should often refresh our minds with the thought of him, and annihilate ourselves before him, in the contemplation of our own worthlessness, and of his transcendent excellency and perfection. This would imprint in our minds such a constant and uninterrupted awe and veneration as that which I am here recommending, and which is in reality a kind of incessant prayer, and reasonable humiliation of the soul before him who made it.

This would effectually kill in us all the little seeds of pride, vanity, and self-conceit, which are apt to shoot up in the minds of such whose thoughts turn more on those comparative advantages which they enjoy over some of their fellow-creatures, than on that infinite distance which is placed between them and the supreme model of all perfection. It would likewise quicken our desires and endeavours of uniting ourselves to him by all the acts of religion and virtue.

Such an habitual homage to the Supreme Being would, in a particular manner, banish from among us that prevailing impiety of using his name on the most trivial occasions.

I find the following passage in an excellent sermon, preached at the funeral of a gentleman* who was an honour to his country, and a more diligent as well as successful inquirer into the works of nature than any other our nation has ever produced. 'He had the profoundest veneration for the great

God of heaven and earth that I have ever observed in any person. The very name of God was never mentioned by him without a pause and a visible stop in his discourse; in which, one that knew him most particularly above twenty years, has told me that he was so exact, that he does not remember to have observed him once to fail in it.'

Every one knows the veneration which was paid by the Jews to a name so great, wonderful, and holy. They would not let it enter even into their religious discourses. What can we then think of those who make use of so tremendous a name in the ordinary expressions of their anger, mirth, and most impertinent passions? Of those who admit it into the most familiar questions and assertions, ludicrous phrases, and works of humour? Not to mention those who violate it by solemn perjuries! It would be an affront to reason to endeavour to set forth the horror and profaneness of such a practice. The very mention of it exposes it sufficiently to those in whom the light of nature, not to say religion, is not utterly extinguished.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 532. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1719.

— *Fungor vice cotis, acutum
Reddere quæ ferrum valet, exorsu ipsa secandi.*
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 304.

I play the whetstone: useless, and unfit
To cut myself, I sharpen others wit.
CREECH.

It is a very honest action to be studious to produce other men's merit; and I make no scruple of saying, I have as much of this temper as any man in the world. It would not be a thing to be bragged of, but that it is what any man may be master of, who will take pains enough for it. Much observation of the unworthiness in being pained at the excellence of another, will bring you to a scorn of yourself for that unwillingness: and when you have got so far, you will find it a greater pleasure than you ever before knew, to be zealous in promoting the fame and welfare of the praise-worthy. I do not speak this as pretending to be a mortified self-denying man, but as one who has turned his ambition into a right channel. I claim to myself the merit of having extorted excellent productions from a person of the greatest abilities, who would not have let them appear by any other means; to have animated a few young gentlemen into worthy pursuits, who will be a glory to our age; and at all times, and by all possible means in my power, undermined the interest of ignorance, vice, and folly, and attempted to substitute in their stead learning, piety, and good sense. It is from this honest heart that I find myself honoured as a gentleman-usher to the arts and sciences. Mr. Tickell and Mr. Pope have, it seems, this idea of me. The former has writ me an excellent paper of verses in praise, forsooth, of myself; and the other inclosed for my perusal an admirable poem†, which I hope will shortly see the light. In the mean time I cannot suppress any thought of his, but insert his sentiment about the dying words of Adrian‡. I will not determine in the case he mentions; but have thus much to say in favour of his argument, that many of his own works which I have seen, convince me that very pretty and very sublime sen-

* Addison.

† The Temple of Fame.

‡ See Pope's Works.

* Bishop Burnet's, at the funeral of the Honourable Robert Boyle.

timents may be lodged in the same bosom without diminution to its greatness.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I was the other day in company with five or six men of some learning: where, chancing to mention the famous verses which the emperor Adrian spoke on his death-bed, they were all agreed that it was a piece of gaiety unworthy that prince in those circumstances. I could not but dissent from this opinion. Methinks it was by no means a gay but a very serious soliloquy to his soul at the point of his departure: in which sense I naturally took the verses at my first reading them, when I was very young, and before I knew what interpretation the world generally put upon them:

“*Animula vagula, blandula,
Hesper comesque corporis,
Quæ nunc abibis in loca
Pallidula, rigida, madula,
Nec (ut soles) dabis jocus!*”

“Alas, my soul! thou pleasing companion of this body, thou fleeting thing that art now deserting it, whither art thou flying? To what unknown region? Thou art all trembling, fearful, and pen- sive. Now what is become of thy former wit and humour? Thou shalt jest and be gay no more.”

‘I confess I cannot apprehend where lies the trifling in all this; it is the most natural and obvious reflection imaginable to a dying man: and, if we consider the emperor was an heathen, that doubt concerning the future state of his soul will seem so far from being the effect of want of thought, that it was scarce reasonable he should think otherwise; not to mention that here is a plain confession included of his belief in its immortality. The diminutive epithets of *vagula, blandula*, and the rest, appear not to me as expressions of levity, but rather of endearment and concern: such as we find in Catullus, and the authors of Hendecasyllabi after him, where they are used to express the utmost love and tenderness for their mistresses.—If you think me right in my notion of the last words of Adrian, be pleased to insert this in the Spectator; if not, to suppress it.

‘I am, &c.

‘TO THE SUPPOSED AUTHOR OF THE SPECTATOR.

‘In courts licentious, and a shameless stage,
How long the war shall wit with virtue wage!
Enchanted by this prostituted fair,
Our youth run headlong in the fatal snare;
In height of rapture clasp unheeded pains,
And suck pollution through their tingling veins.

‘Thy spotless thoughts unshock’d the priest may hear,
And the pure vestal in her bosom wear.
To conscious blushes and diminish’d pride
Thy glass betrays what treach’rous love would hide;
Nor harsh thy precepts, but inform’d by stealth,
Pleas’d while they cure, and cheat us into health.
Thy works in Chloe’s toilet gain a part,
And with his tailor share the fopling’s heart:
Lash’d in thy satire, the penurious cit
Laughs at himself, and finds no harm in wit:
From felon gamesters the raw ‘squire is free,
And Britain owes her rescu’d oaks to thee*;
His miss the frolic viscount+ dreads to toast,
Or his third cure the shallow templer boasts;
And the rash fool, who scorn’d the beaten road,
Dares quake at thunder, and confess his God.

‘The brainless stripling, who, expell’d the town,
Damn’d the stiff college and pedantic gown,

* An allusion to Steele’s papers against the Sharpers, &c. in the Tatler, particularly to a letter in Tatler, N^o 73, signed Will Trusty, and written by Mr. Hughes.

+ Bolingbroke.

Aw’d by thy name is dumb, and thrice a week
Spells uncouth Latin, and pretends to Greek.
A sanct’ring tribe! such, born to wide estates,
With “yea” and “no” in senates hold debates:
At length despis’d, each to his fields retires,
First with the dogs, and king amidst the squares;
From pert to stupid sinks supinely down,
In youth a coxcomb, and in age a clown.

‘Such readers scorn’d, thou wing’st thy daring flight
Above the stars, and tread’st the fields of light,
Fame, heav’n, and hell, are thy exalted theme,
And visions such as Jove himself might dream;
Man sunk to slav’ry, though to glory born,
Heav’n’s pride when upright, and depriv’d his scorn.

‘Such hints alone could British Virgil* lead,
And thou alone deserve from such a friend
A debt so borrow’d is illustrious shame,
And fame when shar’d with him is double fame;
So flush’d with sweets, by Beauty’s queen bestow’d,
With more than mortal charms *Æneas* glow’d.
Such gen’rous strife Eugene and Marlbro’ try,
And as in glory so in friendship vie.

‘Permit these lines by thee to live—nor blame
A muse that pants and languishes for fame;
That fears to sink when humbler themes she sings,
Lost in the mass of mean forgotten things.
Receiv’d by thee, I prophesy my rhymes
The praise of virgins in succeeding times:
Mix’d with thy works, their life no bounds shall see,
But stand protected as inspir’d by thee.

‘So some weak shoot, which else would partly die,
Jove’s tree adopts, and lifts him to the skies;
Thro’ the new pupil fostering jules flow,
Thrust forth the gems, and give the flowers to blow
Aloft; immortal reigns the plant unknown,
With borrow’d life, and vigour out his own.’

‘TO THE SPECTATOR GENERAL.

‘Mr. JOHN SLV humbly sheweth,

‘THAT upon reading the deputation given to &c. said Mr. John Sly†, all persons passing by his ob- servatory behaved themselves with the same decu- rum as if your honour yourself had been present.

‘That your said officer is preparing, accord- ing to your honour’s secret instructions, hats for the several kind of heads that make figures in the realms of Great Britain, with cocks significant of their powers and faculties.

‘That your said officer has taken due notice of your instructions and admonitions concerning the internals of the head from the outward form of the same. His hats for men of the faculties of law and physic do but just turn up, to give a little lift to their sagacity; his military hats glare full in the face; and he has prepared a familiar easy cock for all good companions between the above-men- tioned extremes. For this end he has con- sider’d the most learned of his acquaintance for the true form and dimensions of the *lepidum caput*, and made a hat fit for it.

‘Your said officer does further represent, That the young divines about town are many of them got into the cock military, and desires your in- structions therein.

‘That the town has been for several days well behaved, and further your said officer can not.’

STEELE.

J.

ADVERTISEMENT.

* An entertainment by Mr. Clinch, of Bury, who takes the flute, double oboe, the organ with three men, the horn, huntsman, and pack of hounds; the sham-dance, the old woman; the drunken man; the bells, strike of day &c. All instruments are performed by his own band. To which is added, an Italian song, by Mr. Clinch himself. Price 1s.

* Addison. + These verses were written by Thel- & See N^o 526, and note.

N^o 533. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1712.

*Immo duas dabo, inquit ille, una si parvum est:
Et si duarum parvioribus, addentur due.*

PLAUT.

Nay, says he, if one is too little, I will give you too;
And if two won't satisfy you, I will add two more.

‘ TO THE SPECTATOR.

‘ SIR,
You have often given us very excellent discourses against that unnatural custom of parents, in forcing their children to marry contrary to their inclinations. My own case, without farther preface, I will lay before you, and leave you to judge of it. My father and mother both being in declining years, could fain see me, their eldest son, as they call it, settled. I am as much for that as they can be: but I must be settled, it seems, not according to my own, but their liking. Upon this account I am eased every day, because I have not yet fallen in love, in spite of nature, with one of a neighbouring gentleman's daughters; for, out of their abundant generosity, they give me the choice of four. “ Jack,” begins my father, “ Mrs. Catharine is a fine woman.”—“ Yea, sir, but she is rather too old.”—“ She will make the more discreet manager, boy.” Then my mother plays her part. “ Is not Mrs. Betty exceeding fair?”—Yes, madam, but she is of no conversation; she has no fire, no agreeable vivacity; she neither speaks nor looks with spirit.” “ True, son; but for those very reasons she will be an easy, soft, obliging, tractable creature.”—“ After all,” cries an old aunt (who belongs to the class of those who read plays with spectacles on), “ what think you, nephew, of proper Mrs. Dorothy?”—“ What do I think I why, I think she cannot be above six foot two inches high.”—“ Well, well, you may banter as long as you please, but height of stature is commanding and majestic.”—“ Come, come,” says a cousin of mine in the family, “ I will fit him; Fidelia is yet behind: pretty Miss Fiddy must please you.”—“ Oh! your very humble servant, dear coz, she is as much too young as her eldest sister is too old.”—“ Is it so indeed,” quoth she, “ good Mr. Pert? You who are but barely turned of twenty-two, and Miss Fiddy in half a year's time will be in her teens, and she is capable of learning any thing. Then she will be so observant; she will cry perhaps now and then, but never be angry.” Thus they will think for me in this matter wherein I am more particularly concerned than any body else. If I name any woman in the world, one of those daughters has certainly the same qualities. You see by these few hints, Mr. Spectator, what a comfortable life I lead. To be still more open and free with you, I have been passionately fond of a young lady (whom give me leave to call Miranda) now for these three years. I have often urged the matter home to my parents with all the submission of a son, but the impatience of a lover. Pray, sir, think of three years: what inexpressible scenes of inquietude, what variety of misery must I have gone through in three long whole years? Miranda's fortune is equal to those I have mentioned; but her relations are not intimate with mine. Ah; there's the rub! Miranda's person, wit, and humour, are what the nicest fancy could imagine; and, though we know you to be so elegant a judge of beauty, yet there is hot! among all your various characters of fine women preferable to Miranda. In a word, she is

never guilty of doing any thing but one amiss (if she can be thought to do amiss by me), in being as blind to my faults as she is to her own perfections.

‘ I am, sir,

‘ Your very humble,
‘ obedient servant,
‘ DUSTERERASTUS.’

‘ MR. SPECTATOR,

‘ WHEN you spent so much time as you did lately in censuring the ambitious young gentlemen who ride in triumph through town and country on coach-boxes, I wished you had employed those moments in consideration of what passes sometimes within-side of those vehicles. I am sure I suffered sufficiently by the insolence and ill-breeding of some persons who travelled lately with me in the stage-coach out of Essex to London. I am sure, when you have heard what I have to say, you will think there are persons under the character of gentlemen that are fit to be no where else but on the coach-box. Sir, I am a young woman of a sober and religious education, and have preserved that character; but on Monday was fortnight, it was my misfortune to come to London. I was no sooner clapped in the coach, but to my great surprise, two persons in the habit of gentlemen attacked me with such indecent discourse as I cannot repeat to you, so you may conclude not fit for me to hear. I had no relief but the hopes of a speedy end of my short journey. Sir, form to yourself what a persecution this must needs be to a virtuous and chaste mind; and, in order to your proper handling such a subject, fancy your wife or daughter, if you had any, in such circumstances, and what treatment you would think then due to such dragoons. One of them was called a captain, and entertained us with nothing but silly stupid questions, or lewd songs, all the way. Ready to burst with shame and indignation, I repined that nature had not allowed us as easily to shut our ears as our eyes. But was not this a kind of rape? Why should there be accessories in ravishment any more than murder? Why should not every contributor to the abuse of chastity suffer death? I am sure these shameless hell-hounds deserved it highly. Can you exert yourself better than on such an occasion? If you do not do it effectually I will read no more of your papers. Has every impertinent fellow a privilege to torment me who pay my coach-hire as well as he? Sir, pray consider us in this respect as the weakest sex, who have nothing to defend ourselves; and I think it is as gentleman-like to challenge a woman to fight as to talk obscenely in her company, especially when she has not power to stir. Pray let me tell you a story which you can make fit for public view. I knew a gentleman, who having a very good opinion of the gentlemen of the army, invited ten or twelve of them to sup with him; and at the same time invited two or three friends, who were very severe against the manners and morals of gentlemen of that profession. It happened one of them brought two captains of his regiment newly come into the army, who at the first onset engaged the company with very lewd thoughts and suitable discourse. You may easily imagine the confusion of the entertainer, who finding some of his friends very uneasy desired to tell them the story of a great man, one Mr. Locke (whom I find you frequently mention), that being invited to dine with the then Lords Halifax, Anglesey, and Shaftesbury, immediately after dinner, instead of conversation, the cards were called for, where the bad or good success produced the usual passions of gaming.

Mr. Locke retiring to a window, and writing, my Lord Anglesey desired to know what he was writing: "Why, my lords," answered he, "I could not sleep last night for the pleasure and improvement I expected from the conversation of the greatest men of the age." This so sensibly stung them, that they gladly compounded to throw their cards in the fire, if he would his paper, and so a conversation ensued fit for such persons. This story pressed so hard upon the young captains, together with the concurrence of their superior officers, that the young fellows left the company in confusion. Sir I know you hate long things; but if you like it, you may contract it, or how you will; but I think it has a moral in it.

But, sir, I am told you are a famous mechanic as well as a looker-on, and therefore humbly propose you would invent some padlock, with full power under your hand and seal, for all modest persons, either men or women, to clap upon the mouths of all such impertinent impudent fellows: and I wish you would publish a proclamation that no modest person that has a value for her countenance, and consequently would not be put out of it, presume to travel after such a day without one of them in their pockets. I fancy a smart Spectator upon this subject would serve for such a padlock; and that public notice may be given in your paper where they may be had, with directions, price two-pence, and that part of the directions may be, when any person presumes to be guilty of the above-mentioned crime, the party aggrieved may produce it to his face, with a request to read it to the company. He must be very much hardened that could outface that rebuke; and his further punishment I leave you to prescribe.

Your humble servant,

'PENANCE CRUEL.'

STEELE.

T.

No 534. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1712.

*Rarus enim ferme sensus communis in illa
Fortuna*

JUV. Sat. viii. ver. 73.

— We seldom find
Much sense with an exalted fortune join'd.
STEPNEY.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a young woman of nineteen, the only daughter of very wealthy parents, and have my whole life been used with a tenderness which did me no great service in my education. I have perhaps an uncommon desire for knowledge of what is suitable to my sex and quality; but, as far as I can remember, the whole dispute about me has been, whether such a thing was proper for the child to do, or not? or whether such or such a food was the more wholesome for the young lady to eat? This was ill for my shape, that for my complexion, and the other for my eyes. I am not extravagant when I tell you I do not know that I have trod upon the very earth ever since I was ten years old. A coach or chair I am obliged to for all my motions from one place to another ever since I can remember. All who had to do to instruct me, have ever been bringing stories of the notable things I have said, and the womanly manner of my behaving myself upon such and such an occasion. This has been my state till I came towards years of womanhood; and ever since I grew towards the age of fifteen I have been abused after another manner. Now, forsooth, I

am so killing, no one can safely speak to me. (The house is frequented by men of sense, and I do not ask questions when I fall into such conversations) but I am cut short with something or other to my bright eyes. There is, sir, a language particular for talking to women in; and none but one of the very first good-breeding (who are very few and who seldom come into my way) can speak to us without regard to our sex. Among the gentility of those they call gentlemen, it is impossible for me to speak upon any subject whatsoever, without provoking somebody to say, "Oh! to be so fine Mrs. Such-a-one must be very particular acquainted with all that; all the world would contribute to her entertainment and information."

Thus, sir, I am so handsome that I murder all who approach me; so wise that I want no new notions; and so well-bred that I am treated by all as I know me like a fool, for no one will answer me if I were their friend or companion. Pray, sir, be pleased to take the part of us beauties and fortune into your consideration, and do not let us be too flattered out of our senses. I have got an acquaintance a maid who is most craftily given to this ill quality. I was at first diverted with a certain oddity the creature was guilty of in every thing she said. She is a country girl; and in the district of the shire she was born in, would tell me that nobody reckoned her lady had the purple red as white in the world; then she would tell me I was the most like one Sisly Dobson in their town, who made the miller make away with himself, and was afterwards in the corn-field where they used to meet. With all this, this cunning busy can be letters in my way, and put a billet in my gown, and then stand in it she knows nothing of it. I do not know, from my birth to this day, that I have been ever treated by any one as I ought; and if it were not for a few books which I delight in, I should be at this hour a novice to all common sense. Would it not be worth your while to lay down rules for behaviour in this case, and tell people that we fair ones expect honest plain answers as well as other people? Why must I, good sir, because I have a good air, a fine complexion, and am in the bloom of my years, be misled in all my actions; and have the notions of good and ill confounded in my mind, for no other offence, but because I have the advantages of beauty and fortune? Indeed, sir, what with the silly language which is paid to us by the sort of people I have above spoken of, and the utter negligence which others have for us, the conversation of us young women of condition is no other than what will expose us to ignorance and vanity, if not vice. All this is humbly submitted to your spectral wisdom, by,

'SIR,

'Your most humble servant,

'CHARLOT WEALEY.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'WITH reference to

'PRAY, sir, it will serve to fill up a paper if you put in this; which is only to ask, whether that copy of verses which is a paraphrase of Isaiah, "one of your speculations", is not written by Mr. Pope? Then you get on another line, by putting in, with proper distances, as at the end of a letter,

'I am, sir,

'Your humble servant,

'ABRAHAM DAPPERTY.'

'MR. DAPPERWIT,
I AM glad to get another line forward, by saying
at excellent piece is Mr. Pope's; and so, with
roper distances,

'I am, sir,
'Your humble servant,
'THE SPECTATOR.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,
I WAS a wealthy grocer in the city, and as fortunate as diligent; but I was a single man, and you now there are women. One in particular came to my shop, who I wished might, but was afraid never would make a grocer's wife. I thought, however, to take an effectual way of courting and to bid her at less price than I bought, that I might buy at less price than I sold. She, you may be sure, often came and helped me to many customers at the same rate, fancying I was obliged to her. You must needs think this was a good living trade, and my riches must be vastly improved. In fine, when I was nigh being declared bankrupt, when I declared myself her lover, and she herself married. I was just in a condition to support myself, and am now in hopes of growing rich by losing my customers.

'Yours,
'JEREMY COMFIT.'

'MR. SPECTATOR,
I AM in the condition of the idol you was once pleased to mention, and bar-keeper of a coffee-house. I believe it is needless to tell you the opportunities I must give, and the importunities I suffer. But there is one gentleman who besieges me as close as the French did Bouchain: His gravity makes him work cautious, and his regular approaches denote a good engineer. You need not doubt of his oratory, as he is a lawyer; and especially since he has had so little use of it at Westminster, he may spare the more for me.

'What then can weak woman do? I am willing to surrender, but he would have it at discretion, and I with discretion. In the mean time, whilst we parley, our several interests are neglected. As the siege grows stronger, my tea grows weaker; and while he pleads at my bar, none come to him for counsel but in *forma pauperis*. Dear Mr. Spectator, advise him not to insist upon hard articles, nor by his irregular desires contradict the all-meaning lines of his countenance. If we were freed, we might settle to something, as soon as we could determine where we should get most by the law, at the coffee-house, or at Westminster.

'Your humble servant,
'LUCINDA FARLEY.'

A Minute from Mr. John Sly.

'THE world is pretty regular for about forty rods it, and ten west of the observatory of the said Mr. Sly; but he is credibly informed, that when they are got beyond the pass into the Strand, or where who move city-ward are got within Temple-r, they are just as they were before. It is therefore humbly proposed, that moving centres may be pointed all the busy hours of the day between Exchange and Westminster, and report what news to your honour, or your subordinate officers, on time to time.'

Ordered,
That Mr. Sly name the said officers, provided he will answer for their principles and morals.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 535. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1712.

Spem longam rresces —
HOR. Od. xi. l. i. ver. 7.

Cut short vain hope.

MY four hundred and seventy-first speculation turned upon the subject of hope in general. I design this paper as a speculation upon that vain and foolish hope, which is misemployed on temporal objects, and produces many sorrows and calamities in human life.

It is a precept several times inculcated by Horace, that we should not entertain a hope of any thing in life, which lies at a great distance from us. The shortness and uncertainty of our time here makes such a kind of hope unreasonable and absurd. The grave lies unseen between us and the object which we reach after. Where one man lives to enjoy the good he has in view, ten thousand are cut off in the pursuit of it.

It happens likewise unluckily, that one hope no sooner dies in us but another rises up in its stead. We are apt to fancy that we shall be happy and satisfied if we possess ourselves of such and such particular enjoyments; but either by reason of their emptiness, or the natural inquietude of the mind, we have no sooner gained one point, but we extend our hopes to another. We still find new inviting scenes and landscapes lying behind those which at a distance terminated our view.

The natural consequences of such reflections are these; that we should take care not to let our hopes run out into too great a length; that we should sufficiently weigh the objects of our hope, whether they be such as we may reasonably expect from them what they propose in their fruition, and whether they are such as we are pretty sure of attaining, in case our life extend itself so far. If we hope for things which are at too great a distance from us, it is possible that we may be intercepted by death in our progress towards them. If we hope for things which we have not thoroughly considered the value of, our disappointment will be greater than our pleasure in the fruition of them. If we hope for what we are not likely to possess, we act and think in vain, and make life a greater dream and shadow than it really is.

Many of the miseries and misfortunes of life proceed from our want of consideration, in one or all of these particulars. They are the rocks on which the sanguine tribe of lovers daily split, and on which the bankrupt, the politician, the alchymist, and projector, are cast away in every age. Men of warm imaginations and towering thoughts are apt to overlook the goods of fortune which are near them, for something that glitters in the sight at a distance; to neglect solid and substantial happiness, for what is showy and superficial; and to contemn that good which lies within their reach, for that which they are not capable of attaining. Hope calculates its schemes for a long and durable life; presses forward to imaginary points of bliss; and grasps at impossibilities; and consequently very often ensnares men into beggary, ruin, and dishonour.

What I have here said may serve as a moral to an Arabian fable, which I find translated into French by Monsieur Galland. The fable has in it such a wild, but natural simplicity, that I question not but my reader will be as much pleased with it as I have been, and that he will consider himself,

if he reflects on the several amusements of hope which have sometimes passed in his mind, as a near relation to the Persian glassman.

Alnaschar, says the fable, was a very idle fellow, that never would set his hand to any business during his father's life. When his father died he left him to the value of an hundred drachmas in Persian money. Alnaschar, in order to make the best of it, laid it out in glasses, bottles, and the finest earthen ware. These he piled up in a large open basket, and, having made choice of a very little shop, placed the basket at his feet, and leaned his back upon the wall, in expectation of customers. As he sat in this posture, with his eyes upon the basket, he fell into a most amusing train of thought, and was overheard by one of his neighbours, as he talked to himself in the following manner: 'This basket,' says he, 'cost me at the wholesale merchant's an hundred drachmas, which is all I have in the world. I shall quickly make two hundred of it, by selling it in retail. These two hundred drachmas will in a very little while rise to four hundred, which of course will amount in time to four thousand. Four thousand drachmas cannot fail of making eight thousand. As soon as by these means I am master of ten thousand, I will lay aside my trade of a glass-man, and turn jeweller. I shall then deal in diamonds, pearls, and all sorts of rich stones. When I have got together as much wealth as I can well desire, I will make a purchase of the finest house I can find, with lands, slaves, eunuchs, and horses. I shall then begin to enjoy myself, and make a noise in the world. I will not however stop there, but still continue my traffic, till I have got together a hundred thousand drachmas. When I have thus made myself master of a hundred thousand drachmas, I shall naturally set myself on the foot of a prince, and will demand the grand visier's daughter in marriage, after having represented to that minister the information which I have received of the beauty, wit, discretion, and other high qualities which his daughter possesses. I will let him know at the same time, that it is my intention to make him a present of a thousand pieces of gold on our marriage night. As soon as I have married the grand visier's daughter, I will buy her ten black eunuchs, the youngest and best that can be got for money. I must afterwards make my father-in-law a visit, with a great train of equipage. And when I am placed at his right hand, which he will do of course, if it be only to honour his daughter, I will give him the thousand pieces of gold which I promised him; and afterwards, to his great surprise, will present him another purse of the same value, with some short speech: as, "Sir, you see I am a man of my word: I always give more than I promise."

'When I have brought the princess to my house, I shall take particular care to breed her in a due respect to me, before I give the reins to love and dalliance. To this end I shall confine her to her own apartment, make her a short visit, and talk but little to her. Her women will represent to me, that she is inconsolable by reason of my unkindness, and beg me with tears to caress her, and let her sit down by me; but I shall still remain inexorable, and will turn my back upon her all the first night. Her mother will then come and bring her daughter to me, as I am seated upon my sofa. The daughter, with tears in her eyes, will fling herself at my feet, and beg of me to receive her into my favour. Then will I, to imprint in her a thorough veneration for my person, draw up my legs and spurn her from me with my foot, in such

a manner, that she shall fall down several paces from the sofa.'

Alnaschar was entirely swallowed up in this chimerical vision, and could not forbear acting out his foot what he had in his thoughts: so that he luckily striking his basket of brittle ware, was the foundation of all his grandeur, he broke his glasses to a great distance from him into a street, and broke them into ten thousand pieces.

ADDISON.

N° 536. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1712

O! vera Phrygia, neque enim Phrygia!
VIRG. *Æn. ix. ver. 66.*

O! less than women, in the shapes of men!
DRYDEN.

As I was the other day standing in my bookseller's shop, a pretty young thing about eighteen years of age stepped out of her coach, and, brushing by me, beckoned the man of the shop to the further end of his counter, where she whispered something to him, with an attentive look, and at the same time presented him with a letter: after which, pressing the end of her fan upon his hand, she delivered the remaining part of her message, and withdrew. I observed, in the midst of her discourse, that she flushed, and cast an eye upon me over her shoulder, having been informed by my bookseller that I was the man with the short coat whom she had so often read of. Upon her passing by me, the pretty blooming creature smiled in my face, and dropped me a curtsy. She scarce gave me time to return her salute, before she quitted the shop with an easy skittle, and stepped again into her coach, giving the footmen directions to drive where they were bid. Upon her departure my bookseller gave me a letter superscribed, 'To the ingenious Spectator,' which the young lady had desired him to deliver into my own hands, and tell me, that the speedy publication of it would not only oblige herself but a whole tea-table of friends. I opened it therefore with a resolution to publish it, whatever it should contain, and as if any of my male readers will be so severely critical as not to like it, they would have been well pleased with it as myself, had they seen the face of the pretty scribe.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'London, Nov. 7. 1712.

'You are always ready to receive any useful hint or proposal, and such, I believe, you will think one that may put you in a way to employ the idle part of the kingdom; I mean that part of mankind who are known by the name of the women's men, or beaux, &c. Mr. Spectator, we are sensible these pretty gentlemen are not made for any manly employments, and for want of business are often as much in the vapours as the ladies. Now what I propose in this, since knotting a gown in fashion, which has been found a very profitable amusement, that you will recommend it to new gentlemen as something that may make them useful to the ladies they admire. And since it is not inconsistent with any game, or other diversion, as it may be done in the play-house, in their coaches, at the tea-table, and in short in all places where they come for the sake of the ladies (except in church, be pleased to forbid it there to prevent mistakes) it will be easily complied with. It is besides an employment that allows, as we are to

the fair sex, of many graces, which will make the *aux* more readily come into it; it shows a white and a diamond ring to great advantage; it saves the eyes at full liberty to be employed as before, as also the thoughts and the tongue. In short, it seems in every respect so proper, that it is needless to urge it further, by speaking of the satisfaction these male knotters will find, when they see their work mixed up in a fringe, and worn by the fair lady for whom and with whom it was one. Truly, Mr. Spectator, I cannot but be pleased I have hit upon something that these gentlemen are capable of; for it is said so considerable part of the kingdom (I mean for numbers) should be of no manner of use. I shall not trouble you further at this time, but only to say, that I am always your reader, and generally your admirer,

C. B.

'P. S. The sooner these fine gentlemen are set to work the better; there being at this time several fine fringes, that only stay for more hands.'

I shall in the next place present my reader with the description of a set of men who are common enough in the world, though I do not remember but I have yet taken notice of them, as they are drawn in the following letter.

MR. SPECTATOR,

SINCE you have lately, to so good purpose, encouraged upon conjugal love, it is to be hoped you will discourage every practice that rather proceeds from a regard to interest, than to happiness. Now you cannot but observe, that most of our fine young ladies readily fall in with the direction of the graver sort, to retain in their service by some small encouragement as great a number as they are of supernumerary and insignificant fellows, which they use like whiffers, and commonly call 'shoeing horns.' These are never designed to know the length of the foot, but only, when a good offer comes, to whet and spur him up to the point. Nay, it is the opinion of that grave lady, Madam Matchwell, that it is absolutely convenient for every prudent family to have several of these implements about the house, to clap on as occasion serves; and that every spark ought to produce a certificate of his being a shoeing horn before he be admitted as a shoe. A certain lady, whom I could name, if it was necessary, has at present more shoeing horns of all sizes, countries, and colours, in her service, than ever she had new shoes in her life. I have known a woman make use of a shoeing horn for several years, and, finding him unsuccessful in that function, convert him at length into a shoe. I am mistaken if your friend, Mr. William Honeycomb, was not a cast shoeing horn before his late marriage. As for myself, I most rankly declare to you, that I have been an errand shoeing horn for above these twenty years. I served my first mistress in that capacity above five of the number before she was shod. I confess, though she had many who made their applications to her, I always thought myself the best shoe in her shop; and it was not till a month before her marriage that I discovered what I was. This had like to have broke my heart, and raised such suspicions in me, that I told the next I made love to, upon receiving some unkind usage from her, that I began to look upon myself as no more than her shoeing horn. Upon which, my dear, who was a coquette in her nature, told me I was hypochondriacal, and that I might as well look upon myself to be an egg, or a pipkin. But in a very

short time after she gave me to know that I was not mistaken in myself. It would be tedious to recount to you the life of an unfortunate shoeing horn; or I might entertain you with a very long and melancholy relation of my sufferings. Upon the whole, I think, sir, it would very well become a man in your post, to determine in what cases a woman may be allowed with honour to make use of a shoeing horn, as also to declare whether a maid on this side five-and-twenty, or a widow who has not been three years in that state, may be granted such a privilege, with other difficulties which will naturally occur to you upon that subject.

I am, sir,

'with the most profound veneration,

'Yours, &c.'

O.

ADDISON.

N^o 537. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1712.

Τὸ πρῶτον γὰρ γινώσκω.

ARAT.

For we are his offspring.

Acts xvii. 28.

'TO THE SPECTATOR.

SIR,

IT has been usual to remind persons of rank, on great occasions in life, of their race and quality, and to what expectations they were born; that by considering what is worthy of them, they may be withdrawn from mean pursuits, and encouraged to laudable undertakings. This is turning nobility into a principle of virtue, and making it productive of merit, as it is understood to have been originally a reward of it.

It is for the like reason, I imagine, that you have in some of your speculations asserted to your readers the dignity of human nature. But you cannot be insensible that this is a controverted doctrine; there are authors who consider human nature in a very different view, and books of maxims have been written to show the falsity of all human virtues*. The reflections which are made on this subject usually take some tincture from the tempers and characters of those that make them. Politicians can resolve the most shining actions among men into artifice and design; others, who are soured by discontent, repulses, or ill-usage, are apt to mistake their spleen for philosophy; men of profligate lives, and such as find themselves incapable of rising to any distinction among their fellow-creatures, are for pulling down all appearances of merit which seem to upbraid them: and satirists describe nothing but deformity. From all these hands we have such draughts of mankind as are represented in those burlesque pictures which the Italians call caricaturas; where the art consists in preserving, amidst distorted proportions and aggravated features, some distinguishing likeness of the person, but in such a manner as to transform the most agreeable beauty into the most odious monster.

It is very disingenuous to level the best of mankind with the worst, and for the faults of particulars to degrade the whole species. Such methods tend not only to remove a man's good opinion of others, but to destroy that reverence for himself,

* Reflexions et Maximes Morales de M. le Duc de la Rochefoucault. Ninnon de L'Enclos says of Rochefoucault, "that he had no more belief in virtues than he had in ghosts."

which is a great guard of innocence, and a spring of virtue:

"It is true indeed that there are surprising mixtures of beauty and deformity, of wisdom and folly, virtue and vice, in the human make; such a disparity is found among numbers of the same kind, and every individual in some instances, or at some times, is so unequal to himself, that man seems to be the most wavering and inconsistent being in the whole creation. So that the question in morality concerning the dignity of our nature, may at first sight appear like some difficult questions in natural philosophy, in which the arguments on both sides seem to be of equal strength. But, as I began with considering this point as it relates to action, I shall here borrow an admirable reflection from Monsieur Pascal, which I think sets it in its proper light.

"It is of dangerous consequence," says he, "to represent to man how near he is to the level of beasts, without showing him at the same time his greatness. It is likewise dangerous to let him see his greatness without his meanness. It is more dangerous yet to leave him ignorant of either; but very beneficial that he should be made sensible of both." Whatever imperfections we may have in our nature, it is the business of religion and virtue to rectify them, as far as is consistent with our present state. In the meantime, it is no small encouragement to generous minds to consider, that we shall put them all off with our mortality. That sublime manner of salutation with which the Jews approached their kings,

"O King, live for ever!"

may be addressed to the lowest and most despised mortal among us, under all the infirmities and distresses with which we see him surrounded. And whoever believes the immortality of the soul, will not need a better argument for the dignity of his nature, nor a stronger incitement to actions suitable to it.

"I am naturally led by this reflection to a subject I have already touched upon in a former letter, and cannot without pleasure call to mind the thoughts of Cicero to this purpose, in the close of his book concerning old age. Every one who is acquainted with his writings will remember that the elder Cato is introduced in that discourse as the speaker, and Scipio and Lælius as his auditors. This venerable person is represented looking forward as it were from the verge of extreme old age into a future state, and rising into a contemplation on the unperishable part of his nature, and its existence after death. I shall collect part of his discourse. And as you have formerly offered some arguments for the soul's immortality, agreeable both to reason and the Christian doctrine, I believe your readers will not be displeased to see how the same great truth shines in the pomp of the Roman eloquence.

"This," says Cato, "is my firm persuasion, that since the human soul exerts itself with so great activity; since it has such a remembrance of the past, such a concern for the future; since it is enriched with so many arts, sciences, and discoveries; it is impossible but the Being which contains all these must be immortal.

"The elder Cyrus *, just before his death, is represented by Xenophon speaking after this manner: 'Think not, my dearest children, that when I depart from you I shall be no more; but remem-

ber, that my soul, even while I lived among you, was invisible to you; yet by my actions you are sensible it existed in this body. Believe it therefore existing still, though it be still unseen. I should quickly would the honours of illustrious men perish after death, if their souls performed nothing to preserve their fame! For my own part, I cannot think that the soul while in a mortal body lives, but when departed out of it dies: or that consciousness is lost when it is discharged out of its unconscionable habitation. But when it is freed from all corporeal alliances, then it truly exists. Whether, since the human frame is broken by death, tell us what becomes of its parts? It is visible whether the materials of other beings are transferred, namely, to the source from whence they had their birth. The soul alone, neither present nor departed, is the object of our eyes."

"Thus Cyrus. But to proceed. No one can persuade me, Scipio, that your worthy father, or your grandfathers Paulus and Africanus, or Africanus his father or uncle, or many other excellent men whom I need not name, performed so many actions to be remembered by posterity, without being sensible that futurity was their right. And if I may be allowed an old man's privilege to speak of myself, do you think I would have endured the fatigue of so many wearisome days and nights, both at home and abroad, if I imagined that the same boundary which is set to my life must terminate my glory? Were it not more desirable to have worn out my days in ease and tranquillity, free from labour, and without emulation? But I know not how, my soul has always raised itself and looked forward on futurity, in this view of expectation, that when it shall depart out of the body it shall then live for ever; and if this were true, that the mind is immortal, the souls of the most worthy would not above all others have the strongest impulse to glory.

"What besides this is the cause that the wisest men die with the greatest equanimity, the ignorant with the greatest concern? Does it not seem to those minds which have the most extensive views, foresee they are removing to a happier condition, which those of a narrow sight do not perceive? I, for my part, am transported with the hope of seeing your ancestors, whom I have honoured and loved, and am earnestly desirous of meeting only those excellent persons whom I have known, but those too of whom I have heard and read, and of whom I myself have written; nor would I be detained from so pleasing a journey. O happy day, when I shall escape from this crowd, this heap of pollution, and be admitted to that divine assembly of exalted spirits! When I shall go not only to those great persons I have named, but to my Cato, my son, than whom a better man was never born, and whose funeral rites I myself performed, where he ought rather to have attended mine. Yet his not his soul deserted me, but, seeming to cast back a look on me, is gone before to those habitations to which it was sensible I should follow him. And though I might appear to have borne my loss with courage, I was not unaffected with it; but I comforted myself in the assurance, that it would not be long before we should meet again, and be divorced no more."

"I am, sir, &c."

HUGHES.

"* I question not but my reader will be very much pleased to hear that the gentleman who has obliged the world with the foregoing letter, and who was the author of the 210th speculation on

* See *Guard*. N° 98.

he Immortality of the Soul, the 375th on Virtue or Distress, the 525th on Conjugal Love, and two or three other very fine ones among *those which are not lettered at the end*, will soon publish a noble poem, entitled An Ode to the Creator of the World, occasioned by the Fragments of Orpheus.

Nº 538. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1712.

— Ultra
Finem tendere opus.

HOR. Sat. l. 1. 2. ver. 1.

To launch beyond all bounds.

SURPRISE is so much the life of stories, that every one aims at it who endeavours to please by telling them. Smooth delivery, an elegant choice of words, and a sweet arrangement, are all beautifying graces, but not the particulars in this point of conversation which either long command the attention, or strike with the violence of a sudden passion, or occasion a burst of laughter which accompanies humour.

I have sometimes fancied that the mind is in this case like a traveller who sees a fine seat in haste; he acknowledges the delightfulness of a walk set with regularity, but would be uneasy if he were obliged to pass it over, when the first view had let him into all its beauties from one end to the other.

However, a knowledge of the success which stories will have when they are attended with a turn of surprise, as it has happily made the characters of some, so has it also been the ruin of the characters of others. There is a set of men who outrage ruth, instead of affecting us with a manner in telling it; who overleap the line of probability, that they may be seen to move out of the common road; and endeavour only to make their hearers stare by imposing upon them with a kind of nonsense against the philosophy of nature, or such a heap of wonders told upon their own knowledge, as it is not likely one man should have ever met with.

I have been led to this observation by a company into which I fell accidentally. The subject of antipathies was a proper field wherein such false surprisers might expatiate, and there were those present who appeared very fond to show it to its full extent of traditional history. Some of them, in a learned manner, offered to our consideration the miraculous powers which the effluvia of cheese have over bodies whose pores are disposed to receive them in a noxious manner; others gave an account of such who could indeed bear the sight of cheese, but not the taste; for which they brought a reason from the milk of their nurses. Others again discoursed, without endeavouring at reasons, concerning an unconquerable aversion which some stomachs have against a joint of meat when it is whole, and the eager inclination they have for it when by its being cut up the shape which had affected them is altered. From hence they passed to eels, then to parsnips, and so from one aversion to another, until we had worked up ourselves to such a pitch of complaisance, that when the dinner was to come in we inquired the name of every dish, and hoped it would be no offence to any in company, before it was admitted. When we had sat down, this civility among us turned the discourse from eatables to other sorts of aversions; and the eternal cat, which plagues every conversation of this nature, began then to engross the subject. One had sweated at the sight of it, another had smelled it out as it lay concealed in a

very distant cupboard; and he who crowned the whole set of these stories, reckoned up the number of times in which it had occasioned him to swoon away. 'At last,' says he, 'that you may all be satisfied of my invincible aversion to a cat, I shall give an unanswerable instance:—As I was going through a street of London, where I never had been until then, I felt a general damp and faintness all over me, which I could not tell how to account for, until I chanced to cast my eyes upwards, and found that I was passing under a sign-post on which the picture of a cat was hung.'

The extravagance of this turn in the way of surprise, gave a stop to the talk we had been carrying on. Some were silent because they doubted, and others because they were conquered in their own way; so that the gentleman had opportunity to press the belief of it upon us, and let us see that he was rather exposing himself than ridiculing others.

I must freely own that I did not all this while disbelieve every thing that was said; but yet I thought some in the company had been endeavouring who should pitch the bar furthest; that it had for some time been a measuring cast, and at last my friend of the cat and sign-post had thrown beyond them all.

I then considered the manner in which this story had been received, and the possibility that it might have passed for a jest upon others, if he had not laboured against himself. From hence, thought I, there are two ways which the well-bred world generally takes to correct such a practice, when they do not think fit to contradict it flatly.

The first of these is a general silence, which I would not advise any one to interpret in his own behalf. It is often the effect of prudence in avoiding a quarrel, when they see another drive so fast that there is no stopping him without being run against; and but very seldom the effect of weakness in believing suddenly. The generality of mankind are not so grossly ignorant, as some overbearing spirits would persuade themselves; and if the authority of a character or a caution against danger make us suppress our opinions, yet neither of these are of force enough to suppress our thoughts of them. If a man who has endeavoured to amuse his company with improbabilities could but look into their minds, he would find that they imagine he lightly esteems of their sense when he thinks to impose upon them, and that he is less esteemed by them for his attempt in doing so. His endeavour to glory at their expense becomes a ground of quarrel, and the scorn and indifference with which they entertain it begins the immediate punishment; and indeed (if we should go no further) silence, or a negligent indifference, has a deeper way of wounding than opposition, because opposition proceeds from an anger that has a sort of generous sentiment for the adversary mingling along with it, while it shows that there is some esteem in your mind for him: in short, that you think him worth while to contest with. But silence, or a negligent indifference, proceeds from anger, mixed with a scorn that shows another he is thought by you too contemptible to be regarded.

The other method which the world has taken for correcting this practice of false surprise, is to overshoot such talkers in their own bow, or to raise the story with further degrees of impossibility, and set up for a voucher to them in such a manner as must let them see they stand detected. Thus I have heard a discourse was once managed upon the effects of fear. One of the company had given an

account how it had turned his friend's hair grey in a night, while the terrors of a shipwreck encompassed him. Another, taking the hint from hence, began upon his own knowledge to enlarge his instances of the like nature to such a number, that it was not probable he could ever have met with them: and as he still grounded these upon different causes for the sake of variety, it might seem at last, from his share of the conversation, almost impossible that any one who can feel the passion of fear should all his life escape so common an effect of it. By this time some of the company grew negligent, or desirous to contradict him; but one rebuked the rest with an appearance of severity, and, with the known old story in his head, assured them they need not scruple to believe that the fear of any thing can make a man's hair grey, since he knew one whose periwig had suffered so by it. Thus he stopped the talk, and made them easy. Thus is the same method taken to bring us to shame, which we fondly take to increase our character. It is indeed a kind of mimicry, by which another puts on our air of conversation to show us to ourselves. He seems to look ridiculous before you, that you may remember how near a resemblance you bear to him, or that you may know that he will not lie under the imputation of believing you. Then it is that you are struck dumb immediately with a conscientious shame for what you have been saying. Then it is that you are inwardly grieved at the sentiments which you cannot but perceive others entertain concerning you. In short, you are against yourself; the laugh of the company runs against you; the censuring world is obliged to you for that triumph which you have allowed them at your own expense; and truth, which you have injured, has a near way of being revenged on you, when by the bare repetition of your story you become a frequent diversion for the public.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘The other day walking in Pancras church-yard, I thought of your paper wherein you mention epitaphs*, and am of opinion this has a thought in it worth being communicated to your readers.

“Here innocence and beauty lies, whose breath
Was snatch’d by early, not untimely death.
Hence did she go, just as she did begin
Sorrow to know, before she knew to sin.
Death, that does sin and sorrow thus prevent,
Is the next blessing to a life well spent.”

‘I am, sir,

‘Your servant.’

[Ascribed to ADDISON.]

Nº 559. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1712.

Heteroclitia mento.

QUE GENUS.

Be they heteroclitites.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I AM a young widow of good fortune and family, and just come to town; where I find I have clusters of pretty fellows come already to visit me, some dying with hopes, others with fears, though they never saw me. Now what I would beg of you would be to know whether I may venture to use these pert fellows with the same freedom as I did my country acquaintance. I desire your leave to use them as to me shall seem meet, without impu-

tation of a jilt; for since I make declaration: not one of them shall have me, I think I ought to be allowed the liberty of insulting those who by the vanity to believe it is in their power to make me break that resolution. There are schools of learning to use foils, frequented by those who are design to fight; and this useless way of aiming at the heart, without design to wound it on either side, is the play with which I am resolved to divert myself. The man who pretends to win, I shall be like him who comes into a fencing-school to pick a quarrel. I hope upon this foundation you will give me the free use of the natural and artificial force of my eyes, looks, and gestures. As for verbal promises, I will make none, but shall have mercy on the conceited interpreters of glances and motions. I am particularly skilled in the downward eye, and the recovery into a sudden full aspect as away again, as you may have seen sometimes practised by our country beauties beyond all that you have observed in courts and cities. Add to this, sir, that I have a ruddy heedless look, which is very artifice the best of any thing. Though I can dance very well, I affect a tottering untaught way of walking, by which I appear an easy prey; and never exert my instructed charms, until I had have engaged a pursuer. Be pleased, sir, to peruse this letter, which will certainly begin the chase of a rich widow. The many foldings, escapades, returns, and doublings, which I make, I shall from time to time communicate to you, for the better instruction of all females, who set up, like me, for reducing the present exorbitant power and insolence of man.

‘I am, sir,

‘Your faithful correspondent,

RELICTA LOVELL.

‘DEAR MR. SPECTATOR,

‘I DEPEND upon your professed respect for virtue and love, for your immediately answering the design of this letter; which is no other than to lay before the world the severity of certain parents, who desire to suspend the marriage of a discreet young woman of eighteen, three years longer for no other reason but that of her being too young to enter into that state. As to the consideration of riches, my circumstances are such, that I cannot be suspected to make any address to her on such low motives as avarice or ambition. If ever innocence, wit, and beauty, united the utmost charms, they have in her. I wish you would expatiate a little on this subject, and advise her parents that it may be from the very imperfection of human nature itself, and not any personal frailty of her or me, that our inclinations baffled at present may alter; and while we are struggling with ourselves to put off the enjoyment of our present passions, our affections may change the objects in the operation. It is a very delicate subject to talk upon; but if it were but hinted, I am in hopes it would give the parties concerned some reflection that might expedite our happiness. There is a possibility, and I hope I may say so without imputation of immodesty to her I love with the highest honour: I say there is a possibility this delay may be as painful to her as it is to me; if it be as much, it must be more, by reason of the severe rules the sex are under, in being denied even the relief of complaint. If you oblige me in this, and I succeed, I promise you a play at my wedding, and a treatment suitable to your spectatorial dignity.

‘Your most humble servant,

‘MR. SPECTATOR.

[Supposed by BURGESS.]

* See Nos. 26, 35, 177, 323, and 539.

'SIR,
I YESTERDAY heard a young gentleman, that looked as if he was just come to the gown and a scarf, upon evil-speaking; which subject you know Archbishop Tillotson has so nobly handled in a sermon in his folio. As soon as ever he had named his text, and had opened a little the drift of his discourse, I was in great hopes he had been one of Mr. Roger's chaplains*. I have conceived so great an idea of the charming discourse above, that I should have thought one part of my sabbath very well spent in hearing a repetition of it. But, alas! Mr. Spectator, this reverend divine gave us his race's sermon, and yet I do not know how; even so, that I am sure have read it at least twenty times, could not tell what to make of it, and was at a loss sometimes to guess what the man aimed at. He was so just indeed as to give us all the heads and the subdivisions of the sermon; and further I think there was not one beautiful thought in it but what we had. But then, sir, this gentleman made so many pretty additions; and he could never give us a paragraph of the sermon, but he introduced it with something which methought looked more like a design to show his own ingenuity, than to instruct the people. In short, he added and curtailed in such a manner, that he vexed me: insomuch that I could not forbear thinking (what I confess I ought not to have thought of) so holy a place) that this young spark was as easily blameable as Bullock or Penkethman, when they mend a noble play of Shakspeare or Jonson. Pray, sir, take this into your consideration; and, if we must be entertained with the works of any of those great men, desire these gentlemen to give them us as they find them, that so when we read them to our families at home, they may the better remember they have heard them at church.

'SIR,
'Your humble servant.'

[Supposed by *мечник*.]

N^o 540. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1712.

—Non deficit alter.

VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 143.

A second is not wanting.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
THERE is no part of your writings which I have a more esteem than your criticism upon Milton. It is an honourable and candid endeavour to set the works of our noble writers in the graceful light which they deserve. You will lose much of my kind inclination towards you, if you do not attempt the encomium of Spenser also, or at least indulge my passion for that charming author so far as to print the loose hints I now give you on that subject.

Spenser's general plan is, the representation of six virtues, holiness, temperance, chastity, friendship, justice, and courtesy, in six legends by six persons. The six personages are supposed, under proper allegories suitable to their respective characters, to do all that is necessary for the full manifestation of the respective virtues which they are to exert.

These one might undertake to show under the several heads are admirably drawn; no images im-

proper, and most surprisingly beautiful. The Red-cross Knight runs through the whole steps of the Christian life; Guyon does all that temperance can possibly require; Britomartis (a woman) observes the true rules of unaffected chastity; Arthegal is in every respect of life strictly and wisely just; Calidore is rightly courteous.

In short, in Fairy-land, where knights-errant have a full scope to range, and to do even what Ariostos or Orlandos could not do in the world without breaking into credibility, Spenser's knights have, under those six heads, given a full and truly poetical system of Christian, public, and low life.

His legend of friendship is more diffuse, and yet even there the allegory is finely drawn, only the heads various; one knight could not there support all the parts.

To do honour to his country, Prince Artbur is an universal hero; in holiness, temperance, chastity, and justice, super-excellent. For the same reason, and to compliment Queen Elizabeth, Gloriana, queen of fairies, whose court was the asylum of the oppressed, represents that glorious queen. At her commands all these knights set forth, and only at hers the Red-cross Knight destroys the dragon, Guyon overturns the Bower of Bliss, Arthegal (i.e. Justice) beats down Geryoneo (i.e. Philip II. King of Spain) to rescue Belge (i.e. Holland), and he beats the Grantorto (the same Philip in another light) to restore Irena (i.e. Peace to Europe.)

Chastity being the first female virtue, Britomartis is a Briton; her part is fine, though it requires explication. His style is very poetical; no puns, affectations of wit, forced antitheses, or any of that low tribe.

His old words are all true English, and numbers exquisite; and since of words there is the *multa renascentur*, since they are all proper, such a poem should not (any more than Milton's) consist all of it of common ordinary words. See instances of descriptions.

Causeless jealousy in Britomartis, v. 6, 14, in the restlessness.

"Like a wayward child, whose sounder sleeper
Is broken with some fearful dream's affright,
With froward will doth set himself to weep,
Ne can be still'd for all his nurse's might;
But kicks and squalls, and sneaks for ill despite;
Now scratching her, and her loose locks missing;
Now seeking darkness, and now seeking light;
Then craving suck, and then the suck refusing:
Such was this lady's loves in her love's fond accusing."

Curiosity occasioned by jealousy, upon occasion of her lover's absence. Ibid. Stan. 8, 9.

"Then as she looked long, at last the spy'd
One coming towards her with hasty speed,
Well woe'n'd she then, ere him she plain descri'd,
That it was one sent from her love indeed:
Whereat her heart was fill'd with hope and dread,
Ne would she stay till he in place could come,
But ran to meet him forth to know his tidings some:
Even in the door him meeting, she begun,
'And where is he, thy lord, and how far hence?
Declare at once; and hath he lost or won!'"

*Cave and his house are described thus, iv. 6,
33, 34, 35.*

"Not far away, nor meet for any guest,
They spy'd a little cottage, like some poor man's nest.

34.

"There entering in, they found the good man's self,
Full busily unto his work ybent,
Who was so woe't a wretched wearish elf,
With hollow eyes and raw-bone cheeks far spent,
As if he had in prison long been pent.

* See N^o 106.

Full black and grisly did his face appear,
Beamer'd with smoke that nigh his eye-sight blent,
With rugged beard and hoary shaggy beard,
The which he never wont to comb, or comely shear.

35.

"Rude was his garment and to rags all rent,
No better had he, ne for better cared;
His blasted hands amongst the cinders bent,
And fingers filthy with long nails prepared,
Right fit to rend the food on which he fared.
His name was Care; a blacksmith by his trade,
That neither day nor night from working spared,
But to small purpose iron wedges made:
These be unquiet thoughts that careful minds invade."

"Homer's epithets were much admired by antiquity: see what great justness and variety there is in these epithets of the trees in the forest, where the Red-cross Knight lost Truth. B. i. Cant. i. Stan 8, 9.

"The sailing pine, the cedar proud and tall,
The vite-prop elm, the poplar never dry.
The builder-oak, sole king of forests all,
The aspine good for staves, the cypress funeral.

9.

"The laurel, meed of mighty conquerors,
And poets sage; the fir that weepeth still,
The willow worn of forlorn paramours,
The yew obedient to the bender's will.
The birch for shafts, the saw for the mill:
The myrrhe sweet, bleeding in the bitter wound,
The war-like beech, the ash, fir nothing ill,
The fruitful olive, and the plantane round,
The carver holm, the maple seldom inward sound."

"I shall trouble you no more, but desire you to let me conclude with these verses, though I think they have already been quoted by you. They are directions to young ladies oppressed with calumny, vi. 6, 14.

"The best (said he) that I can you advise,
Is to avoid the occasion of the ill;
For when the cause whence evil doth arise
Removed is, the effect surceaseth still.
Abstain from pleasure and restrain your will,
Subdue desire and bridle loose delight,
Use scanty diet, and forbear your fill,
Shun secrecy, and talk in open sight;
So shall you soon repair your present evil plight."

STEELE.

T.

ADVERTISEMENT.

"Mr. Taswell undertakes to accomplish persons of either sex, above the age of 14, in the Latin tongue, by their attendance only an hour a day for three days in a week, in three months time from his first beginning to teach them, though they never learned the language before; by an easy pleasant method not requiring much study or pains, free from the tedious forms of schools, not in the least burthensome to the memory, tiresome to the patience, or incompatible with other business, &c.

N° 541. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1712.

*Format enim natura prius nos intus ad omnem
Fortunarum habitum: juvat, aut impellit ad iram;
Aut ad humum majoris gravis deducit et angit:
Pec non effert animi motus interprete lingua.*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 108.

For nature forms and softens us within,
And writes our fortune's changes in our face:
Pleasure enchants, impetuous rage transports,
And grief dejects, and wrings the tortured soul:
And these are all interpreted by speech.

ROSCOMMON.

My friend the Templar, whom I have so often mentioned in these writings, having determined to lay aside his poetical studies, in order to a closer pursuit of the law, has put together, as a farewell

essay, some thoughts concerning pronunciation and action, which he has given me leave to communicate to the public. They are chiefly collected from his favourite author, Cicero, who is known to have been an intimate friend of Roscius the actor, and a good judge of dramatic performances, as well as the most eloquent pleader of the time in which he lived.

Cicero concludes his celebrated books De Oratore with some precepts for pronunciation and action without which part he affirms that the best orator in the world can never succeed; and an indifferently one, who is master of this, shall gain much greater applause. "What could make a stronger impression," says he, "than those exclamations of Cæchus?—'Whither shall I turn? Wretch that I am to what place betake myself? Shall I go to the capitol! Alas! it is overflowed with my brother's blood. Or, shall I retire to my house? Yet let me behold my mother plunged in misery, weeping and despairing!' These breaks and turns of passion, it seems, were so enforced by the eyes, voice, and gesture of the speaker, that his very enemies could not refrain from tears. 'I insist,' says Cicero, 'upon this the rather, because our orators, who as it were actors of the truth itself, have quoted this manner of speaking; and the players, who are but the imitators of truth, have taken it up.'

I shall therefore pursue the hint he has here given me, and for the service of the British stage I shall copy some of the rules which this great Roman master has laid down; yet without copying myself wholly to his thoughts or words; and to adapt this essay the more to the purpose for which I intend it, instead of the examples he has inserted in this discourse out of the ancient tragedies, I shall make use of parallel passages out of the most celebrated of our own.

The design of art is to assist action as much as possible in the representation of nature; for the appearance of reality is that which moves us in representations, and these have always the greater force the nearer they approach to nature, and the less they show of imitation.

Nature herself has assigned to every emotion of the soul its peculiar cast of the countenance, and of voice, and manner of gesture; and the same person, all the features of the face and voice, as the voice answer, like strings upon musical instruments, to the impressions made on them by the mind. Thus the sounds of the voice, according to the various touches which raise them, form themselves into an acute or grave, quick or slow, loud or soft tone. These two may be subdivided into various kinds of tones, as the gentle, the rough, the contracted, the diffuse, the continued, the intermitted, the broken, abrupt, winding, softened, or elevated. Every one of these may be employed with art and judgment; and all supply the actor as colours do the painter, with an expressive variety.

Anger exerts its peculiar voice in an elevated, and hurrying sound. The passionate character of King Lear, as it is admirably drawn by Shakespeare, abounds with the strongest instances of this kind.

'Death! Confusion!'

Fiery! what quality!—why Glister! Glister!
I'd speak with the Duke of Cornwall and his wife
Are they inform'd of this? my breath and blood
Fiery! the fiery duke!—&c.'

Sorrow and complaint demand a voice quite different; flexible, slow, interrupted, and mournful.

a mournful tone; as in that pathetic soliloquy Cardinal Wolsey on his fall.

Farewell!—a long farewell to all my greatness! This is the state of man—to-day he puts forth the tender leaves of hopes; to-morrow blossoms, and bears his blushing honours thick upon him; the third day comes a frost, a killing frost, and when he thinks, good easy man, full surely his greatness is a ripening, nips his root, and then he falls as I do.

We have likewise a fine example of this in the sole part of Andromache in *The Distrest Mother*, particularly in these lines,

'I'll go, and in the anguish of my heart weep o'er my child:—If he must die, my life is wrapt in his, I shall not long survive, 'Tis for his sake that I have suffer'd life, broan'd in captivity, and out-liv'd Hector. Yes, my Astyanax, we'll go together! Together to the realms of night we'll go; There to thy ravish'd eyes thy sire I'll show, And point him out among the shades below.'

Fear expresses itself in a low, hesitating, and sject sound. If the reader considers the following speech of Lady Macbeth, while her husband is out the murder of Duncan and his grooms, he will imagine her even affrighted with the sound of her own voice while she is speaking it.

'Alas! I am afraid they have awak'd, And 'tis not done; th' attempt, and not the deed, Confounds us—Hark!—I laid the daggers ready, He could not miss them. Had he not resembled My father as he slept, I had done it.'

Courage assumes a louder tone, as in that speech of Don Sebastian.

'Here satiate all your fury;
Let fortune empty her whole quiver on me;
I have a soul that like an ample shield
Can take in all, and verge enough for more.'

Pleasure dissolves into a luxurious, mild, tender, and joyous modulation; as in the following lines of Caius Marius.

'Lavinia! O there's music in the name,
That, soft'ning me to infant tenderness,
Makes my heart spring like the first leaps of life.

And perplexity is different from all these; grave, but not bemoaning, with an earnest uniform sound of voice; as in that celebrated speech of Hamlet:

'To be, or not to be:—that is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them. To die, to sleep;
No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ach, and a thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd! To die, to sleep—
To sleep; perchance to dream! Ay, there's the rub.
For in that sleep of death, what dreams may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause—There's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life;
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
Th' oppressor's wrongs, the proud man's contumely,
The pangs of despis'd love, the law's delay,
The insolence of office, and the spurns
That patient merit of th' unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin? Who would fardles bear,
To groan and sweat under a weary life?
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn
No traveller returns, puzzles the will,
And makes us rather choose those ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of.'

As all these varieties of voice are to be directed by the sense, so the action is to be directed by the voice, and with a beautiful propriety; as it were, to enforce it. The arm, which by a strong figure Tully calls the orator's weapon, is to be sometimes raised and extended; and the hand, by its motion, sometimes to lead, and sometimes to follow, the words as they are uttered. The stamping of the foot too has its proper expression in contention, anger, or absolute command. But the face is the epitome of the whole man, and the eyes are as it were the epitome of the face; for which reason, he says, the best judges among the Romans were not extremely pleased even with Roscius himself in his mask. No part of the body, besides the face, is capable of as many changes as there are different emotions in the mind, and of expressing them all by those changes. Nor is this to be done without the freedom of the eyes; therefore Theophrastus called one, who barely rehearsed his speech with his eyes fixed, an 'absent actor.'

As the countenance admits of so great variety, it requires also great judgment to govern it. Not that the form of the face is to be shifted on every occasion, lest it turn to farce and buffoonery; but it is certain that the eyes have a wonderful power of marking the emotions of the mind, sometimes by a steadfast look, sometimes by a careless one, now by a sudden regard, then by a joyful sparkling, as the sense of the words is diversified: for action is, as it were, the speech of the features and limbs, and must therefore conform itself always to the sentiments of the soul. And it may be observed, that in all which relates to the gesture there is a wonderful force implanted by nature; since the vulgar, the unskilful, and even the most barbarous, are chiefly affected by this. None are moved by the sound of words but those who understand the language; and the sense of many things is lost upon men of a dull apprehension; but action is a kind of universal tongue; all men are subject to the same passions, and consequently know the same marks of them in others, by which they themselves express them.

Perhaps some of my readers may be of opinion that the hints I have here made use of, out of Cicero, are somewhat too refined for the players on our theatre; in answer to which, I venture to lay it down as a maxim, that without good sense no one can be a good player, and that he is very unfit to personate the dignity of a Roman hero who cannot enter into the rules for pronunciation and gesture delivered by a Roman orator.

There is another thing which my author does not think too minute to insist on, though it is purely mechanical; and that is the right pitching of the voice. On this occasion he tells the story of Gracchus, who employed a servant with a little ivory pipe to stand behind him and give him the right pitch, as often as he wandered too far from the proper modulation. 'Every voice,' says Tully, has its particular medium and compass, and the sweetness of speech consists in leading it through all the variety of tones naturally, and without touching any extreme. Therefore, says he, 'leave the pipe at home, but carry the sense of this custom with you.'

HUGHES.

N° 542. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1712.

Et sibi gratèrri se gaudet

OVID. MET. l. II. ver. 430.

He heard,
Well pleas'd, himself before himself preferr'd.
ADDISON.

WHEN I have been present in assemblies where my paper has been talked of, I have been very well pleased to hear those who would detract from the author of it observe, that the letters which are sent to the Spectator are as good, if not better, than any of his works. Upon this occasion many letters of mirth are usually mentioned, which some think the Spectator writ to himself, and which others commend because they fancy he received them from his correspondents. Such are those from the valetudinarian*; the inspector of the sign-posts†; the master of the fan-exercise‡; with that of the hooped petticoat§; that of Nicholas Hart, the annual sleeper||; that from Sir John Envil¶; that upon the London cries**; with multitudes of the same nature. As I love nothing more than to mortify the ill-natured, that I may do it effectually, I must acquaint them they have very often praised me when they did not design it, and that they have approved my writings when they thought they had derogated from them. I have heard several of these unhappy gentlemen proving, by undeniable arguments, that I was not able to pen a letter which I had written the day before. Nay, I have heard some of them throwing out ambiguous expressions, and giving the company reason to suspect that they themselves did me the honour to send me such and such a particular epistle, which happened to be talked of with the esteem or approbation of those who were present. These rigid critics are so afraid of allowing me any thing which does not belong to me, that they will not be positive whether the lion, the wild boar, and the flowerpots in the play-house, did not actually write those letters which came to me in their names. I must therefore inform these gentlemen, that I often choose this way of casting my thoughts into a letter, for the following reasons. First, out of the policy of those who try their jest upon another, before they own it themselves. Secondly, because I would extort a little praise from such who will never applaud any thing whose author is known and certain. Thirdly, because it gave me an opportunity of introducing a great variety of characters into my work, which could not have been done had I always written in the person of the Spectator. Fourthly, because the dignity spectatorial would have suffered had I published as from myself those several ludicrous compositions which I have ascribed to fictitious names and characters. And lastly, because they often serve to bring in more naturally such additional reflections as have been placed at the end of them.

There are others who have likewise done me a very particular honour, though undesignedly. These are such who will needs have it that I have translated or borrowed many of my thoughts out of books which are written in other languages. I have heard of a person, who is more famous for his library than his learning, that has asserted this

more than once in his private conversation*. Were it true, I am sure he could not speak it from his own knowledge; but, had he read the book which he has collected, he would find this accusation to be wholly groundless. Those who are truly learned will acquit me in this point, in which I have been so far from offending, that I have been scrupulous, perhaps to a fault, in quoting the authors of several passages which I might have made my own. But, as this assertion is in reality an encomium on what I have published, I ought rather to glory in it than endeavour to confute it.

Some are so very willing to alienate from me that small reputation which might accrue to me from any of these my speculations, that they attribute some of the best of them to those imaginary manuscripts with which I have introduced them. There are others, I must confess, whose objections have given me a greater concern, as they seem to reflect, under this head, rather on my morality, than on my invention. These are they who say an author is guilty of falsehood, when he talks to the public of manuscripts which he never saw, or describes scenes of action or discourse in which he was never engaged. But these gentlemen would do well to consider, that there is not a fable or parable, which ever was made use of, that is as liable to this exception; since nothing, according to this notion, can be related innocently, what was not once matter of fact. Besides, I think the most ordinary reader may be able to discover, by my way of writing, what I deliver in these occurrences as truth, and what as fiction.

Since I am unawares engaged in answering the several objections which have been made against these my works, I must take notice that there are some who affirm a paper of this nature should always turn upon diverting subjects, and others who find fault with every one of them that hath not an immediate tendency to the advancement of religion or learning. I shall leave these gentlemen to dispute it out among themselves; since I see one half of my conduct patronized by each side. Were I serious on an improper subject, or trifling as a serious one, I should deservedly draw upon me the censure of my readers; or were I conscious of any thing in my writings that is not innocent at least, or that the greatest part of them were not sincerely designed to discountenance vice and ignorance, and support the interest of true wisdom and virtue, I should be more severe upon myself than the public is disposed to be. In the meanwhile I desire my reader to consider every particular paper or discourse as a distinct tract by itself, and independent of every thing that goes before or after it.

I shall end this paper with the following lines, which was really sent me, as some others have been which I have published, and for which I must own myself indebted to their respective writers.

* SIR,

I WAS this morning in a company of your well-wishers, when we read over, with great satisfaction, Tully's observations on action adapted to the British theatre; though, by the way, we were very sorry to find that you have disposed of another member of your club. Poor Sir Roger is dead, and the worthy clergyman dying. Captain Scott has taken possession of a fair estate; Will Harcomb has married a farmer's daughter; and Sir Templar withdraws himself into the business of his

* N° 25.

† N° 28.

‡ N° 102.

§ Nos. 109, 127, and 140.

|| N° 184.

¶ N° 209.

** N° 251.

* Thought to be an allusion to a Mr. Thomas Brown, ridiculed by Addison under the name of Tom Fiddler, Tat. No. 158.

own profession. What will all this end in? We are afraid it portends no good to the public. Unless you very speedily fix a day for the election of new members, we are under apprehensions of losing the British Spectator. I hear of a party of ladies who intend to address you on this subject; and question not, if you do not give us the slip very suddenly, that you will receive addresses from all parts of the kingdom to continue so useful a work. Pray deliver us out of this perplexity; and, among the multitude of your readers, you will particularly oblige,

‘Your most sincere
‘friend and servant,
‘PHILO-SPEC.’
O.

ADDISON.

N^o 543. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1712.

— *Facies non omnibus una,
Nec diversa tamen* — OVID. Met. l. ii. ver. 13.

Tho’ not alike, consenting parts agree,
Fashion’d with similar variety.

THOSE who were skilful in anatomy among the ancients concluded, from the outward and inward make of an human body, that it was the work of a Being transcendently wise and powerful. As the world grew more enlightened in this art, their discoveries gave them fresh opportunities of admiring the conduct of Providence in the formation of an human body. Galen was converted by his dissections, and could not but own a Supreme Being upon a survey of this his handy-work. There were, indeed, many parts of which the old anatomists did not know the certain use; but, as they saw that most of those which they examined were adapted with admirable art to their several functions, they did not question but those, whose uses they could not determine, were contrived with the same wisdom for respective ends and purposes. Since the circulation of the blood has been found out, and many other great discoveries have been made by our modern anatomists, we see new wonders in the human frame, and discern several important uses for those parts, which uses the ancients knew nothing of. In short, the body of man is such a subject as stands the utmost test of examination. Though it appears formed with the nicest wisdom, upon the most superficial survey of it, it still mends upon the search, and produces our surprise and amazement in proportion as we pry into it. What I have here said of an human body may be applied to the body of every animal which has been the subject of anatomical observations.

The body of an animal is an object adequate to our senses. It is a particular system of Providence that lies in a narrow compass. The eye is able to command it, and by successive inquiries can search into all its parts. Could the body of the whole earth, or indeed the whole universe, be thus submitted to the examination of our senses, were it not too big and disproportioned for our inquiries, too unwieldy for the management of the eye and hand, there is no question but it would appear to us as curious and well-contrived a frame as that of the human body. We should see the same concatenation and subserviency, the same necessity and usefulness, the same beauty and harmony, in all and every of its parts, as what we discover in the body of every single animal.

The more extended our reason is, and the more able to grapple with immense objects, the greater still are those discoveries which it makes of wisdom and providence in the works of the creation. A Sir Isaac Newton, who stands up as the miracle of the present age, can look through a whole planetary system; consider it in its weight, number, and measure; and draw from it as many demonstrations of infinite power and wisdom, as a more confined understanding is able to deduce from the system of an human body.

But to return to our speculations on anatomy, I shall here consider the fabric and texture of the bodies of animals in one particular view; which, in my opinion, shows the hand of a thinking and all-wise Being in their formation, with the evidence of a thousand demonstrations. I think we may lay this down as an incontestable principle, that chance never acts in a perpetual uniformity and consistence with itself. If one should always sling the same number with ten thousand dice, or see every throw just five times less, or five times more in number, than the throw which immediately preceded it, who would not imagine there is some invisible power which directs the cast? This is the proceeding which we find in the operations of nature. Every kind of animal is diversified by different magnitudes, each of which gives rise to a different species. Let a man trace the dog or lion kind, and he will observe how many of the works of nature are published, if I may use the expression, in a variety of editions. If we look into the reptile world, or into those different kinds of animals that fill the element of water, we meet with the same repetitions among several species, that differ very little from one another, but in size and bulk. You find the same creature that is drawn at large copied out in several proportions and ending in miniature. It would be tedious to produce instances of this regular conduct in Providence, as it would be superfluous to those who are versed in the natural history of animals. The magnificent harmony of the universe is such, that we may observe innumerable divisions running upon the same ground. I might also extend this speculation to the dead parts of nature, in which we may find matter disposed into many similar systems, as well in our survey of stars and planets, as of stones, vegetables, and other sublunary parts of the creation. In a word, Providence has shown the richness of its goodness and wisdom, not only in the production of many original species, but in the multiplicity of descents* which it has made on every original species in particular.

But to pursue this thought still further. Every living creature considered in itself has many very complicated parts that are exact copies of some other parts which it possesses, and which are complicated in the same manner. One eye would have been sufficient for the subsistence and preservation of an animal; but, in order to better his condition, we see another placed with a mathematical exactness in the same most advantageous situation, and in every particular of the same size and texture. Is it possible for chance to be thus delicate and uniform in her operations? Should a million of dice turn up twice together the same number, the wonder would be nothing in comparison with this. But when we see this similitude and resemblance in the arm, the hand, the fingers; when we see one half of the body entirely correspond with the other in all those minute strokes, without which a man

* Probably a typographical erratum for *descents*.

might have very well subsisted; nay, when we often see a single part repeated an hundred times in the same body notwithstanding it consists of the most intricate weaving of numberless fibres, and these parts differing still in magnitude, as the convenience of their particular situation requires; sure a man must have a strange cast of understanding, who does not discover the finger of God in so wonderful a work. These duplicates in those parts of the body, without which a man might have very well subsisted, though not so well as with them, are a plain demonstration of an all-wise Contriver, as those more numerous copyings which are found among the vessels of the same body are evident demonstrations that they could not be the work of chance. This argument receives additional strength, if we apply it to every animal and insect within our knowledge, as well as to those numberless living creatures that are objects too minute for a human eye; and if we consider how the several species in this whole world of life resemble one another in very many particulars, so far as is convenient for their respective states of existence, it is much more probable that an hundred million of dice should be casually thrown an hundred million of times in the same number, than that the body of any single animal should be produced by the fortuitous concourse of matter. And that the like chance should arise in innumerable instances requires a degree of credulity that is not under the direction of common sense. We may carry this consideration yet further, if we reflect on the two sexes in every living species, with their resemblances to each other, and those particular distinctions that were necessary for the keeping up of this great world of life.

There are many more demonstrations of a Supreme Being, and of his transcendent wisdom, power, and goodness, in the formation of the body of a living creature, for which I refer my reader to other writings, particularly to the sixth book of the poem entitled *Creation**, where the anatomy of the human body is described with great perspicuity and elegance. I have been particular on the thought which runs through this speculation, because I have not seen it enlarged upon by others.

ADDISON.

O.

N° 544. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1712.

*Nunquam ita quisquam bene subducta ratione ad vitam
Juit.*

Quin res, etas, usus, semper aliquid apporet noi.

Aliquid moneat; ut illa, que te scire credas, necias,

Et, que tibi putaris prima, in experiendo ut repudies.

TER. Adelph. act v. sc. 2.

No man was ever so completely skilled in the conduct of life, as not to receive new information from age and experience; inasmuch that we find ourselves really ignorant of what we thought we understood, and see cause to reject what we fancied our truest interest.

THERE are, I think, sentiments in the following letter from my friend Captain Sentry, which discover a rational and equal frame of mind, as well prepared for an advantageous as an unfortunate change of condition.

SIR,

Coverley-hall, Nov. 15, Worcestershire.

I AM come to the succession of the estate of my honoured kinsman, Sir Roger de Coverley; I assure you I find it no easy task to keep up the figure

of master of the fortune which was so basely enjoyed by that honest plain man. I cannot (with respect to the great obligations I have, &c. spoken) reflect upon his character, but I am confirmed in the truth which I have, I think, heartily spoken at the club, to wit, that a man of a warm and well-disposed heart, with a very small capacity, is highly superior in human society to him who, with the greatest talents is cold and languid in his affections. But, alas! why do I make a difficulty in speaking of my worthy ancestor's failings? His little absurdities and incapacity for the conversation of the politest men are dead with him, and his greater qualities are even now useful to him. I know not whether by naming those disabilities I do not enhance his merit, since he has left behind him a reputation in his country, which would be worth the pains of the wisest man's whole life to arrive at. By the way I must observe to you, that many of your readers have mistook that parody in your writings, wherein Sir Roger is reported to have inquired into the private character of the young woman at the tavern*. I know you mentioned that circumstance as an instance of the simplicity and innocence of his mind, which made him imagine it a very easy thing to reclaim one of those criminals, and not as an inclination in him to be gully with her. The less discerning of your readers cannot enter into that delicacy of description in the character: but indeed my chief business at the time is to represent to you my present state of mind, and the satisfaction I promise to myself in the possession of my new fortune. I have continued all Sir Roger's servants, except such as were a relief to dismiss into little beings without a murmur. Those who are in a list of the good knight's own hand to be taken care of by me, I have quartered upon such as have taken new leases of care, and added so many advantages during the lives of the persons so quartered, that it is the interest of those whom they are joined with to cherish and befriend them upon all occasions. I find a considerable sum of ready money, which I am laying out among my dependants at the common interest, but with a design to lend it according to their merit, rather than according to their ability. I shall lay a tax upon such as I have highly obliged, to become security to me for such of their own poor youth, whether male or female, as want help towards getting into some being in the world. I hope I shall be able to manage my affairs so as to improve my fortune every year by doing acts of kindness. I will lend my money to the use of our but indigent men, secured by such as have ceased to be indigent by the favour of my family or myself. What makes this the more practicable is, that if they will do any one good with my money, they are welcome to it upon their own security, and I make no exception against it, because the persons who enter into the obligations do it for their own family. I have laid out four thousand pounds this way, and it is not to be imagined what a crowd of people are obliged by it. In case where Sir Roger has recommended, I have lent money to put out children, with a clause which makes void the obligation in case the infant dies before he is out of his apprenticeship; by which means the kindred and masters are extremely careful of breeding him to industry, that he may repay it himself by his labour, in three years journey-work after his time is out, for the use of his necessities. Opportunities of this kind are all that have

* By Sir Richard Blackmore.

* See N° 410.

red since I came to my estate; but I assure I will preserve a constant disposition to catch the occasions I can to promote the good and interest of my neighbourhood.

But give me leave to lay before you a little establishment which has grown out of my past life, that I may not will administer great satisfaction to me in part of it, whatever that is, which is to come.

There is a prejudice in favour of the way of life to which a man has been educated, which I do not whether it would not be faulty to overcome.

It is like a partiality to the interest of my own country before that of any other nation.

From an habit of thinking, grown upon me from my youth spent in arms, that I have ever gentlemen, who have preserved modesty, goodness, justice, and humanity, in a soldier's life, as the most valuable and worthy persons of the human race. To pass through imminent dangers, and painful watchings, frightful alarms, and laborious marches, for the greater part of a man's life, and pass the rest in sobriety conformable to the rules of the most virtuous civil life, is a merit great to deserve the treatment it usually meets among the other part of the world. But I assure you, sir, were there not very many who have worth, we could never have seen the glorious virtues which we have in our days. I need not say to illustrate the character of a soldier, than tell you he is the very contrary to him you observe loud, saucy, and overbearing, in a red coat at town. But I was going to tell you that, in our of the profession of arms, I have set apart a certain sum of money for a table for such gentlemen as have served their country in the army, will please from time to time to sojourn all, any part of the year, at Coverley, such of them will do me that honour shall find horses, servants, and all things necessary for their accommodation and enjoyment of all the conveniences of life, in a pleasant various country. If Colonel Mowbray were to be in town, and his abilities are not employed another way in the service, there is no doubt he would be more welcome here. That gentleman's thorough knowledge in his profession, together with the simplicity of his manners and goodness of his heart, would induce others like him to quit my abode; and I should be glad my acquaintance would take themselves to be invited or, as their characters have an affinity to his.

I would have all my friends know, that they need not fear (though I am become a country gentleman) I will trespass against their temperance and sobriety. No, sir, I shall retain so much of good sentiments for the conduct of life, which cultivated in each other at our club, as to condemn all inordinate pleasures; but particularly remember, with our beloved Tully, that the delight food consists in desire, not satiety. They who so passionately pursue pleasure seldom arrive at it. Now I am writing to a philosopher, I cannot forbear mentioning the satisfaction I took in the passage I read yesterday in the same Tully, a nobleman of Athens made a compliment to a friend the morning after he had supped at his house: "Your entertainments do not only please when you give them, but also the day after."

I am, my worthy friend,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM SENTRY.

T.

STEEL.

* By this delicate misnomer, a just compliment is paid to the father of the late Admiral Kempenfelt, who was drowned on the Royal George at Spithead, Aug. 29, 1752.

Nº 545. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1712.

*Quin potius pacem eternam pactosque hymenatos
Exercimus*

VIRG. *Æn.* iv. ver. 99.

Let us in bonds of lasting peace unite,
And celebrate the hymeneal rite.

I CANNOT but think the following letter from the Emperor of China to the Pope of Rome, proposing a coalition of the Chinese and Roman churches, will be acceptable to the curious. I must confess I myself being of opinion, that the emperor has as much authority to be interpreter to him he pretends to expound, as the pope has to be vicar of the sacred person he takes upon him to represent, I was not a little pleased with their treaty of alliance. What progress the negotiation between his majesty of Rome and his holiness of China makes (as we daily writers say upon subjects where we are at a loss) time will let us know. In the meantime, since they agree in the fundamentals of power and authority, and differ only in matters of faith, we may expect the matter will go on without difficulty.

Copia di Littera del Re della China al Papa, interpretata dal Padre Segretario dell' India della Compagna di Giesu.

A Voi Benedetto sopra i benedetti P. P. ed interprete grande de Pontifici e Pastore Xmo dispensatore dell'oglio de i Re d' Europe Clemente XI.

IL favorito amico di Dio Gionata 7º potentissimo sopra tutti i potentissimi della terra, altissimo sopra tutti gl' altissimi sotto il sole e la luna, che siede nella sede di smeraldo della China a sopra cento scalini d' oro, ad interpretare la lingua di Dio a tutti i descendent fedeli d' Abramo, che de la vita e la morte a cento quindici regni, ed a cento settante isole, scrive con la penna dello struzzo vergine, e manda salute ed accrescimento di vecchiezza.

Essendo arrivato il tempo in cui il fiore della reale nostro gioventu deve maturare i frutti della nostra vecchiezza, e confortare con quell' i desiderii de i populi nostri divoti, e propagare il seme di quella pianta che deve proteggerli, habbiamo stabilito d'accompagnarci con una vergine eccelsa ed amorosa allattata alla mammella della leonessa forte e dell' agnella mansueta. Percio essendo ci stato figurato sempre il vostro popolo Europeo Romano per paese di donne invitate, i forte, e caste; allongiamo la nostra mano potente, a stringere una di loro, e questra sara una vostro nipote, o nipote di qualche altrograi Sacerdote Latino, che sia guardata dall' occhio dritto di Dio, sara seminata in lei l'autorita di Sara, la fedelta d' Esther, e la sapienza di Abba; la vogliamo con l' occhio che guarda il cielo, e la terra, e con la bocca della conchiglia che si pace della ruggia del mattino. La sua eta non passi ducento cori della luna, la sua statura sia alta quanto la spica dritta del grano verde, e la sua grossezza quanto un manipolo di grano secco. Noi la mandaremmo a vestire per li nostri mandatici ambasciadori, e chi la condurranno a noi, e noi incontreremmo alla riva del fiume grande facendola salire suo nostro cocchio. Ella potra adorare apresso di noi il suo Dio, con venti quatro altre a sua elezzione, e potra cantare con loro come la tortora alla primavera.

'Sodisfando noi padre e amico nostro questa nostra brama, sarete caggione di unire in perpetua amicitia cotesti vostri regni d' Europa al nostro dominante imperio, e si abbracciranno le aostri leggi come l' edere abbraccia la pianta e noi medesimi spargeremo del nostro seme reale in coteste provincie, riscaldando i letti di vostri principi con il fuoco amoroso delle nostre Amazoni, d'alcune delle quali i nostri mandatici ambasciadori vi porteranno le somiglianza depinte. V. Confermiamo di tenere in pace le due buone religiose famiglie delli missionarii gli' neri figlioli d'Ignazio, e li bianchi e neri figlioli di Dominico, il cui consiglio degl' uni e degl' altri ci serve di scorta nel nostro regimento e di lume ad interpretare le divine Legge come appunto fa lume l' oglio che si getta in mare. In tanto alzandoci dal nostro trono per abbracciarvi, vi di chiariamo nostro congiunto e confederato ed ordiniamo che questo foglio sia segnato col nostro segno imperiale dalla nostra città, capo del mondo, il quinto giorno della terza lunatione l'anno quarto del nostro imperio.

'Sigillo e un sole nelle cui faccia e anche quella della luna ed intorno tra i raggi vi sono traposte alcune spada.

'Dico il traduttore che secondo il ceremonial di questo lettere e recdentissimo specialmente femere scritto con la penna dello struzzo virgine con la quelle non sogliosi scrivere quei re che le pregliere a Dio e scrivendo a qualche altro a principe del mondo, la maggior finezza che usino, e scrivergli con la penna del pavone.'

A Letter from the Emperor of China to the Pope, interpreted by a father Jesuit, secretary of the Indies.

'To you blessed above the blessed, great emperor of bishops and pastor of Christians, dispenser of the oil of the kings of Europe, Clement XI.'

'THE favourite friend of God, Gionetta the VIIIth, the most powerful above the most powerful of the earth, highest above the highest under the sun and moon, who sits on a throne of emerald of China, above an hundred steps of gold, to interpret the language of God to the faithful, and who gives life and death to an hundred and fifteen kingdoms and an hundred and seventeen islands; he writes with the quill of a virgin ostrich, and sends health and increase of old age.

'Being arrived at the time of our age, in which the flower of our royal youth ought to ripen into fruit towards old age, to comfort therewith the desire of our devoted people, and to propagate the seed of that plant which must protect them; we have determined to accompany ourselves with an high amorous virgin, suckled at the breast of a wild lioness, and a meek lamb; and, imagining with ourselves that your European Roman people is the father of many unconquerable and chaste ladies, we stretch out our powerful arm to embrace one of them, and she shall be one of your nieces, or the niece of some other great Latin priest, the darling of God's right eye. Let the authority of Sarah be sown in her, the fidelity of Esther, and the wisdom of Abba. We would have her eye like that of a dove, which may look upon heaven and earth, with the mouth of a shell-fish to feed upon the dew of the morning; her age must not exceed two hundred courses of the moon; let her stature be equal to that of an ear of green corn, and her girth a handful.

'We will send our mandarines ambassadors to clothe her, and to conduct her to us, and we will meet her on the bank of the great river, making

her to leap up into our chariot. She may worship her own God, together with twenty-four virgins of her own choosing; and she may use them as the turtle in the spring. You, O father a friend, complying with this our desire, may on the occasion of uniting in perpetual friendship a high empire with your European kingdom, as we may embrace your laws as the ivy embraces the tree: and we ourselves may scatter our royal seed into your provinces, warming the chieftains and princes with the amorous fire of our amazons, resembling pictures of some of which our mandarines ambassadors shall convey to you.

'We exhort you to keep in peace two religious families of missionaries, the black and the Ignatius, and the white and black sons of Dominicus; that the counsel, both of the one and the other may serve as a guide to us in our government, as a light to interpret the divine law, as the wind into the sea produces light.

'To conclude, we rising up in our throne to embrace you, we declare you our ally and confederate and have ordered this leaf to be sealed with our imperial signet; in our royal city the head of the world. The eighth day of the third lunation, the fourth year of our reign.'

Letters from Rome say, the whole conversation both amongst gentlemen and ladies has turned on the subject of this epistle, ever since it arrived. The Jesuit who translated it says, it loses not the majesty of the original in the Italian. It was there was an offer of the same nature made by the predecessor of the present emperor to Lewis XIV of France, but no lady of that court would at the voyage, that sex not being at that time so used in politic negociations. The manner of sealing the pope is, according to the Chinese ceremonial, very respectful: for the emperor writes him with the quill of a virgin ostrich, which is never used before but in writing prayers. Instructions are preparing for the lady who shall have much seal as to undertake this pilgrimage, and an express for the sake of her religion. The principal of the Indian missionaries has given in a list of the reigning sins in China, in order to prepare indulgences necessary to this lady and her realm in advancing the interests of the Roman catholic religion in those kingdoms.

'TO THE SPECTATOR GENERAL.

'May it please your Honour,
'I HAVE of late seen French hats of a prodigious magnitude pass by my observatory.

JOHN H. T.

STEELE.

'To any other prince (it is said in the address of the letter) the emperor would have written with the quill of a peacock.'

† This paper is a satire on the immoral practices of the Jesuit missionaries in China.

16. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1712.

nia perfacienda, ut ne quid omnino quod venditor orit, emptor ignoret.

TULL.

ry thing should be fairly told, that the buyer may not be ignorant of any thing which the seller knows.

ives me very great scandal to observe, when I go, how much skill, in buying all manner of s, there is necessary to defend yourself from s cheated in whatever you see exposed to sale. reading makes such a strong impression upon that I should think myself a cheat in my way, should translate any thing from another tongue, not acknowledge it to my readers. I understand from common report, that Mr. Cibber was inducing a French play upon our stage, and ght myself concerned to let the town know t was his, and what was foreign*. When I e to the rehearsal, I found the house so partial ne of their own fraternity, that they gave every g which was said such grace, emphasis, and e in their action, that it was no easy matter to e any judgment of the performance. Mrs. Oldl, who, it seems, is the heroic daughter, had ust a conception of her part, that her action le what she spoke appear decent, just, and no-. The passions of terror and compassion they le me believe were very artfully raised, and whole conduct of the play artful and surprising. : authors do not much relish the endeavours of yers in this kind; but have the same disdain as sicians and lawyers have when attorneys and sbercaries give advice. Cibber himself took the li-ty to tell me, that he expected I would do him tice, and allow the play well prepared for his ctators, whatever it was for his readers. He ded very many particulars not uncourious, con-ning the manner of taking an audience, and ring wait not only for their superficial applause, t also for insinuating into their affection and mions, by the artful management of the look, ice, and gesture of the speaker. I could not but ment that the Heroic Daughter appeared in the hearsal a moving entertainment wrought out of a eat and exemplary virtue.

The advantages of action, show, and dress, on se occasions, are allowable, because the merit msists in being capable of imposing upon us to r advantage and entertainment. All that I was ing to say about the honesty of an author in the le of his ware, was that he ought to own all that : had borrowed from others, and lay in a clear ght all that he gives his spectators for their money, ith an account of the first manufactures. But I tended to give the lecture of this day upon the mmon and prostituted behaviour of traders in or-inary commerce. The philosopher made it a rule f trade, that your profit ought to be the common rofit; and it is unjust to make any step towards ain, wherein the gain of even those to whom you ell is not also consulted. A man may deceive him-elf if he thinks fit, but he is no better than a heat who sells any thing without telling the ex-ceptions against it, as well as what is to be said to its advantage. The scandalous abuse of language and hardening of conscience, which may be ob-served every day, in going from one place to an- other, is what makes a whole city to an unpreju-

diced eye a den of thieves. It was no small plea-sure to me for this reason to remark, as I passed by Cornhill, that the shop of that worthy, honest, though lately unfortunate citizen, Mr. John Mor-ten*, so well known in the linen trade, is fitting up anew. Since a man has been in a distressed condition, it ought to be a great satisfaction to have passed through it in such a manner as not to have lost the friendship of those who suffered with him, but to receive an honourable acknowledgment of his honesty from those very persons to whom the law had consigned his estate.

The misfortune of this citizen is like to prove of a very general advantage to those who shall deal with him hereafter; for the stock with which he now sets up being the loan of his friends, he can-not expose that to the hazard of giving credit, but enters into a ready money trade, by which means he will both buy and sell the best and cheapest. He imposes upon himself a rule of affixing the value of each piece he sells to the piece itself; so that the most ignorant servant or child will be as good a buyer at his shop as the most skillful in the trade. For all which, you have all his hopes and fortune for your security. To encourage dealing after this way, there is not only the avoiding the most infa-mous guilt in ordinary bartering; but this observa-tion, that he who buys with ready money saves as much to his family as the state exacts out of his land for the security and service of his country; that is to say, in plain English, sixteen will do as much as twenty shillings.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

My heart is so swelled with grateful sentiments on account of some favours which I have lately re-ceived, that I must beg leave to give them utter-ance amongst the crowd of other anonymous cor-respondents; and writing, I hope, will be as great a relief to my forced silence, as it is to your natural taciturnity.—My generous benefactor will not suffer me to speak to him in any terms of acknowl-edgment, but ever treats me as if he had the greatest obligations, and uses me with a distinction that is not to be expected from one so much my superior in fortune, years, and understanding. He insin-uates as if I had a certain right to his favours from some merit, which his particular indulgence to me has discovered; but that is only a beautiful artifice to lessen the pain an honest mind feels in receiving obligations when there is no probability of return-ing them.

A gift is doubled when accompanied with such a delicacy of address; but what to me gives it an inexpressible value is its coming from the man I most esteem in the world. It pleases me indeed, as it is an advantage and addition to my fortune; but when I consider it as an instance of that good man's friendship, it overjoys, it transports me; I look on it with a lover's eye, and no longer regard the gift, but the hand that gave it. For my friend-ship is so entirely void of any gainful views, that it often gives me pain to think it should have been chargeable to him; and I cannot at some melan-choly hours help doing his generosity the injury of fearing it should cool on this account, and that the last favour might be a sort of legacy of a departing friendship.

I confess these fears seem very groundless and unjust, but you must forgive them to the apprehen-sion of one possessed of a great treasure, who is frightened at the most distant shadow of danger.

Since I have thus far opened my heart to you,

* Ximena; or, The Heroic Daughter; a tragedy taken from the *Cid* of Peter Corneille, by C. Cibber.

I will not conceal the secret satisfaction I feel there, of knowing the goodness of my friend will not be unrewarded. I am pleased with thinking the providence of the Almighty hath sufficient blessings in store for him, and will certainly discharge the debt, though I am not made the happy instrument of doing it.

‘However, nothing in my power shall be wanting to show my gratitude; I will make it the business of my life to thank him, and shall esteem (next to him) those my best friends, who give me the greatest assistance in this good work. Printing this letter would be some little instance of my gratitude; and your favour herein will very much oblige

‘Your most humble servant, &c.

Nov. 24.

‘W. C.’

STEELE.

T.

ADVERTISEMENT.

“* At Punch’s theatre, “The Blind Beggar of Bednal Green.” No persons to be admitted with masks or riding-hoods (parts of dress then denoting women of the town). No money to be returned after the curtain is drawn up.

Nº 547. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1712.

*Sic vultus tibi, monstrata radice vel herba,
Non ferit levius, fugeres radice vel herba
Proficiente nihil curarier.*

HOR. Ep. ii. l. 2. ver. 149.

Suppose you had a wound, and one had show’d
An herb, which you apply’d, but found no good;
Would you be fond of this, increase your pain,
And use the fruitless remedy again?

CREECH.

It is very difficult to praise a man without putting him out of countenance. My following correspondent has found out this uncommon art, and, together with his friends, has celebrated some of my speculations after such a concealed but diverting manner, that if any of my readers think I am to blame in publishing my own commendations, they will allow I should have deserved their censure as much, had I suppressed the humour in which they are conveyed to me.

‘SIR,

‘I AM often in a private assembly of wits of both sexes, where we generally descant upon your speculations, or upon the subjects on which you have treated. We were last Tuesday talking of those two volumes which you have lately published. Some were commending one of your papers, and some another; and there was scarce a single person in the company that had not a favourite speculation. Upon this a man of wit and learning told us, he thought it would not be amiss if we paid the Spectator the same compliment that is often made in our public prints to Sir William Read *, Dr. Grant †, Mr. Moor ‡ the apothecary, and other eminent physicians, where it is usual for the patients to publish the cures which have been made upon them, and the several distempers under which they laboured. The proposal took, and the lady

* See Nº 472, note.

† See Gentleman’s Magazine, vol. lvii. 196.

‡ Vender of a worm-powder, which is said in his advertisements to have brought off worms of incredible lengths. —See Pope’s verses to him, beginning “How much egregious Moore,” &c. Pope’s Works (by Warburton), edit. 1787. 12mo. vol. iv. p. 43.

where we visited having the two last volumes large paper interleaved for her own private use, ordered them to be brought down, and laid on a window, whither every one in the company came and writ down a particular advertisement in the same style and phrase of the like ingenious composition which we frequently meet with at the end of our newspapers. When we had finished our paper, we read them with a great deal of mirth at the other side, and agreed, *nomine contrahente*, to transcribe, and sent to the Spectator. The gentleman who made the proposal entered the advertisement before the title-page, after which the rest succeeded in order.

Remedium efficax et universum: or, an easy remedy adapted to all capacities; showing how every person may cure himself of ill-nature, pride, spleen, or any other distemper incident to the human system, with an easy way to know when infection is upon him. This panacea is as easy as bread, agreeable to the taste, and requires no confinement. It has not its equal in the world as abundance of the nobility and gentry throughout the kingdom have experienced.

N.B. No family ought to be without it.

Over the two Spectators on jealousy, being the first in the third volume.

‘I William Crazy, aged threescore and seven, having been for several years afflicted with various doubts, fears, and vapours, occasioned by the want of beauty of Mary, my wife, aged twenty-two, do hereby, for the benefit of the public, give notice, that I have found great relief from the following doses, having taken them two mornings together with a dish of chocolate. Witness my hand, &c.

For the benefit of the poor.

‘In charity to such as are troubled with the case of levee-hunting, and are forced to seek bread every morning at the chamber-doors of great men, I A. B. do testify, that for many years past I laboured under this fashionable distemper, but am cured of it by a remedy which I bought of Mr. Baldwin, contained in a half sheet of paper, marked No. 193, where any one may be provided with the same remedy at the price of a single penny.

‘An infallible cure for hypochondriac melancholy, No. 173, 184, 191, 203, 209, 221, 231, 239, 245, 247, 251.

Probatum est.

‘CHARLES LINT.

‘I Christopher Query, having been troubled with a certain distemper in my tongue, which was itself in impertinent and superfluous interrogations, have not asked one unnecessary question since perusal of the prescription marked No. 221.

‘The Britannic Beautifier, being an excellent modesty, No. 231, which gives such a delicate blushing colour to the cheeks of those that are white or pale, that it is not to be distinguished from a natural fine complexion, nor perceived to be artificial by the nearest friend, is nothing of pain or in the least hurtful. It renders the face both fully handsome; is not subject to be rubbed off, and cannot be paralleled by either wash, powder, cosmetic, &c. It is certainly the best beauty in the world.

‘MARTHA GLOW-WORM.

I Samuel Self, of the parish of St. James, have a constitution which naturally abounds with a made use of a paper of directions marked 177, recommending a healthful exercise called 1-nature, and have found it a most excellent cterner of the blood.'

Whereas I, Elizabeth Rainbow, was troubled that distemper in my head, which about a ago was pretty epidemical among the ladies, discovered itself in the colour of their hoods, ng made use of the doctor's cephalic tincture, ch he exhibited to the public in one of his last 's papers, I recovered in a very few days.'

I George Gloom, having for a long time been bled with the spleen, and being advised by my ids to put myself into a course of Steele, did that end make use of remedies conveyed to me ral mornings, in short letters, from the hands e invisible doctor. They were marked at the om Nathaniel Henroost, Alice Threadneedle, ecca Nettle-top, Tom Loveless, Mary Mean- l, Thomas Smoky, Anthony Freeman, Tom got, Rustick Sprightly, &c. which have had so l an effect upon me, that I now find myself rful, lightsome, and easy; and therefore do mment them to all such as labour under the e distemper.'

Not having room to insert all the advertisements h were sent me, I have only picked out some from the third volume, reserving the fourth for their opportunity.

DDISON.

O.

Loss of memory certainly cured by an electuary, that is at the prime cause, which few apprehend, of forget- ss, &c.

548. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1712.

Vitiis nemo sine nascitur, optimus ille

si minimis urgetur—

HOR. Sat. III. l. 1. ver. 68.

ere's none but has some fault; and he's the best, ut virtuous he, that's spotted with the least.

CREECH.

MR. SPECTATOR,

Nov. 27, 1712.

SAVZ read this day's paper with a great deal of usure, and could send you an account of several ins and antidotes in your third volume, which r correspondents have not taken notice of in r advertisements; and at the same time must t to you, that I have seldom seen a shop fur- ed with such a variety of medicaments, and in ch there are fewer soporifics. The several ve- es you have invented for conveying your unac- table truths to us, are what I most particularly ire, as I am afraid they are secrets which will with you. I do not find that any of your cri- l essays are taken notice of in this paper, not- standing I look upon them to be excellent users of the brain, and could venture to super- be them with an advertisement which I have ly seen in one of our newspapers, wherein there n account given of a sovereign remedy for re- ing the taste of all such persons whose palates e been vitiated by distempers, unwholesome d, or any the like occasions. But to let fall the sion, notwithstanding your criticisms, and par- ticularly the candour which you have discovered in

them, are not the least taking part of your work, I find your opinion concerning poetical justice, as it is expressed in the first part of your fortieth Spectator, is controverted by some eminent critics; and as you now seem, to our great grief of heart, to be winding up your bottoms, I hoped you would have enlarged a little upon that subject. It is indeed but a single paragraph in your works; and I believe those who have read it with the same atten- tion I have done, will think there is nothing to be objected against it. I have however drawn up some additional arguments to strengthen the opinion which you have there delivered, having endea- voured to go to the bottom of that matter, which you may either publish or suppress as you think fit.

'Horace in my motto says, that all men are vi- cious, and that they differ from one another only as they are more or less so. Boileau has given the same account of our wisdom, as Horace has of our virtue:

*"Tous les hommes sont fous, et malgré tous leurs soins,
Ne diffèrent entre eux, que du plus et du moins."*

"All men," says he, "are fools; and, in spite of their endeavours to the contrary, differ from one another only as they are more or less so."

'Two or three of the old Greek poets have given the same turn to a sentence which describes the happiness of man in this life:

To ζῆν ἀλυτὸς ἀνὴρ ἢ ἵπτιον.

"That man is most happy who is the least miserable."

'It will not perhaps be unentertaining to the polite reader to observe how these three beautiful sentences are formed upon different subjects by the same way of thinking; but I shall return to the first of them.

'Our goodness being of a comparative and not an absolute nature, there is none who in strictness can be called a virtuous man. Every one has in him a natural alloy, though one may be fuller of dross than another: for this reason I cannot think it right to introduce a perfect or a faultless man upon the stage; not only because such a character is improper to move compassion, but because there is no such thing in nature. This might probably be one reason why the Spectator in one of his papers took notice of that late invented term, called Poet- ical Justice, and the wrong notions into which it has led some tragic writers. The most perfect man has vices enough to draw down punishments upon his head, and to justify Providence in regard to any miseries that may befall him. For this reason I cannot think but that the instruction and moral are much finer, where a man who is virtuous in the main of his character falls into distress, and slinks under the blows of fortune at the end of a tragedy, than when he is represented as happy and triumphant. Such an example corrects the insolence of human nature, softens the mind of the beholder with sentiments of pity and compassion, comforts him under his own private affliction, and teaches him not to judge of men's virtues by their successes. I cannot think of one real hero in all antiquity so far raised above human infirmities, that he might not be very naturally represented in a tragedy as plunged in misfortunes and calamities. The poet may still find out some prevailing passion or indis- cretion in his character, and show it in such a man- ner as will sufficiently acquit the gods of any in- justice in his sufferings. For, as Horace observes in my text, the best man is faulty, though not in so great a degree as those whom we generally call vi- cious men.

‘If such a strict poetical justice as some gentlemen insist upon was to be observed in this art, there is no manner of reason why it should not extend to heroic poetry as well as tragedy. But we find it so little observed in Homer, that his Achilles is placed in the greatest point of glory and success, though his character is morally vicious, and only poetically good, if I may use the phrase of our modern critics. The *Æneid* is filled with innocent, unhappy persons. Nisus and Euryalus, Lausus and Pallas, come all to unfortunate ends. The poet takes notice in particular, that, in the sacking of Troy, Ripheus fell, who was the most just man among the Trojans.

“— *Cadit et Ripheus justissimus unus,
Qui fuit in Trucriis, et servatissimus æqui:
Dilectæ alter vicius est.*

Æn. li. ver. 487.

And that Pantheus could neither be preserved by his transcendent piety, nor by the holy fillets of Apollo, whose priest he was.

“*Nec te tua plurima, Pantheus,
Labentem pietas, nec Apollinis infusa teret.*”
Ibid. ver. 429.

I might here mention the practice of ancient tragic poets, both Greek and Latin; but as this particular is touched upon in the paper above mentioned, I shall pass it over in silence. I could produce passages out of Aristotle in favour of my opinion, and if in one place he says that an absolutely virtuous man should not be represented as unhappy, this does not justify any one who shall think fit to bring in an absolutely virtuous man upon the stage. Those who are acquainted with that author’s way of writing, know very well that, to take the whole extent of his subject into his divisions of it, he often makes use of such cases as are imaginary, and not reducible to practice. He himself declares that such tragedies as ended unhappily, bore away the prize in theatrical contentions, from those which ended happily; and for the fortieth speculation, which I am now considering, as it has given reasons why these are more apt to please an audience, so it only proves that these are generally preferable to the other, though at the same time it affirms that many excellent tragedies have and may be written in both kinds.

‘I shall conclude with observing, that though the Spectator above mentioned is so far against the rule of poetical justice, as to affirm that good men may meet with an unhappy catastrophe in tragedy, it does not say that ill men may go off unpunished. The reason for this distinction is very plain, namely, because the best of men are vicious enough to justify providence for any misfortunes and afflictions which may befall them, but there are many men so criminal that they can have no claim or pretence to happiness. The best of men may deserve punishment, but the worst of men cannot deserve happiness.

[Author uncertain.]

Nº 549. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1712.

*Quamvis digressu veteris confusus amici,
Laudo tamen*

JUV. Sat. iii. ver. 1.

Tho’ griev’d at the departure of my friend,
His purpose of retiring I commend.

I BELIEVE most people begin the world with a resolution to withdraw from it into a serious kind of solitude or retirement when they have made them-

selves easy in it. Our happiness is, that we are out some excuse or other for deferring such resolutions until our intended retreat is cut off by death. But among all kinds of people there are none who are so hard to part with the world as those who are grown old in the braving of riches. Their minds are so warped with their constant attention to gain, that it is very difficult to get them to give their souls another bent, and turn them towards those objects, which, though they are proper for every stage of life, are so more especially for the last. Horace describes an old man as so charmed with the pleasures of a country, that in order to make a purchase he called in his money; but what was the event of it? Within a very few days after he put it out again. I was engaged in this series of thought by a dream which I had last week with my worthy friend Andrew Freeport, a man of so much natural sequence, good sense, and probity of mind, that always bear him with a particular pleasure. We were sitting together, being the sole remaining members of our club, Sir Andrew gave me an account of the many busy scenes of life in which he had been engaged, and at the same time reduced to me abundance of those lucky hits, which another time he would have called pieces of good fortune; but in the temper of mind he was in he termed them mercies, favours of Providence, and blessings upon an honest industry. ‘You says he, ‘you must know, my good friend, I have used to consider myself as creditor and debtor. I often state my accounts after the same manner with regard to heaven and my own soul. In such a case, when I look upon the debtor side, I find an innumerable articles, that I want arithmetic to sum them up; but when I look upon the creditor side I find little more than blank paper. Now, that I am very well satisfied that it is not in my power to balance accounts with my Maker, I am ready however to turn all my future endeavours that way. You must not therefore be surprised, my friend, you hear that I am betaking myself to a more thoughtful kind of life, and if I meet you so often in this place.’

I could not but approve so good a resolution notwithstanding the loss I shall suffer by it. Andrew has since explained himself to me more largely in the following letter, which is just come to my hands:

‘GOOD MR. SPECTATOR,
‘NOTWITHSTANDING my friends at the club have always rallied me, when I have talked of retiring from business, and repeated to me one of my sayings, that “a merchant has never enough” till he has got a little more;’ I can now inform you that there is one in the world who thinks he has enough, and is determined to pass the remainder of his life in the enjoyment of what he has. You told me so well, that I need not tell you, I mean, to the enjoyments of my possessions, the making them useful to the public. As the greatest part of my estate has been hitherto of an unsteady and volatile nature, either tost upon seas or fluctuating in funds, it is now fixed and settled in substantial acres and tenements. I have removed it from the uncertainty of stocks, winds, and waves, and disposed of it in a considerable purchase. This will give me great opportunity of being charitable in my way, that is, in settling my poor neighbours to work, and giving them a comfortable subsistence out of their own industry. My garden, my ponds, my arable and pasture grounds, and in all

neral hospitals, or rather workhouses, in which I oppose to maintain a great many indigent persons, so are now starving in my neighbourhood. I have a fine spread of improvable lands, and in my thoughts am already plunging up some of them, fencing others; planting woods, and draining marshes. In fine, as I have my share in the face of this island, I am resolved to make it as fruitful a spot as any in her majesty's dominions; least there is not an inch of it which shall not be cultivated to the best advantage, and do its utmost for its owner. As in my mercantile employment I so disposed of my affairs, that, from whatever corner of the compass the wind blew, it was blowing home one or other of my ships, I hope as husbandman to contrive it so, that not a shower of rain, or a glimpse of sunshine, shall fall upon my estate without bettering some part of it, and contributing to the products of the season. You now it has been hitherto my opinion of life, that is thrown away when it is not some way useful to others. But when I am riding out by myself, the fresh air on the open heath that lies by my house, I find several other thoughts growing upon me. I am now of opinion, that a man of my age may find business enough on himself, by setting his mind in order, preparing it for another world, and reconciling it to the thoughts of death. I must therefore acquaint you, that besides those usual methods of charity, of which I have before spoken, I am at this very instant finding out a convenient place where I may build an almshouse, which I intend to endow very handsomely for a dozen superannuated husbandmen. It will be a great pleasure to me to say my prayers twice a day with men of my own years, who all of them, as well as myself, may have their thoughts taken up how they shall die, rather than how they shall live. I remember an excellent saying that I learned at school, *finis coronat opus*. You know best whether to be in Virgil or in Horace, it is my business to apply it. If your affairs will permit you to take the country air with me sometimes, you shall find a apartment fitted up for you, and shall be every day entertained with beef or mutton of my own feeding; fish out of my own ponds; and fruit out of my own gardens. You shall have free egress and regress about my house, without having any questions asked you; and, in a word, such an hearty welcome as you may expect from

Your most sincere friend
and humble servant,
ANDREW FREEPORT.

The club of which I am a member being entirely dispersed, I shall consult my reader next week upon a project relating to the institution of a new one.

ADDISON.

O.

N^o 550. MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1712.

Quid dignum tanto ferat hic promissor hiatu?
HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 138.

In what will all this ostentation end?
ROSCOMMON.

Since the late dissolution of the club, whereof I have often declared myself a member, there are every many persons who by letters, petitions, and recommendations, put up for the next election. At the same time I must complain, that several indirect and underhand practices have been made use

of upon this occasion. A certain country gentleman began to tap upon the first information he received of Sir Roger's death: when he sent me up word that, if I would get him chosen in the place of the deceased, he would present me with a barrel of the best October I had ever drank in my life. The ladies are in great pain to know whom I intend to elect in the room of Will Honeycomb. Some of them indeed are of opinion that Mr. Honeycomb did not take sufficient care of their interest in the club, and are therefore desirous of having in it hereafter a representative of their own sex. A citizen who subscribes himself Y. Z. tells me that he has one-and-twenty shares in the African company, and offers to bribe me with the odd one in case he may succeed Sir Andrew Freeport, which he thinks would raise the credit of that fund. I have several letters dated from Jenny Man's, by gentlemen who are candidates for Captain Sentry's place; and as many from a coffee-house in Paul's church-yard of such who would fill up the vacancy occasioned by the death of my worthy friend the clergyman, whom I can never mention but with a particular respect.

Having maturely weighed these several particulars, with the many remonstrances that have been made to me on this subject, and considering how invidious an office I shall take upon me if I make the whole election depend upon my single voice, and being unwilling to expose myself to those clamours which on such an occasion will not fail to be raised against me for partiality, injustice, corruption, and other qualities, which my nature abhors, I have formed to myself the project of a club as follows:

I have thoughts of issuing out writs to all and every of the clubs that are established in the cities of London and Westminster, requiring them to choose out of their respective bodies a person of the greatest merit, and to return his name to me before Lady-day, at which time I intend to sit upon business.

By this means I may have reason to hope, that the club over which I shall preside will be the very flower and quintessence of all other clubs. I have communicated this my project to none but a particular friend of mine, whom I have celebrated twice or thrice for his happiness in that kind of wit which is commonly known by the name of a pun. The only objection he makes to it is, that I shall raise up enemies to myself if I act with so regal an air, and that my detractors, instead of giving me the usual title of Spectator, will be apt to call me the King of Clubs.

But to proceed on my intended project: it is very well known that I at first set forth in this work with the character of a silent man; and I think I have so well preserved my taciturnity, that I do not remember to have violated it with three sentences in the space of almost two years. As a monosyllable is my delight, I have made very few excursions in the conversations which I have related beyond a Yes or a No. By this means my readers have lost many good things which I have had in my heart, though I did not care for uttering them.

Now in order to diversify my character, and to show the world how well I can talk if I have a mind, I have thoughts of being very loquacious in the club which I have now under consideration. But that I may proceed the more regularly in this affair, I design, upon the first meeting of the said club, to have my mouth opened in form; intending to regulate myself in this particular by a cer-

tain ritual which I have by me, that contains all the ceremonies which are practised at the opening of the mouth of a cardinal. I have likewise examined the forms which were used of old by Pythagoras, when any of his scholars, after an apprenticeship of silence, was made free of his speech. In the mean time, as I have of late found my name in foreign gazettes upon less occasions, I question not but in their next articles from Great Britain they will inform the world, that 'the Spectator's mouth is to be opened on the twenty-fifth of March next.' I may perhaps publish a very useful paper at that time of the proceedings in that solemnity, and of the persons who shall assist at it. But of this more hereafter.

ADDISON.

O.

Nº 551. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1712.

*Sic honor et nomen divinis vultibus atque,
Carminebus venit.*—

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 400.

So ancient is the pedigree of verse,
And so divine a poet's function.

ROSCOMMON.

MR. SPECTATOR,

WHEN men of worthy and excelling geniuses have obliged the world with beautiful and instructive writings, it is in the nature of gratitude that praise should be returned them, as one proper consequent reward of their performances. Nor has mankind ever been so degenerately sunk but they have made this return, and even when they have not been wrought up by the generous endeavour so as to receive the advantages designed by it. This praise, which arises first in the mouth of particular persons, spreads and lasts according to the merit of authors; and when it thus meets with a full success, changes its denomination, and is called Fame. They, who have happily arrived at this, are, even while they live, inflamed by the acknowledgments of others, and spurred on to new undertakings for the benefit of mankind, notwithstanding the detraction which some sordid tempers would cast upon them; but when they de cease, their characters being freed from the shadow which envy laid them under, begin to shine out with greater splendor; their spirits survive in their works; they are admitted into the highest companies, and they continue pleasing and instructing posterity from age to age. Some of the best gain a character, by being able to show that they are no strangers to them; and others obtain a new warmth to labour for the happiness and ease of mankind, from a reflection upon those honours which are paid to their memories.

The thought of this took me up as I turned over those epigrams which are the remains of several of the wits of Greece, and perceived many dedicated to the fame of those who had excelled in beautiful poetic performances. Wherefore, in pursuance to my thought, I concluded to do something along with them to bring their praises into a new light and language, for the encouragement of those whose modest tempers may be deterred by the fear of envy or detraction from fair attempts, to which their parts might render them equal. You will perceive them as they follow to be conceived in the form of epitaphs, a sort of writing which is wholly set apart for a short-pointed method of praise.

ON ORPHEUS, WRITTEN BY ANTIPATER.

"No longer, Orpheus, shall thy sacred strains
Lead stones, and trees, and beasts, along the fountains.
No longer sooth the boisterous winds to sleep,
Or still the billows of the raging deep:
For thou art gone, the Muses mourn'd thy fall
In solemn strains, thy mother moan'd of all
Ye mortals, idly for your sons ye moan,
If thus a goddess could not save her own."

Observe here, that if we take the fable as granted, as it was believed to be in that age, the epigram was written, the turn appears to be piety to the gods, and a resigning spirit is an application. But if we consider the point with respect to our present knowledge, it will be esteemed; though the author himself, because he believed it, may still be more valued than any who should now write with a point of the same nature.

ON HOMER, BY ALPHEUS OF MYTILENE.

"Still in our ears Andromache complains,
And still in sight the fate of Troy remains;
Still Ajax fights, still Hector's dragg'd along,
Such strange enchantment dwells in Homer's song,
Whose birth could more than one poor realm adorn,
For all the world was proud that he was born."

The thought in the first part of this is nature, and depending upon the force of poetry; in the latter part it looks as if it would aim at the honour of seven towns contending for the honour of Homer's birth-place; but when you expect to meet with that common story, the poet slides by, and raises the whole world for a kind of arbiter, who is to end the contention amongst its several parts.

ON ANACREON, BY ANTIPATER.

"This tomb be thine, Anacreon; all around
Let ivy wreath, let flow'rets deck the ground;
And from its earth, enrich'd with such a prize,
Let wells of milk and streams of wine arise;
So will thine ashes yet a pleasure know,
If any pleasure reach the shades below."

The poet here written upon is an easy author, and he who writes upon him has fitted to own head with the character of his subject. He seems to love his theme so much, that he thinks of nothing but pleasing him as if he were still alive, by entering into his libertine spirit; so that his humour is easy and gay, resembling Anacreon in its air, raised by such images, and pointed on such a turn as he might have used. I give it a place here, because the author may have done it for his honour; and I take an opportunity for it to advise others, that when they would praise they cautiously avoid every lower qualification, and fix only where there is a real foundation for merit.

ON EURIPIDES, BY JOHN.

"Divine Euripides, this tomb we see,
So fair is not a monument for thee,
So much as thou for it; since all will own
Thy name and lasting praise adorns the stone."

The thought here is fine, but its fault is, that it is general, that it may belong to any great man, because it points out no particular character. It would be better if, when we light upon such a turn, we join it with something that circumscribes and bounds it to the qualities of our subject. He who gives his praise in gross, will often appear either to have been a stranger to those he praises upon, or not to have found any thing in them which is praise-worthy.

ON SOPHOCLES, BY SIMONIDES.

"Winde, gentle ever-green, to form a shade,
Around the tomb where Sophocles is laid;
Sweet ivy winde thy boughs, and intertwine
With blushing roses and the clust'ring vine:
Thus will thy lasting leaves, with beauties hung,
Prove grateful emblems of the lays he sung,
Whose soul, exalted like a god of wit,
Among the Muses and the Graces writ."

'This epigram I have opened more than any one of the former: the thought towards the latter end seemed closer couched, so as to require an explanation. I fancied the poet aimed at the picture which is generally made of Apollo and the Muses; he sitting with his harp in the middle, and they around him. This looked beautiful to my thought, and because the image arose before me out of the words of the original as I was reading it, I ventured to explain them so.

ON MENANDER; THE AUTHOR UNNAMED.

"The very bees, O sweet Menander, hung
To taste the Muses' spring upon thy tongue;
The very Graces made the scenes you writ
Their happy point of fine expression hit.
Thus still you live, you make your Athens shine,
And raise its glory to the skies in thine."

'This epigram has a respect to the character of its subject; for Menander writ remarkably with a justness and purity of language. It has also told the country he was born in, without either a set or a hidden manner, while it twists together the glory of the poet and his nation, so as to make the nation depend upon his for an increase of its own.

'I will offer no more instances at present, to show that they who deserve praise have it returned them from different ages: let these which have been laid down show men that envy will not always prevail. And to the end that writers may more successfully enliven the endeavours of one another, let them consider, in some such manner as I have attempted, what may be the justest spirit and art of praise. It is indeed very hard to come up to it. Our praise is trifling when it depends upon fable; it is false when it depends upon wrong qualifications; it means nothing when it is general; it is extremely difficult to hit when we propose to raise characters high, while we keep to them justly. I shall end this with transcribing that excellent epitaph of Mr. Cowley, wherein, with a kind of grave and philosophic humour, he very beatifully speaks of himself (withdrawn from the world, and dead to all the interests of it) as of a man really deceased. At the same time it is an instruction how to leave the public with a good grace.

EPITAPHIUM VIVI AUCTORIS.

"*Hic, O viator, sub lare parvulo
Couscius hic est conatus, hic jacet
Defunctus humani laboris
Sorte, supercuiusque vita;
Non indocora pauperie nitens,
Et non inerti nobilitis otio,
Vanoque dilectis popello
Dentis animosus hostis.
Posui ut illum decre mortuum,
En terra jam nunc quantula sufficit!
Exempla nil curia, viator,
Terre nil illa levis, precare.
Hic sparge flores, sparge breves rosas,
Nam vita gaudet mortua floribus,
Herbique odoratis corona
Petis adhuc cinerem calentem."*

THE LIVING AUTHOR'S EPITAPH.

"From life's superfluous cares enl'g'd,
His debt of human toil discharg'd,

Here Cowley lies, beneath this shed,
To ev'ry worldly interest dead:
With decent poverty content;
His hours of ease not idly spent;
To fortune's goods a foe profess'd,
And hating wealth, by all caress'd.
'Tis sure, he's dead; for lo! how small
A spot of earth is now his all!
O! wish that earth may lightly lay,
And ev'ry care be far away!
Bring flow'rs, the short-liv'd roses bring,
To life decess'd fit offering:
And sweets around the poets strow,
Whilst yet with life his ashes glow."

The publication of these criticisms having procured me the following letter from a very ingenious gentleman, I cannot forbear inserting it in the volume, though it did not come soon enough to have a place in any of my single papers*.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'HAVING read over in your paper, N^o 551, some of the epigrams made by the Grecian wits, in commendation of their celebrated poets, I could not forbear sending you another, out of the same collection; which I take to be as great a compliment to Homer as any that has yet been paid him.

Τις ποῖ' ἔστιν Τροίης πόλεμος, &c.

"Who first transcrib'd the famous Trojan war,
And wise Ulysses' acts, O Love, make known:
For since 'tis certain thine those poems are,
No more let Homer boast they are his own."

'If you think it worthy of a place in your speculations, for aught I know (by that means) it may in time be printed as often in English as it has already been in Greek. I am (like the rest of the world),

'4th Dec.

'SIR,
'Your great admirer,
'G. R.'

The reader may observe that the beauty of this epigram is different from that of any in the foregoing. An irony is looked upon as the finest palliative of praise; and very often conveys the noblest panegyric under the appearance of satire. Homer is here seemingly accused and treated as a plagiarist; but what is drawn up in the form of an accusation is certainly, as my correspondent observes, the greatest compliment that could have been paid to that divine poet.

'DEAR MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM a gentleman of a pretty good fortune, and of a temper impatient of any thing which I think an injury; however, I always quarrelled according to law, and, instead of attacking my adversary by the dangerous method of sword and pistol, I made my assaults by that more secure one of writ or warrant. I cannot help telling you, that either by the justice of my causes or the superiority of my counsel, I have been generally successful; and to my great satisfaction I can say it, that by three actions of slander, and half a dozen trespasses, I have for several years enjoyed a perfect tranquillity in my reputation and estate: by these means also I have been made known to the judges; the serjeants of our circuit are my intimate friends, and the ornamental counsel pay a very profound respect to one who has made so great a figure in the law. Affairs of consequence having brought

* The translation of Cowley's epitaph, and all that follows, except the concluding letter signed Philonicus, was first printed in the 8vo edition of 1712.

me to town, I had the curiosity the other day to visit Westminster-hall; and, having placed myself in one of the courts, expected to be most agreeably entertained. After the court and counsel were with due ceremony seated, up stands a learned gentleman, and began, When this matter was last "stirred" before your lordships; the next humbly moved to "quash" an indictment; another complained that his adversary had "snapped" a judgment; the next informed the court that his client was "stripped" of his possession; another begged leave to acquaint his lordship they had been "saddled" with costs. At last up got a grave sergeant, and told us his client had been "hung up" a whole term by a writ of error. At this I could bear it no longer, but came hither, and resolved to apply myself to your honour to interpose with these gentlemen, that they would leave off such low and unnatural expressions: for surely though the lawyers subscribe to hideous French and false Latin, yet they should let their clients have a little decent and proper English for their money. What man that has a value for a good name would like to have it said in a public court, that Mr. Such-a-one was stripped, saddled, or hung up? This being what has escaped your spectatorial observation, be pleased to correct such an illiberal cant among professed speakers, and you will infinitely oblige

' Your humble servant,
' Joe's Coffee-house, ' PHILONICUS.'
Nov. 28.
[Author uncertain.]

N^o 552. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1712.

— Qui pregravat artes
Infra se positas, extinctus amabitur idem.
HOR. Ep. i. l. 2. ver. 13.
For those are hated that excel the rest,
Although, when dead, they are belov'd and bless'd.
CREECH.

As I was tumbling about the town the other day in a hackney-coach, and delighting myself with busy scenes in the shops of each side of me, it came into my head, with no small remorse, that I had not been frequent enough in the mention and recommendation of the industrious part of mankind. It very naturally upon this occasion touched my conscience in particular, that I had not acquitted myself to my friend Mr. Peter Motteux*. That industrious man of trade, and formerly brother of the quill, has dedicated to me a poem upon tea. It would injure him, as a man of business, if I did not let the world know that the author of so good verses writ them before he was concerned in traffic. In order to expiate my negligence towards him, I immediately resolved to make him a visit. I found his spacious warehouses filled and adorned with tea, China and India ware. I could observe a beautiful ordonnance of the whole; and such different and considerable branches of trade carried on in the same house I exulted in seeing disposed by a poetical head. In one place were exposed to view silks of various shades and colours, rich brocades, and the wealthiest products of foreign looms. Here you might see the finest laces held

* See an account of him in the Biographia Dramatica, vol. I. He was found dead on his birth-day, Feb. 19, 1717-18, in a house of ill-fame in Star-court, Butcher-row, Temple-bar; and several circumstances tended to confirm a suspicion that he was murdered.

up by the fairest hands; and there examined by the beauteous eyes of the buyers, the most delicate cambrics, muslins, and linens. I could not but congratulate my friend on the humble, but I hoped beneficial, use he had made of his talents, as I wished I could be a patron to his trade, as he has been pleased to make me of his poetry. The wisest man has, I know, that modest desire of gain which is peculiar to those who understand better things than riches: and I dare say he would be contented with much less than what is called wealth at that quarter of the town which he inhabits, and will oblige all his customers with demands agreeable to the moderation of his desires.

Among other omissions of which I have been also guilty, with relation to men of industry of superior order, I must acknowledge my silence towards a proposal frequently inclined to me by Mr. Renatus Harris, organ-builder*. The ambition of this artificer is to erect an organ in St. Paul's cathedral, over the west door, at the entrance into the body of the church, which in art and magnificence shall transcend any work of that kind ever before invented. The proposal in perspicuous language sets forth the honour and advantage such a performance would be to the British name, as well as that it would apply the power of sounds in a manner more amazingly forcible than perhaps has yet been known, and I am sure to an end much more worthy. Had the vast sums which have been laid out upon operas without skill or conduct, and to no other purpose but to suspend or vitiate our understandings, been disposed this way, we should now perhaps have an engine so formed as to strike the minds of half the people at once in a place of worship with a forgetfulness of present care and calamity, and a hope of endless rapture, joy, and hallelujah hereafter.

When I am doing this justice, I am not to forget the best mechanic of my acquaintance, that useful servant to science and knowledge Mr. John Rowley†; but I think I lay a great obligation on the public, by acquainting them with his proposals for a pair of new globes. After his preamble, he promises in the said proposals that,

IN THE CELESTIAL GLOBE,

'Care should be taken that the fixed stars be placed according to their true longitude and latitude, from the many and correct observations of Hevelius, Cassini, Mr. Flamstead, reg. astronomer; Dr. Halley, Savilian professor of geometry at Oxon! and from whatever else can be procured to render the globe more exact, instructive, and useful.

'That all the constellations be drawn in a curious, new, and particular manner; each star as just, distinct, and conspicuous a proportion, that its magnitude may be readily known by bare inspection, according to the different light and size of the stars. That the track or way of such comets as have been well observed, but not hitherto expressed in any globe, be carefully delineated as this.'

IN THE TERRESTRIAL GLOBE,

'That by reason of the descriptions formerly made, both in the English and Dutch great globes, are erroneous, Asia, Africa, and America, be drawn in a manner wholly new; by which means it is to be noted that the undertakers will be obliged to

* See Hawkins's History of Music, vol. iv. p. 284.
† Master of Mechanics to King George I.

r the latitude of some places in ten degrees, longitude of others in twenty degrees; besides which great and necessary alterations, there be many remarkable countries, cities, towns, rivers, lakes, omitted in other globes, inserted here according to the best discoveries made by our late navigators. Lastly, That the course of the trade-winds, the monsoons, and other winds periodically acting between the tropics, be visibly expressed.

Now, in regard that this undertaking is of so universal use, as the advancement of the most necessary parts of the mathematics, as well as tending to the honour of the British nation, and that the charge of carrying it on is very expensive, it is desired that all gentlemen who are willing to promote so great a work will be pleased to subscribe the following conditions.

1. The undertakers engage to furnish each subscriber with a celestial and terrestrial globe, each thirty inches diameter, in all respects curiously turned, the stars gilded, the capital cities plainly distinguished, the frames, meridians, horizons, hour-circles, and indexes, so exactly finished up, and accurately divided, that a pair of these globes will really appear, in the judgment of any disinterested and intelligent person, worth fifteen pounds more than will be demanded for them by the undertakers.

2. Whosoever will be pleased to subscribe, and pay twenty-five pounds in the manner following or a pair of these globes, either for their own use, or to present them to any college in the universities, or any public library or schools, shall have his coat of arms, name, title, seat, or place of residence, &c. inserted in some convenient place of the globe.

3. That every subscriber do at first pay down the sum of ten pounds, and fifteen pounds more upon the delivery of each pair of globes perfectly fitted up. And that the said globes be delivered within twelve months after the number of thirty subscribers be completed; and that the subscribers be served with globes in the order in which they subscribed.

4. That a pair of these globes shall not hereafter be sold to any person but the subscribers under thirty pounds.

5. That, if there be not thirty subscribers within four months after the first of December 1712, the money paid shall be returned on demand by Mr. John Warner, goldsmith, near Temple-bar, who shall receive and pay the same according to the above-mentioned articles.

STEEL.

T.

Nº 553. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1712.

Nec lussus pudet, sed non incidere ludum.
HOR. Ep. xiv. l. 1. ver. 36.

Once to be wild is no such foul disgrace;
But 'tis so, still to run the frantic race.
CREECH.

THE project which I published on Monday last has brought me in several packets of letters. Among the rest, I have received one from a certain projector, wherein, after having represented, that in all probability the solemnity of opening my mouth will draw together a great concourse of beholders, he proposes to me the hiring of Stationers-hall for the more convenient exhibiting of that public ceremony. He undertakes to be at the charge of it himself, provided he may have the erecting of

galleries on every side, and the letting of them out upon that occasion. I have a letter also from a bookseller, petitioning me in a very humble manner that he may have the printing of the speech which I shall make to the assembly upon the first opening of my mouth. I am informed from all parts that there are great canvassings in the several clubs about town, upon the choosing of a proper person to sit with me on those arduous affairs to which I have summoned them. Three clubs have already proceeded to election, whereof one has made a double return. If I find that my enemies shall take advantage of my silence to begin hostilities upon me, or if any other exigency of affairs may so require, since I see elections in so great a forwardness, we may possibly meet before the day appointed; or if matters go on to my satisfaction, I may perhaps put off the meeting to a further day; but of this public notice shall be given.

In the mean time, I must confess that I am not a little gratified and obliged by that concern which appears in this great city upon my present design of laying down this paper. It is likewise with much satisfaction that I find some of the most outlying parts of the kingdom alarmed upon this occasion, having received letters to expostulate with me about it from several of my readers of the remotest boroughs of Great Britain. Among these I am very well pleased with a letter dated from Berwick upon Tweed, wherein my correspondent compares the office, which I have for some time executed in these realms, to the weeding of a great garden; 'which,' says he, 'it is not sufficient to weed once for all, and afterwards to give over, but that the work must be continued daily, or the same spots of ground which are cleared for a while will in a little time be overrun as much as ever.' Another gentleman lays before me several enormities that are already sprouting, and which he believes will discover themselves in their growth immediately after my disappearance. 'There is no doubt,' says he, 'but the ladies' heads will shoot up as soon as they know they are no longer under the Spectator's eye; and I have already seen such monstrous broad-brimmed hats under the arms of foreigners, that I question not but they will overshadow the island within a month or two after the dropping of your paper.' But, among all the letters which are come to my hands, there is none so handsomely written as the following one, which I am the more pleased with as it is sent me from gentlemen who belong to a body which I shall always honour, and where (I cannot speak it without a secret pride) my speculations have met with a very kind reception. It is usual for poets, upon the publishing of their works, to print before them such copies of verses as have been made in their praise. Not that you must imagine they are pleased with their own commendation, but because the elegant compositions of their friends should not be lost. I must make the same apology for the publication of the ensuing letter, in which I have suppressed no part of those praises that are given my speculations with too lavish and good-natured a hand; though my correspondents can witness for me, that at other times I have generally blotted out those parts in the letters which I have received from them.

ADDISON.

O.

'MR. SPECTATOR, 'Oxford, Nov. 25.
'In spite of your invincible silence you have found out a method of being the most agreeable

companion in the world: that kind of conversation which you hold with the town has the good fortune of being always pleasing to the men of taste and leisure, and never offensive to those of hurry and business. You are never heard but at what Horace calls *dextro tempore*, and have the happiness to observe the politic rule, which the same discerning author gave his friend when he enjoined him to deliver his book to Augustus;

"*Si solidus, si latus erit, si denique possit.*"

Ep. xiii. l. i. ver. 3.

"—— When vexing cares are fled,
When well, when merry, when he asks to read."

CREECH.

You never begin to talk but when people are desirous to hear you; and I defy any one to be out of humour till you leave off. But I am led un-awares into reflections foreign to the original design of this epistle; which was to let you know, that some unfeigned admirers of your inimitable papers, who could, without any flattery, greet you with the salutation used to the eastern monarchs, viz. "O Spec, live for ever," have lately been under the same apprehensions with Mr. Philo-Spec; that the haste you have made to dispatch your best friends portends no long duration to your own short visage. We could not, indeed, find any just grounds for complaint in the method you took to dissolve that venerable body; no, the world was not worthy of your Divine. Will Honeycomb could not, with any reputation, live single any longer. It was high time for the Templar to turn himself to Coke: and Sir Roger's dying was the wisest thing he ever did in his life. It was, however, matter of great grief to us, to think that we were in danger of losing so elegant and valuable an entertainment. And we could not, without sorrow, reflect that we were likely to have nothing to interrupt our sips in a morning, and to suspend our coffee in mid-air, between our lips and right ear, but the ordinary trash of newspapers. We resolved, therefore, not to part with you so. But since, to make use of your own allusion, the cherries began now to crowd the market, and their season was almost over, we consulted our future enjoyments, and endeavoured to make the exquisite pleasure that delicious fruit gave our taste as lasting as we could, and by drying them protract their stay beyond its natural date. We own that thus they have not a flavour equal to that of their juicy bloom; but yet, under this disadvantage, they pique the palate, and become a salver better than any other fruit at its first appearance. To speak plain, there are a number of us who have begun your works afresh, and meet two nights in the week in order to give you a rehearing. We never come together without drinking your health, and as seldom part without general expressions of thanks to you for our night's improvement. This we conceive to be a more useful institution than any other club whatever, not excepting even that of Ugly Faces. We have one manifest advantage over that renowned society, with respect to Mr. Spectator's company. For though they may brag that you sometimes make your personal appearance amongst them, it is impossible they should ever get a word from you, whereas you are with us the reverse of what Phædria would have his mistress be in his rival's company, "present in your absence." We make you talk as much and as long as we please; and, let me tell you, you seldom hold your tongue for the whole evening. I promise myself you will look with an eye of favour upon a meeting which owes its original to a mutual emula-

tion among its members, who shall show the most profound respect for your paper; not but what it has a very great value for your person: and I dare say you can no where find four more sincere admirers, and humble servants, than

'T. F. G. S. J. T. L.T.'

Nº 554. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1719.

—— *Tentanda via est, qua me quoque possim*

Tollere humo, victorque virum volitare per ora.

VIRG. Georg. lib. iii. ver. 1

New ways I must attempt, my groveling name
To raise aloft, and wing my flight to fame.

DRYDEN.

I AM obliged for the following essay, as well as for that which lays down rules out of Tully's pronunciation and action*, to the ingenious author of a poem just published, entitled An Ode to the Creator of the World, occasioned by the Fragments of Orpheus†.

'It is a remark, made as I remember by a celebrated French author, that no man ever pushed his capacity as far as it was able to extend. I shall not inquire whether this assertion be strictly true. It may suffice to say, that men of the greatest application and acquirements can look back upon many vacant spaces, and neglected parts of time, which have slipped away from them unemployed; and there is hardly any one considering person in the world but is apt to fancy with himself at some time or other, that if his life were to begin again he could fill it up better.

The mind is most provoked to cast on itself an ingenuous reproach, when the examples of such men are presented to it as have far outshot the generality of their species in learning, arts, or any valuable improvements.

'One of the most extensive and improved genius we have had any instance of in our own nation, or in any other, was that of Sir Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam. This great man, by an extraordinary force of nature, compass of thought, and indefatigable study, had amassed to himself such stores of knowledge as we cannot look upon without amazement. His capacity seemed to have grasped all that was revealed in books before his time; and, not satisfied with that, he began to strike out new tracks of science, too many to be travelled over by any one man in the compass of the longest life. These therefore he could only mark down like imperfect coastings in maps, a supposed points of land, to be further discovered and ascertained by the industry of after-ages, who should proceed upon his notices or conjectures.

'The excellent Mr. Boyle* was the person who seems to have been designed by nature to succeed to the labours and inquiries of that extraordinary genius I have just mentioned. By innumerable experiments, he in a great measure filled up those plans and outlines of science, which his predecessor has sketched out. His life was spent in the pursuit of nature through a great variety of forms and changes, and in the most rational as well as devout adoration of its divine Author.

'It would be impossible to name many persons who have extended their capacities as far as these two, in the studies they pursued; but my learned readers on this occasion will naturally turn their thoughts to a third†, who is yet living, and is his

* Nº 541.

† See Nº 531.

‡ Hugen.

† Sir Isaac Newton.

ise the glory of our own nation. The improvements which others had made in natural and mathematical knowledge have so vastly increased in our hands, as to afford at once a wonderful instance of the great capacity of a human soul, and an inexhaustible subject of its inquiries; so we see that remark in holy writ, that "though a wise man seek to find out the works of God from the beginning to the end, yet shall he not be able to do it."

"I cannot help mentioning here one character of a different kind indeed from these, yet which one as may serve to show the wonderful force of nature and of application, and is the most singular instance of an universal genius I have ever met with. The person I mean is Leonardo da Vinci, an Italian painter, descended from a noble family in Tuscany, about the beginning of the sixteenth century*. In his profession of history-painting he was so great a master, that some have affirmed he excelled all who went before him. It is certain that he raised the envy of Michael Angelo, who was his contemporary, and that from the study of his works Raphael himself learned his true manner of designing. He was a master too in sculpture and architecture, and skilful in anatomy, mathematics, and mechanics. The aqueduct from the river Adda to Milan is mentioned as a work of his contrivance. He had learned several languages, and was acquainted with the studies of history, philosophy, poetry, and music. Though it is not necessary to my present purpose, I cannot but take notice, that all who have writ of him mentioned likewise his perfection of body. The instances of his strength are almost incredible. He is described to have been of a well-formed person, and a master of all genteel exercises. And lastly, we are told that his moral qualities were agreeable to his natural and intellectual endowments, and that he was of an honest and generous mind, adorned with great sweetness of manners. I might break off the account of him here, but I imagine it will be an entertainment to the curiosity of my readers, to find so remarkable a character distinguished by as remarkable a circumstance at his death. The fame of his works having gained him an universal esteem, he was invited to the court of France, where, after some time, he fell sick; and Francis the first coming to see him, he raised himself in his bed to acknowledge the honour which was done him by that visit. The king embraced him, and Leonardo, fainting at the same instant, expired in the arms of that great monarch.

"It is impossible to attend to such instances as these, without being raised into a contemplation on the wonderful nature of an human mind, which is capable of such progressions in knowledge, and can contain such a variety of ideas without perplexity or confusion. How reasonable is it from hence to infer its divine original? And whilst we find unthinking matter endued with a natural power to last for ever, unless annihilated by Omnipotence, how absurd would it be to imagine that Being so much superior to it should not have the same privilege?

"At the same time it is very surprising, when we remove our thoughts from such instances as I have mentioned, to consider those we so frequently meet with in the accounts of barbarous nations among the Indians; where we find numbers of people who scarce show the first glimmerings of rea-

son, and seem to have few ideas above those of sense and appetite. These, methinks, appear like large wilds, or vast uncultivated tracts of human nature; and, when we compare them with men of the most exalted characters in arts and learning, we find it difficult to believe that they are creatures of the same species.

"Some are of opinion, that the souls of men are all naturally equal, and that the great disparity we so often observe arises from the different organization or structure of the bodies to which they are united. But, whatever constitutes this first disparity, the next great difference which we find between men in their several acquisitions is owing to accidental differences in their education, fortunes, or course of life. The soul is a kind of rough diamond, which requires art, labour, and time, to polish it. For want of which many a good natural genius is lost, or lies unfashioned, like a jewel in the mine.

"One of the strongest incitements to excel in such arts and accomplishments as are in the highest esteem among men, is the natural passion which the mind of man has for glory; which, though it may be faulty in the excess of it, ought by no means to be discouraged. Perhaps some moralists are too severe in beating down this principle, which seems to be a spring implanted by nature to give motion to all the latent powers of the soul, and is always observed to exert itself with the greatest force in the most generous dispositions. The men whose characters have shone the brightest among the ancient Romans, appear to have been strongly animated by this passion. Cicero, whose learning and services to his country are so well known, was inflamed by it to an extravagant degree, and warmly presses Luceius, who was composing a history of those times, to be very particular and zealous in relating the story of his consulship; and to execute it speedily, that he might have the pleasure of enjoying in his life-time some part of the honour which he foresaw would be paid to his memory. This was the ambition of a great mind; but he is faulty in the degree of it, and cannot refrain from soliciting the historian upon this occasion to neglect the strict laws of history, and, in praising him, even to exceed the bounds of truth. The younger Pliny appears to have had the same passion for fame, but accompanied with greater chasteness and modesty. His ingenuous manner of owning it to a friend, who had prompted him to undertake some great work is exquisitely beautiful, and raises him to a certain grandeur above the imputation of vanity. "I must confess," says he, "that nothing employs my thoughts more than the desire I have of perpetuating my name; which in my opinion is a design worthy of a man, at least of such an one, who, being conscious of no guilt, is not afraid to be remembered by posterity."

"I think I ought not to conclude without interesting all my readers in the subject of this discourse: I shall therefore lay it down as a maxim, that though all are not capable of shining in learning or the politer arts, yet every one is capable of excelling in something. The soul has in this respect a certain vegetative power which cannot lie wholly idle. If it is not laid out and cultivated into a regular and beautiful garden, it will of itself shoot up in weeds or flowers of a wilder growth."

FINIS.

* He was born in 1445, and died in 1520, in the arms of Francis I. King of France.

N^o 555, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1712.

Regne quod non es—

PERS. Sat. iv. ver. 51.

Lay the fictitious character aside.

ALL the members of the imaginary society, which were described in my first papers, having disappeared one after another, it is high time for the Spectator himself to go off the stage. But now I am to take my leave, I am under much greater anxiety than I have known for the work of any day since I undertook this province. It is much more difficult to converse with the world in a real than a personated character. That might pass for humour in the Spectator, which would look like arrogance in a writer who sets his name to his work. The fictitious person might condemn those who disapproved him, and extol his own performances, without giving offence. He might assume a mock authority, without being looked upon as vain and conceited. The praises or censures of himself fall only upon the creature of his imagination; and, if any one finds fault with him, the author may reply with the philosopher of old, 'Thou dost but beat the case of Anaxarchus.' When I speak in my own private sentiments, I cannot but address myself to my readers in a more submissive manner, and with a just gratitude for the kind reception which they have given to these daily papers, that have been published for almost the space of two years last past.

I hope the apology I have made, as to the licence allowable to a feigned character, may excuse any thing which has been said in these discourses of the Spectator and his works; but the imputation of the grossest vanity would still dwell upon me if I did not give some account by what means I was enabled to keep up the spirit of so long and approved a performance. All the papers marked with a C, an L, an I, or an O, that is to say, all the papers which I have distinguished by any letter in the name of the muse Clio, were given me by the gentleman of whose assistance I formerly boasted in the preface and concluding leaf of my *Tattlers**. I am indeed much more proud of his long continued friendship, than I should be of the fame of being thought the author of any writings which he himself is capable of producing. I remember, when I finished *The Tender Husband*, I told him there was nothing I so ardently wished, as that we might some time or other publish a work, written by us both, which should bear the name of *The Monument*, in memory of our friendship. I heartily wish what I have done here was as honorary to that sacred name, as learning, wit, and humanity, render those pieces which I have taught the reader how to distinguish for his. When the play above-mentioned was last acted, there were so many applauded strokes in it which I had from the same hand, that I thought very meanly of myself that I have never publicly acknowledged them. After I have put other friends upon importuning him to publish dramatic as well as other writings he has by him, I shall end what I think I am obliged to say on this head, by giving my reader this hint for the better judging of my productions—that the best comment upon them would be an account when the

patron to *The Tender Husband* was in England abroad.

The reader will also find some papers which are marked with the letter X, for which he is indebted to the ingenious gentleman who diverted the author with the epilogue to *The Distressed Mother*. I might have owned these several papers with a free consent of these gentlemen, who did not set on them with a design of being known for the author. But, as a candid and sincere behaviour on my part preferred to all other considerations, I would not let my heart reproach me with a consciousness of having acquired a praise which is not my right.

The other assistances which I have had have been conveyed by letter, sometimes by whole papers, and other times by short hints from unknown hands. I have not been able to trace favours of this kind with any certainty, but to the following names, which I place in the order wherein I received my obligation, though the first I am going to name hardly be mentioned in a list wherein he would deserve the precedence. The persons to whom I am to make these acknowledgments are Mr. Henry Martyn†, Mr. Pope, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Carew of New-college in Oxford, Mr. Tickell of Queens's the same university, Mr. Parnelle, and Mr. Embury of Trinity in Cambridge. Thus, to speak in the language of my late friend, Sir Andrew Freke, I have balanced my accounts with all my creditors for wit and learning. But as these excellent performances would not have seen the light without the means of this paper, I may still arrogate to myself the merit of their being communicated to the public.

I have nothing more to add, but, having seen this work to five hundred and fifty-five papers, they will be disposed into seven volumes, five of which are already published, and the three more in the press. It will not be demanded of me now I now leave off, though I must own myself obliged to give an account to the town of my time hereafter; since I retire when their partiality to me is so great, that an edition of the former volumes of *Spectators*, of above nine thousand each book, is already sold off, and the tax on each half sheet has brought into the stamp-office, one week's another, above 20l. a week arising from the new paper, notwithstanding it at first reduced it to more than half the number that was usually printed before this tax was laid.

I humbly beseech the continuance of this inclination to favour what I may hereafter produce, and hope I have in my occurrences of life met with deeply of pain and sorrow, that I am proof against much more prosperous circumstances than advantages to which my own industry can possibly exalt me.

I am,

'My good-natured reader,

'Your most obedient,

'most obliged humble servant,

'RICHARD STEELE.

For valetæ et plaudite.

TER.

* See N^o 338. It was well known in Town that Addison was himself the author of the *Monument*. "When it was actually printed with his name on it, he came early in the morning before the press was put to bed, and ordered it to be given to Mr. L. who might add weight to the solicitation which Addison was making for a place for Mr. Bodgely, whom he intended to nominate 'the man who calls me cousin,' and be the first of Addison's first cousin."

† See N^o 143, note *.

the following letter regards an ingenious set oflemen, who have done me the honour to make me of their society.

MR. SPECTATOR, 'Dec. 4. 1712.
The academy of painting lately established in London, having done you and themselves the honour to choose you one of their directors; that noble

lively art, which before was entitled to your regard as a Spectator, has an additional claim to you, and you seem to be under a double obligation to take some care of her interests.

The honour of our country is also concerned in this matter I am going to lay before you. We (and perhaps other nations as well as we) have a national humility as well as a national vain glory; but, though we boast ourselves to excel all the world in things wherein we are outdone abroad, in other things we attribute to others a superiority, which we ourselves possess. This is what is done, particularly in the art of portrait or face-painting.

Painting is an art of a vast extent, too great much for any mortal man to be in full possession in all its parts; it is enough if any one succeed in painting faces, history, battles, landscapes, seascapes, fruit, flowers, or drolls, &c. Nay, no man ever was excellent in all the branches (though many number) of these several arts, for a distinct art take upon me to call every one of those several kinds of painting.

'And as one man may be a good landscape painter, but unable to paint a face or a history tolerably well, and so of the rest; one nation may excel in some kinds of painting, and other kinds may thrive better in other climates.

'Italy may have the preference of all other nations for history-painting; Holland for drolls, and near finished manner of working; France for gay, janty, fluttering pictures; and England for portraits: but to give the honour of every one of these kinds of painting to any one of those nations on account of their excellence in any of these parts of it, is like adjudging the prize of heroic, dramatic, lyric, or burlesque poetry, to him who has done well in any one of them.

'Where there are the greatest geniuses, and most helps and encouragements, it is reasonable to suppose an art will arrive to the greatest perfection: by this rule let us consider our own country with respect to face-painting. No nation in the world delights so much in having their own, or friends or relations pictures; whether from their national good-nature, or having a love to painting, and not being encouraged in the great article of religious pictures, which the purity of our worship refuses the free use of, or from whatever other cause. Our helps are not inferior to those of any other people, but rather they are greater; for what the antique statues and bas reliefs which Italy enjoys are to the history-painters, the beautiful and noble faces with which England is confest to abound

are to face-painters; and, besides, we have the greatest number of the works of the best masters in that kind of any people, not without a competent number of those of the most excellent in every other part of painting. And for encouragement, the wealth and generosity of the English nation affords that in such a degree as artists have no reason to complain.

'And accordingly, in fact, face-painting is nowhere so well performed as in England: I know not whether it has lain in your way to observe it, but I have, and pretend to be a tolerable judge. I have seen what is done abroad, and can assure you that the honour of that branch of painting is justly due to us. I appeal to the judicious observers for the truth of what I assert. If foreigners have often times, or even for the most part, excelled our natives, it ought to be imputed to the advantages they have met with here, joined to their own ingenuity and industry; nor has any one nation distinguished themselves so as to raise an argument in favour of their country: but it is to be observed, that neither French nor Italians, nor any one of either nation, notwithstanding all our prejudices in their favour, have, or ever had, for any considerable time, any character among us as face-painters.

'This honour is due to our own country, and has been so for near an age: so that, instead of going to Italy, or elsewhere, one that designs for portrait-painting ought to study in England. Hither such should come from Holland, France, Italy, Germany, &c. as he that intends to practise any other kinds of painting should go to those parts where it is in the greatest perfection. It is said the Blessed Virgin descended from heaven to sit to St. Luke. I dare venture to affirm, that if she should desire another Madonna to be painted by the life, she would come to England; and am of opinion that your present president, Sir Godfrey Kneller, from his improvement since he arrived in this kingdom, would perform that office better than any foreigner living. I am, with all possible respect,

'SIR,

'Your most humble and

'most obedient servant, &c.'

* * * The ingenious letter signed The Weather Glass, with several others, were received, but came too late.

POSTSCRIPT.

It had not come to my knowledge, when I left off the Spectator, that I owe several excellent sentiments and agreeable pieces in this work to Mr. Ince of Gray's Inn*.

R. STEELE.

* Mr. Ince died, we are told, a student in Christ-church, Oxford, October 13, 1768.

THE
SPECTATOR.

VOL. VIII.

TO

WILLIAM HONEYCOMB, ESQ.*

THE seven former volumes of the Spectator having been dedicated to some of the most celebrated persons of the age, I take leave to inscribe this eighth and last to you, as to a gentleman who hath ever been ambitious of appearing in the best company.

You are now wholly retired from the busy part of mankind, and at leisure to reflect upon your past achievements; for which reason I look upon you as a person very well qualified for a dedication.

I may possibly disappoint my readers, and yourself too, if I do not endeavour on this occasion to make the world acquainted with your virtues. And here, sir, I shall not compliment you upon your birth, person, or fortune; nor any other the like perfections which you possess, whether you will or no: but shall only touch upon those which are of your own acquiring, and in which every one must allow you have a real merit.

Your janty air and easy motion, the volubility of your discourse, the suddenness of your laugh, the management of your snuff-box, with the whiteness of your hands and teeth (which have justly gained you the envy of the most polite part of the male world, and the love of the greatest beauties in the female) are entirely to be ascribed to your own personal genius and application.

You are formed for these accomplishments by a happy turn of nature, and have finished yourself in them by the utmost improvements of art. A man that is defective in either of these qualifications (whatever may be the secret ambition of his heart), must never hope to make the figure you have done, among the fashionable part of his species. It is therefore no wonder we see such mul-

titudes of aspiring young men fall short of you in all these beauties of your character, notwithstanding the study and practice of them is the business of their lives. But I need not tell you that the free and disengaged behaviour of a gentleman makes as many awkward bears, as the easiness of your favourite Waller hath made of simple poets.

At present you are content to aim at your charms at your own spouse, without further doing of mischief to any others of the sex. I know you had formerly a very great contempt for the pretentious race of mortals who call themselves philosophers; and yet, to your honour be it spoken, there is not a sage of them all could have been acted up to their precepts in one of the most important points of life: I mean, in that general disregard of popular opinion which you showed some years ago, when you chose for your wife an obscure young woman, who doth not indeed pretend to an ancient family, but has certainly as many forefathers as any lady in the land, if she could but reckon up their names.

I must own, I conceived very extraordinary hopes of you from the moment that you confessed your age, and from eight-and-forty (where you had stuck so many years) very ingeniously stepped into your grand climacteric. Your deportment has since been very venerable and becoming. I am rightly informed, you make a regular appearance every quarter-sessions among your brethren of the quorum; and, if things go on as they do, stand fair for being a colonel of the militia. I am told that your time passes away as agreeably in the amusements of a country life, as it ever did in the gallantries of the town; and that you now take as much pleasure in the planting of young trees, as you did formerly in the cutting down of your old ones. In short, we hear from all hands that you are thoroughly reconciled to your acres, and have not too much wit to look at your own estate.

* Colonel Cleland.

After having spoken thus much of my patron, must take the privilege of an author in saying nothing of myself. I shall therefore beg leave to add, that I have purposely omitted setting those marks to the end of every paper, which appeared in my former volumes, that you may have an opportunity of showing Mrs. Honeycomb the shrewdness of your conjectures, by ascribing every speculation to its proper author: though you know we often many profound critics in style and sentiments have very judiciously erred in this particular, before they were let into the secret.

'I am, sir,

'Your most faithful

'humble servant,

'THE SPECTATOR *.'

THE

BOOKSELLER TO THE READER.

IN the 63rd Spectator the Reader will find an account of the rise of this eighth and last volume †.

I have not been able to prevail upon the several gentlemen who were concerned in this work to let me acquaint the world with their names.

Perhaps it will be unnecessary to inform the Reader, that no other papers which have appeared under the title of Spectator, since the closing of this eighth volume, were written by any of those gentlemen who had a hand in this or the former volumes.

* This dedication has been attributed to Budgell.

† After the Spectator had been discontinued about eighteen months, during which time the "Guardian," and the "Englishman," were published, 'an attempt was made to revive it, at a time,' says Dr. Johnson, 'by no means favourable to literature, when the succession of a new family to the throne filled the nation with anxiety, discord, and confusion; and either the turbulence of the times, or the satiety of the readers, put a stop to the publication after an experiment of eighty numbers, which were afterwards collected into an 8th volume, perhaps more valuable than any one of those that went before it. Addison produced more than a fourth part; and the other contributors are by no means unworthy of appearing as his associates. The time that had passed during the suspension of the Spectator, though it had not lessened his power of humour, seems to have increased his disposition to seriousness: the proportion of his religious to his comic papers is greater than in the former series. The Spectator, from its recommencement, was published only three times a week, and no discriminative marks were added to the papers. To Addison, Tickell has ascribed 23; Nos. 556, 557, 558, 559, 561, 562, 563, 567, 568, 569, 571, 574, 575, 579, 580, 582, 583, 584, 585, 590, 592, 598, and 600.' Johnson's Lives of English Poets, vol. ii. p. 345, 8vo. edit. 1794.

Nº 556. FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1714.

*Qualis ubi in lucem coluber mala gramina pastus
Frigida sub terra tumidum quem bruma tegerat;
Nunc posita novus exuvies, nitidusque juvenca,
Lubrica comoluit sublato pectore terga
Arduus ad solem, et lingua micat ore trisulcis.*
VIRG. Æn. ii. ver. 471.

So shines, renew'd in youth, the crested snake,
Who slept the winter in a thorny brake;
And, casting off his slough when spring returns,
Now looks aloft, and with new glory burns:
Restor'd with poisonous herbs, his ardent sides
Reflect the sun, and rais'd on spires he rides;
High o'er the grass hissing he rolls along,
And brandishes by fits his forked tongue.
DRYDEN.

UPON laying down the office of Spectator, I acquainted the world with my design of electing a new club, and of opening my mouth in it after a most solemn manner. Both the election and the ceremony are now past; but not finding it so easy, as I at first imagined, to break through a fifty years silence, I would not venture into the world under the character of a man who pretends to talk like other people, till I had arrived at a full freedom of speech.

I shall reserve for another time the history of such club or clubs of which I am now a talkative, but unworthy member; and shall here give an account of this surprising change which has been produced in me, and which I look upon to be as remarkable an accident as any recorded in history, since that which happened to the son of Cæsar, after having been many years as much tongue-tied as myself.

Upon the first opening of my mouth I made a speech, consisting of about half a dozen well-turned periods; but grew so very hoarse upon it, that for three days together, instead of finding the use of my tongue, I was afraid that I had quite lost it. Besides, the unusual extension of my muscles on this occasion made my face ache on both sides to such a degree, that nothing but an invincible resolution and perseverance could have prevented me from falling back to my monosyllables.

I afterwards made several essays towards speaking; and that I might not be startled at my own voice, which has happened to me more than once, I used to read aloud in my chamber, and have often stood in the middle of the street to call a coach, when I knew there was none within hearing.

When I was thus grown pretty well acquainted with my own voice, I laid hold of all opportunities to exert it. Not caring however to speak much by myself, and to draw upon me the whole attention of those I conversed with, I used for some time to walk every morning in the Mall, and talk in chorus with a parcel of Frenchmen. I found my modesty greatly relieved by the communicative temper of this nation, who are so very sociable as to think they are never better company than when they are all opening at the same time.

I then fancied I might receive great benefit from female conversation, and that I should have a convenience of talking with the greater freedom when I was not under any impediment of thinking: I therefore threw myself into an assembly of ladies, but could not for my life get in a word among them: and found that if I did not change my company, I was in danger of being reduced to my primitive taciturnity.

The coffee-houses have ever since been my chief places of resort, where I have made the greatest improvements; in order to which I have taken a particular care never to be of the same of opinion with the man I conversed with. I was a tory at Button's, and a whig at Child's, a friend to the Englishman, or an advocate for the Examiner, as it best served my turn: some fancy me a great enemy to the French king, though in reality I only make use of him for a help to discourse. In short, I wrangle and dispute for exercise; and have carried this point so far, that I was once like to have been run through the body for making a little too free with my betters.

In a word, I am quite another man to what I was.

*Nil fuit unquam
Tam dispar sibi*

HOR. Sat. iii. l. 1. ver. 18.

‘Nothing was ever so unlike itself.’

My old acquaintance scarce know me; nay, I was asked the other day by a Jew at Jonathan's, whether I was not related to a dumb gentleman, who used to come to that coffee-house? But I think I never was better pleased in my life than about a week ago, when, as I was battling it across the table with a young Templar, his companion gave him a pull by the sleeve, begging him to come away, for that the old prig would talk him to death.

Being now a very good proficient in discourse, I shall appear in the world with this addition to my character, that my countrymen may reap the fruits of my new-acquired loquacity.

Those who have been present at public disputes in the university, know that it is usual to maintain heresies for argument-sake. I have heard a man a most impudent Socinian for half an hour, who has been an orthodox divine all his life after. I have taken the same method to accomplish myself in the gift of utterance, having talked above a twelvemonth, not so much for the benefit of my hearers, as of myself. But, since I have now gained the faculty I have been so long endeavouring after, I intend to make a right use of it, and shall think myself obliged for the future to speak always in truth and sincerity of heart. While a man is learning to fence, he practises both on friend and foe; but when he is a master in the art, he never exerts it but on what he thinks the right side.

That this last allusion may not give my reader a wrong idea of my design in this paper, I must here inform him, that the author of it is of no faction; that he is a friend to no interests but those of truth and virtue; nor a foe to any but those of vice and folly. Though I make more noise in the world than I used to do, I am still resolved to act in it as an indifferent Spectator. It is not my ambition to increase the number either of whigs or tories, but of wise and good men; and I could heartily wish there were not faults common to both parties, which afford me sufficient matter to work upon, without descending to those which are peculiar to either.

If in a multitude of counsellors there is safety, we ought to think ourselves the securest nation in the world. Most of our garrets are inhabited by statesmen, who watch over the liberties of their country, and make a shift to keep themselves from starving, by taking into their care the properties of their fellow-subjects.

As these politicians of both sides have already worked the nation into a most unnatural ferment, I shall be so far from endeavouring to raise it to a

greater height, that, on the contrary, it shall be the chief tendency of my papers to inspire my countrymen with a mutual good-will and tolerance. Whatever faults either party may be guilty of, they are rather inflamed than cured by the reproaches which they cast upon one another. The most likely method of rectifying any misconduct is, by recommending to him the principles of truth and honour, religion and virtue; and so as he acts with an eye to these principles, whatever party he is of, he cannot fail of being a good Englishman, and a lover of his country.

As for the persons concerned in this work, the names of all of them, or at least of such as shall be published hereafter; till which time I must intreat the curious reader to suspend his curiosity, and rather to consider what is written than who they are that write it.

Having thus adjusted all necessary preliminaries with my reader, I shall not trouble him with any more prefatory discourses, but proceed in my method, and entertain him with speculation on every useful subject that falls in my way.

ADDISON.

No 557. MONDAY, JUNE 21, 1714.

Quippe domum timet ambiguum, Tyriaque bilinguem.
VIRG. Æn. l. vi. v. 66.

He fears th' ambiguous race, and Tyrians double-tongued.

‘There is nothing,’ says Plato, ‘so delightful as the hearing or the speaking of truth.’ For this reason there is no conversation so agreeable as that of the man of integrity, who hears without any intention to betray, and speaks without any intention to deceive.

Among all the accounts which are given of Cato I do not remember one that more redounds to his honour than the following passage related by Plutarch. As an advocate was pleading the cause of his client before one of the prætors, he could not produce a single witness in a point where the law required the testimony of two persons: upon which the advocate insisted on the integrity of that person whom he had produced; but the prætor told him, that where the law required two witnesses he would not accept of one, though it were Cato himself. Such a speech from a person who sat at the head of a court of justice while Cato was still living, shows us, more than a thousand examples, the high reputation this great man had gained among his contemporaries upon the account of his sincerity.

When such an inflexible integrity is a law softened and qualified by the rules of conversation and good-breeding, there is not a more shining virtue in the whole catalogue of social duties. A man however ought to take great care not to put himself out of his veracity, nor to reduce his behaviour to the prejudice of his virtue.

This subject is exquisitely treated in the most elegant sermon of the great British preacher. I shall beg leave to transcribe out of it two or three sentences, as a proper introduction to a very curious letter, which I shall make the chief contentment of this speculation.

‘The old English plainness and sincerity, the generous integrity of nature, and honesty of up-

* Archbishop Tillotson, 8th edit. vol. 4. sermon 1.

ion, which always argues true greatness of mind, and is usually accompanied with undaunted age and resolution, is in a great measure lost on us.

The dialect of conversation is now-a-days so led with vanity and compliment, and so surd (as I may say) of expressions of kindness and respect, that if a man that lived an age or two ago should return into the world again, he would really want a dictionary to help him to understand his language, and to know the true intrinsic value of a phrase in fashion; and would hardly at first even at what a low rate the highest strains and expressions of kindness imaginable do commonly run in current payment; and when he should come to understand it, it would be a great while before he could bring himself with a good countenance, and a good conscience, to converse with men upon all terms and in their own way.

I have by me a letter which I look upon as a great curiosity, and which may serve as an exemplification to the foregoing passage, cited out of the most excellent prelate. It is said to have been written in King Charles the Second's reign to the ambassador of Bantam, a little after his arrival in England.

MASTER,

THE people, where I now am, have tongues furrer from their hearts than from London to Bantam, and thou knowest the inhabitants of one of these places do not know what is done in the other. They call thee and thy subjects barbarians, because they speak what we mean; and account themselves civilized people, because they speak one thing and mean another: truth they call barbarity, and falsehood politeness. Upon my first landing, one who was sent from the king of this place to meet me, told me, that he was extremely sorry for the form I had met with just before my arrival. I was enabled to hear him grieve and afflict himself upon my account; but in less than a quarter of an hour he smiled, and was as merry as if nothing had happened. Another who came with him told me by my interpreter, he should be glad to do me any service that lay in his power. Upon which I desired him to carry one of my portmanteaus for me; but, instead of serving me according to his promise, he laughed, and bid another do it. I lodged the first week at the house of one who desired me to think myself at home, and to consider his house as my own. Accordingly, I the next morning began to knock down one of the walls of it, in order to let in the fresh air, and had packed up some of the household goods, of which I intended to have made thee a present; but the false varlet no sooner saw me falling to work, but he sent word to desire me to give over, for that he would have no such doings in his house. I had not been long in this nation before I was told by one, for whom I had asked a certain favour from the chief of the king's servants, whom they here call the lord-treasurer, that I had eternally obliged him. I was so surprised at his gratitude, that I could not forbear saying, "What service is there which one man can do for another, that can oblige him to all eternity?" However, I only asked him, for my reward, that he would lend me his eldest daughter during my stay in this country; but I quickly found that he was as treacherous as the rest of his countrymen.

At my first going to court, one of the great men almost put me out of countenance, by asking ten thousand pardons of me for only treading by

accident upon my toe. They call this kind of lie a compliment; for, when they are civil to a great man, they tell him untruths, for which thou wouldst order any of thy officers of state to receive a hundred blows upon his foot. I do not know how I shall negotiate any thing with this people, since there is so little credit to be given to them. When I go to see the king's scribe, I am generally told that he is not at home, though perhaps I saw him go into his house almost the very moment before. Thou wouldst fancy that the whole nation are physicians, for the first question they always ask me is, how I do: I have this question put to me above a hundred times a day. Nay, they are not only thus inquisitive after my health, but wish it in a more solemn manner, with a full glass in their hands, every time I sit with them at table, though at the same time they would persuade me to drink their liquors in such quantities as I have found by experience will make me sick. They often pretend to pray for thy health also in the same manner; but I have more reason to expect it from the goodness of thy constitution than the sincerity of their wishes. May thy slave escape in safety from this double-tongued race of men, and live to lay himself once more at thy feet in the royal city of Bantam!

ADDISON.

Nº 558. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1714.

*Qui fit, Mæcenas, ut nemo, quam tibi sortem
Seu ratio dederit, seu jura obierit, illa
Contentus vivat: laudet dicam acquiescit?
O fortunati mercatores, gravis annis
Miles est, multo jam fractus membra labore!
Contra mercator, navim jactantibus avaritia,
Militia est potior. Quid enim? concurritur: hora
Momento citra mors venit, aut victoria lula.
Agricolam laudat juris legumque peritus,
Sub galli cantum consultor ubi ovis pulsabit.
Ille, datis vadibus, qui rure extractus in urbem est,
Solas felices viceles clamat in urbe.
Cetera de genere hoc (adeo sunt nulla) loquacem
Delassare valent Fabium. Ne te morer, audi
Quo rem deducam. Si quis Deus, en ego, dicat,
Jam faciam quod vultis: eris tu, qui modo, miles,
Mercator: tu consultus modo, rusticus. Hinc vos,
Vos hinc mutatis discedite partibus. Eja,
Quid statis? Nolint. Atqui licet esse beatiss.*

HOR. Sat. l. l. i. ver. 1.

Whence is't, Mæcenas, that so few approve
The state they're plac'd in, and incline to rove;
Whether against their will by fate impos'd,
Or by consent and prudent choice espous'd?
Happy the merchant! the old soldier cries,
Broke with fatigues and warlike enterprise.
The merchant, when the dreaded hurricane
Tosses his wealthy cargo on the main,
Applauds the wars and toils of a campaign:
There an engagement soon decides your doom,
Bravely to die, or come victorious home.
The lawyer vows the farmer's life is best,
When at the dawn the clients break his rest.
The farmer, having put in bail 't appear,
And fore'd to town, cries, they are happier there!
With thousands more of this inconstant race,
Would tire ev'n Fabius to relate each case.
Not to detain you longer, pray attend
The issue of all this; should Jove descend
And grant to every man his rash demand,
To run his lengths with a neglectful hand?
First, grant the harass'd warrior a release,
Bid him go trade, and try the fatigues seas,
To purchase treasure and declining ease:
Next, call the plader from his learned strife,
To the calm blessings of a country life:
And, with these separate demands dismiss
Each suppliant to enjoy the promis'd bliss:
Don't you believe they'll run? Not one will move,
Tho' proffer'd to be happy from above.

HORNECK.

It is a celebrated thought of Socrates, that if all the misfortunes of mankind were cast into a pub-

lic stock, in order to be equally distributed among the whole species, those who now think themselves the most unhappy would prefer the share they are already possessed of before that which would fall to them by such a division. Horace has carried this thought a great deal further in the motto of my paper, which implies, that the hardships of misfortunes we lie under are more easy to us than those of any other person would be, in case we could change conditions with him.

As I was ruminating on these two remarks, and seated in my elbow-chair, I insensibly fell asleep; when on a sudden methought there was a proclamation made by Jupiter, that every mortal should bring in his griefs and calamities, and throw them together in a heap. There was a large plain appointed for this purpose. I took my stand in the centre of it, and saw with a great deal of pleasure the whole human species marching one after another, and throwing down their several loads, which immediately grew up into a prodigious mountain, that seemed to rise above the clouds.

There was a certain lady of a thin airy shape, who was very active in this solemnity. She carried a magnifying glass in one of her hands, and was clothed in a loose flowing robe, embroidered with several figures of fiends and spectres, that discovered themselves in a thousand chimerical shapes as her garment hovered in the wind. There was something wild and distracted in her looks. Her name was Fancy. She led up every mortal to the appointed place, after having very officiously assisted him in making up his pack, and laying it upon his shoulders. My heart melted within me to see my fellow-creatures groaning under their respective burdens, and to consider that prodigious bulk of human calamities which lay before me.

There were, however, several persons who gave me great diversion upon this occasion. I observed one bringing in a fardel very carefully concealed under an old embroidered cloak, which, upon his throwing it into the heap, I discovered to be Poverty. Another, after a great deal of puffing, threw down his luggage, which, upon examining, I found to be his wife.

There were multitudes of lovers saddled with very whimsical burdens composed of darts and flames; but what was very odd, though they sighed as if their hearts would break under these bundles of calamities, they could not persuade themselves to cast them into the heap, when they came up to it; but, after a few faint efforts, shook their heads and marched away, as heavy laden as they came. I saw multitudes of old women throw down their wrinkles, and several young ones who stripped themselves of a tawny skin. There were very great heaps of red noses, large lips, and rusty teeth. The truth of it is, I was surprised to see the greatest part of the mountain made up of bodily deformities. Observing one advancing towards the heap with a larger cargo than ordinary upon his back, I found upon his near approach that it was only a natural hump, which he disposed of with great joy of heart among this collection of human miseries. There were likewise distempers of all sorts; though I could not but observe, that there were many more imaginary than real. One little packet I could not but take notice of, which was a complication of all the diseases incident to human nature, and was in the hand of a great many fine people; this was called the spleen. But what most of all surprised me, was a remark I made, that there was not a single vice or folly thrown into the whole heap: at which I was very much astonished, hav-

ing concluded within myself, that every one would take this opportunity of getting rid of his passions, prejudices, and frailties.

I took notice in particular of a very prodigious fellow, who I did not question came loaded with his crimes: but upon searching into his bundle I found that, instead of throwing his guilt from him, he had only laid down his memory. He was followed by another worthless rogue, who sung as his modesty instead of his ignorance.

When the whole race of mankind had thrown their burdens, the phantom which had been upon me on this occasion, seeing me an idle Spectator of what passed, approached towards me. I grew uneasy at her presence, when of a sudden she took her magnifying glass full before my eyes. I soon saw my face in it, but was startled at the shortness of it, which now appeared to me a utmost aggravation. The immoderate breadth of the features made me very much out of humour with my own countenance, upon which I then looked from me like a mask. It happened very late that one who stood by me had just before thrown down his visage, which it seems was too large for him. It was indeed extended to a most unusual length; I believe the very chin was, without speaking, as long as my whole face. We had but of us an opportunity of mending ourselves: but all the contributions being now brought in, no man was at liberty to exchange his misfortune for those of another person. But as to the new incidents in the sequel of my vision, I will reserve them for the subject of my next paper.

ADDISON.

Nº 559. FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1714.

*Quid coveat ed, merito quin illis Jupiter ambo
Iratius buccas inflet, neque se fore potioris
Tam facilem dicat, totus ut praebeat aurem.*

HOR. Sat. l. l. v. 8.

Were it not just that Jove, provok'd to heat,
Should drive these triflers from the ballov'd seat,
And unrelenting stand when they intreat?
HORNECK.

In my last paper I gave my reader a sight of the mountain of miseries which was made up of several calamities that afflict the minds of men. I saw with unspeakable pleasure the whole pile thus delivered from its sorrows; though at the same time, as we stood round the heap, and saw the several materials of which it was composed, there was scarcely a mortal in this vast multitude who did not discover what he thought pleasant in the blessings of life, and wondered how the calamities they ever came to look upon them as burdens and grievances.

As we were regarding very attentively this confusion of miseries, this chaos of calamity, Jupiter issued out a second proclamation, that every man was now at liberty to exchange his affliction, and to return to his habitation with any such other burden as should be delivered to him.

Upon this Fancy began again to bestir herself, and, parcelling out the whole heap with incredible activity, recommended to every one his particular packet. The hurry and confusion at this time could not to be expressed. Some observations which I made upon the occasion, I shall communicate to the public. A venerable grey-headed man, who had laid down the colic, and who I found was

to heir to his estate, snatched up an undutiful son that had been thrown into the heap by an angry father. The graceless youth, in less than a quarter of an hour, pulled the old gentleman by the beard, and had like to have knocked his brains out; and that meeting the true father, who came towards him with a fit of the gripes, he begged him to take his son again, and give him back his colic; it they were incapable either of them to recede from the choice they had made. A poor galley-slave, who had thrown down his chains, took up the nut in their stead, but made such wry faces, that he might easily perceive he was no great gainer by the bargain. It was pleasant enough to see the several exchanges that were made, for sickness against poverty, hunger against want of appetite, and care against pain.

The female world were very busy among themselves in bartering for features: one was trucking lock of grey hairs for a carbuncle, another was asking over a short waist for a pair of round shoulders, and a third cheapening a bad face for a st reputation: but on all these occasions there was not one of them who did not think the new emish, as soon as she had got it into her possession, much more disagreeable than the old one. I made the same observation on every other misfortune or calamity which every one in the assembly brought upon himself in lieu of what he had parted with; whether it be that all the evils which befall us in some measure suited and proportioned to our strength, or that every evil becomes more supportable by our being accustomed to it, I shall not determine.

I could not from my heart forbear pitying the poor hump-backed gentleman mentioned in the former paper, who went off a very well shaped person with a stone in his bladder; nor the fine gentleman who had struck up this bargain with me, that limped through a whole assembly of ladies, who used to admire him, with a pair of shoulders peeping over his head.

I must not omit my own particular adventure. My friend with a long visage had no sooner taken from him my short face but he made such a grotesque figure in it, that as I looked upon him I could not forbear laughing at myself, inasmuch as I put my own face out of countenance. The poor gentleman was so sensible of the ridicule, that I found he was ashamed of what he had done: on the other side, I found that I myself had no great reason to triumph; for as I went to touch my forehead I missed the place, and clapped my finger on my upper lip. Besides, as my nose was exceeding prominent, I gave it two or three unucky knocks as I was playing my hand about my face, and aiming at some other part of it. I saw no other gentlemen by me who were in the same ridiculous circumstances. These had made a foolswop between a couple of thick bandy legs and so long trapsticks that had no calves to them. One of these looked like a man walking upon stilts, and was so lifted up into the air, above his ordinary height, that his head turned round with a while the other made such awkward circles as he attempted to walk, that he scarcely knew how to move forward upon his new supporters. Observing him to be a pleasant kind of fellow, I stuck my cane in the ground, and told him I would give him a bottle of wine that he did not march up to on a line that I drew for him in a quarter of an hour.

The heap was at last distributed among the two sexes, who made a most piteous sight, as they

wandered up and down under the pressure of their several burthens. The whole plain was filled with murmurs and complaints, groans and lamentations Jupiter, at length taking compassion on the poor mortals, ordered them a second time to lay down their loads, with a design to give every one his own again. They discharged themselves with a great deal of pleasure; after which, the phantom who had led them into such gross delusions was commanded to disappear. There was sent in her stead a goddess of a quite different figure: her motions were steady and composed, and her aspect serious but cheerful. She every now and then cast her eyes towards heaven, and fixed them upon Jupiter; her name was Patience. She had no sooner placed herself by the Mount of Sorrows, but, what I thought very remarkable, the whole heap sunk to such a degree, that it did not appear a third part so big as it was before. She afterwards returned every man his own proper calamity, and, teaching him how to bear it in the most commodious manner, he marched off with it contentedly, being very well pleased that he had not been left to his own choice as to the kind of evils which fell to his lot.

Besides the several pieces of morality to be drawn out of this vision, I learnt from it never to repine at my own misfortunes, or to envy the happiness of another, since it is impossible for any man to form a right judgment of his neighbour's sufferings; for which reason also I have determined never to think too lightly of another's complaints, but to regard the sorrows of my fellow-creatures with sentiments of humanity and compassion.

ADDISON*.

Nº 560. MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1714.

—*Verba intermissa retentat.*

OVID. Met. l. i. ver. 746.

He tries his tongue, his silence softly breaks.

DRYDEN.

EVERY one has heard of the famous conjuror†, who, according to the opinion of the vulgar, has studied himself dumb; for which reason, as it is believed, he delivers out all his oracles in writing. Be that as it will, the blind Teresias was not more famous in Greece than this dumb artist has been for some years last past in the cities of London and Westminster. Thus much for the profound gentleman who honours me with the following epistle:

SIR,

From my cell, June 24, 1714.

BEING informed that you have lately got the use of your tongue, I have some thoughts of following your example, that I may be a fortune-teller properly speaking. I am grown weary of my taciturnity, and having served my country many years under the title of "the dumb doctor," I shall now prophesy by word of mouth, and (as Mr. Lee says of the magpie, who you know was a great fortune-teller among the ancients) chatter

* "The Spectator, from its commencement in this eighth volume, was published only three times a week, and no discriminative marks were added to the papers. Mr. Tickell has ascribed twenty-three to Addison; viz. Nº 556, 557, 558, 559, 561, 562, 563, 567, 568, 569, 571, 574, 575, 579, 580, 582, 583, 584, 585, 590, 592, 598, and 600. Addison therefore produced more than a fourth part of this volume." Dr. Johnson's Lives of Eng. Poets, art. Addison, vol. ii. p. 97, 98, 8vo. edit. 1801. It is said, that Addison and C. Budgell were the sole conductors of this eighth volume; in which it does not appear that Steele was concerned.

† Duncan Campbell.—See Nº 474.

'3. Mrs. Medlar, who, after two husbands and a gallant, is now wedded to an old gentleman of sixty. Upon her making her report to the club after a week's cohabitation, she is still allowed to sit as a widow, and accordingly takes her place at the board.

'4. The widow Quick, married within a fortnight after the death of her last husband. Her weeds have served her thrice, and are still as good as new.

'5. Lady Catharine Swallow. She was a widow at eighteen, and has since buried a second husband and two coachmen.

'6. The Lady Waddle. She was married in the fifth year of her age to Sir Simon Waddle, Knight, aged threescore and twelve, by whom she had twins nine months after his decease. In the 55th year of her age she was married to James Spindle, Esq. a youth of one-and-twenty, who did not outlive the honey-moon.

'7. Deborah Conquest. The case of this lady is something particular. She is the relict of Sir Sampson Conquest, some time justice of the quorum. Sir Sampson was seven foot high, and two foot in breadth from the tip of one shoulder to the other. He had married three wives, who all of them died in childbed. This terrified the whole sex, who none of them durst venture on Sir Sampson. At length Mrs. Deborah undertook him, and gave so good an account of him, that in three years time she very fairly laid him out, and measured his length upon the ground. This exploit has gained her so great a reputation in the club, that they have added Sir Sampson's three victories to hers, and give her the merit of a fourth widowhood; and she takes her place accordingly.

'8. The widow Wildfire, relict of Mr. John Wildfire, fox hunter, who broke his neck over a six-bar gate. She took his death so much to heart, that it was thought it would have put an end to her life, had she not diverted her sorrows by receiving the addresses of a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who made love to her in the second month of her widowhood. This gentleman was discarded in a fortnight for the sake of a young Templar, who had the possession of her for six weeks after, till he was beaten out by a broken officer, who likewise gave up his place to a gentleman at court. The courtier was as short-lived a favourite as his predecessors, but had the pleasure to see himself succeeded by a long series of lovers, who followed the widow Wildfire to the 37th year of her age, at which time there ensued a cessation of ten years, when John Felt, haberdasher, took it in his head to be in love with her, and it is thought will very suddenly carry her off.

'9. The last is pretty Mrs. Runnet, who broke her first husband's heart before she was sixteen, at which time she was entered of the club, but soon after left it upon account of a second, whom she made so quick a dispatch of, that she returned to her seat in less than a twelvemonth. This young matron is looked upon as the most rising member of the society, and will probably be in the president's chair before she dies.

'These ladies, upon their first institution, resolved to give the pictures of their deceased husbands to the club-room; but two of them bringing in their dead at full length, they covered all the walls. Upon which they came to a second resolution, that every matron should give her own picture, and set it round with her husbands' in miniature.

'As they have most of them the misfortune to be troubled with the colic, they have a noble cel-

lar of cordials and strong waters. When they grow maudlin, they are very apt to commemorate their former partners with a tear. But ask them which of their husbands they condole, they are not able to tell you, and discover plainly that they do not weep so much for the loss of a husband as for the want of one.

'The principal rule by which the whole society are to govern themselves is this, to cry up the pleasures of a single life upon all occasions, in order to deter the rest of their sex from marriage, and engross the whole male world to themselves.

'They are obliged, when any one makes love to a member of the society, to communicate his name; at which time the whole assembly sit upon his reputation, person, fortune, and good humour; and if they find him qualified for a sister of the club, they lay their heads together how to make him sure. By this means they are acquainted with all the widow-hunters about town, who often afford them great diversion. There is an honest Irish gentleman, it seems, who knows nothing of this society, but at different times has made love to the whole club.

'Their conversation often turns upon their former husbands, and it is very diverting to hear them relate their several arts and stratagems with which they amused the jealous, pacified the cholerick, or wheedled the good-natured man, till at last, to use the club phrase, "they sent him out of the house with his heels foremost."

'The politics which are most cultivated by this society of She-Machiavels, relate chiefly to these two points, how to treat a lover, and how to manage a husband. As for the first set of artifices, they are too numerous to come within the compass of your paper, and shall therefore be reserved for a second letter.

'The management of a husband is built upon the following doctrines, which are universally assented to by the whole club. Not to give him his head at first. Not to allow him too great freedoms and familiarities. Not to be treated by him like a raw girl, but as a woman that knows the world. Not to lessen any thing of her former figure. To celebrate the generosity, or any other virtue, of a deceased husband, which she would recommend to his successor. To turn away all his old friends and servants, that she may have the dear man to herself. To make him disinherit the undutiful children of any former wife. Never to be thoroughly convinced of his affection, until he has made over to her all his goods and chattels.

'After so long a letter, I am, without more ceremony,

'Your humble servant, &c.'

ADDISON.

N^o 562. FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1714.

— *Præsens, absens ut sit.*

TER. Eun. act. 1. sc. 2.

Be present as if absent.

'It is a hard and nice subject for a man to write of himself,' says Cowley *; 'it grates his own heart to say any thing of disparagement, and the reader's ears to hear any thing of praise from him.' Let the tenour of his discourse be what it will upon this subject, it generally proceeds from vanity.

* Cowley's Works, Essay xi. vol. ii. p. 780, 8vo, edit. 1710.

An ostentatious man will rather relate a blunder or an absurdity he has committed, than be debarred from talking of his own dear person.

Some very great writers have been guilty of this fault. It is observed of Tully in particular that his works run very much in the first person, and that he takes all occasions of doing himself justice. 'Does he think,' says Brutus, 'that his consulship deserves more applause than my putting Cæsar to death, because I am not perpetually talking of the ides of March, as he is of the nones of December?' I need not acquaint my learned reader, that in the ides of March Brutus destroyed Cæsar, and that Cicero quashed the conspiracy of Catiline in the calends of December. How shocking soever this great man's talking of himself might have been to his contemporaries, I must confess I am never better pleased than when he is on this subject. Such openings of the heart give a man a thorough insight into his personal character, and illustrate several passages in the history of his life: besides that, there is some little pleasure in discovering the infirmity of a great man, and seeing how the opinion he has of himself agrees with what the world entertains of him.

The gentlemen of Port Royal, who were more eminent for their learning and their humility than any other in France, banished the way of speaking in the first person out of all their works, as rising from vainglory and self-conceit. To show their particular aversion to it, they branded this form of writing with the name of an egotism; a figure not to be found among the ancient rhetoricians.

The most violent egotism which I have met with in the course of my reading, is that of Cardinal Wolsey, *ego et rex meus*, 'I and my king;' as perhaps the most eminent egotist that ever appeared in the world was Montaigne, the author of the celebrated Essays. This lively old Gascon has woven all his bodily infirmities into his works; and, after having spoken of the faults or virtues of any other men, immediately publishes to the world how it stands with himself in that particular. Had he kept his own counsel, he might have passed for a much better man, though perhaps he would not have been so diverting an author. The title of an Essay promises perhaps a discourse upon Virgil or Julius Cæsar; but, when you look into it, you are sure to meet with more upon Monsieur Montaigne than of either of them. The younger Scaliger, who seems to have been no great friend to this author, after having acquainted the world that his father sold herrings, adds these words: *La grande fadaise de Montaigne, qui a écrit qu'il aimoit mieux le vin blanc.*—*Que diable a-t-on à faire de savoir ce qu'il aime?* 'For my part,' says Montaigne, 'I am a great lover of your white wines.'—'What the devil signifies it to the public,' says Scaliger, 'whether he is a lover of white wines or of red wines?'

I cannot here forbear mentioning a tribe of egotists, for whom I have always had a mortal aversion, I mean the authors of memoirs, who are never mentioned in any works but their own, and who raise all their productions out of this single figure of speech.

Most of our modern prefaces savour very strongly of the egotism. Every insignificant author fancies it of importance to the world to know that he writ his book in the country, that he did it to pass away some of his idle hours, that it was published at the importunity of friends, or that his natural temper, studies, or conversations, directed him to the choice of his subject.

— *Id populus curat scilicet.*

Such informations cannot be highly improving to the reader.

In works of humour especially, when a writer under a fictitious personage, the talking of oneself may give some diversion to the public: and I would advise every other writer never to open of himself, unless there be something very considerable in his character: though I am sensible the rule will be of little use in the world, because there is no man who fancies his thoughts worth publishing that does not look upon himself as a considerable person.

I shall close this paper with a remark upon those who are egotists in conversation: these are generally the vain or shallow part of mankind, people being naturally full of themselves when they are doing nothing else in them. There is one kind of egotism which is very common in the world, though I do not remember that any writer has taken notice of them; I mean those empty conceited fellows who repeat, as sayings of their own or some of their particular friends, several jests which were made before they were born, and which every one who has conversed in the world has heard a hundred times over. A forward young fellow of my acquaintance was very guilty of this absurdity: he would be always laying a new scene for some piece of wit, and telling us that, as he and Jack Such-a-one were together, one or t'other of them had such a conceit on such an occasion: upon which he would laugh very heartily, and wonder if his company did not join with him. When his mother over, I have often reprehended him out of Terence, *Tuumne obsecro te, hoc dictum erat? rectus crederetur.* But finding him still incorrigible, and having kindness for the young coxcomb, who was otherwise a good-natured fellow, I recommended to him perusal the Oxford and Cambridge jests, with several little pieces of pleasantries of the same nature. Upon the reading of them he was under a small confusion to find that all his jokes had passed through several editions, and that what he thought was a new conceit, and had appropriated to his own use, had appeared in print before he or his ingenious friends were ever heard of. This had a good effect upon him, that he is content at present to pass for a man of plain sense in his ordinary conversation, and is never facetious but when he knows his company.

ADDISON.

Nº 563. MONDAY, JULY 3, 1714.

— *Magni nominis umbra.*

LUCAN. L. l. v. l. 1.

The shadow of a mighty name.

I SHALL entertain my reader with two very curious letters. The first of them comes from a clerical person, who I believe never writ to any body before.

'SIR,

'I am descended from the ancient family of the Blanks, a name well known among all men of business. It is always read in those little spaces of writing which want to be filled up, and which for that reason are called blank spaces, or right appertaining to our family: for I consider myself as the lord of a manor, who lays his claim to all wastes or spots of ground that are unappropriated. I am a near kinsman to John a Blanks,

and John a Noakes; and they, I am told, came in with the Conqueror. I am mentioned oftener in both houses of parliament than any other person in Great Britain. My name is written, or, more properly speaking, not written, thus

I am one that can turn my hand to every thing, and appear under any shape whatsoever. I can make myself, man, woman, or child. I am sometimes metamorphosed into a year of our Lord, a day of the month, or an hour of the day. I very often represent a sum of money, and am generally the first subsidy that is granted to the crown. I have now and then supplied the place of several thousands of land soldiers, and have as frequently been employed in the sea-service.

Now, sir, my complaint is this, that I am only made use of to serve a turn, being always discarded as soon as a proper person is found out to fill up my place.

If you have ever been in the playhouse before the curtain rises, you see the most of the front-boxes filled with men of my family, who forthwith turn out and resign their stations upon the appearance of those for whom they are retained.

But the most illustrious branch of the Blanks are those who are planted in high posts, till such time as persons of greater consequence can be found out to supply them. One of those Blanks is equally qualified for all offices; he can serve in time of need for a soldier, a politician, a lawyer, or what you please. I have known in my time many a brother Blank that has been born under a lucky planet, heap up great riches, and swell into a man of figure and importance, before the grandees of his party could agree among themselves which of them should step into his place. Nay, I have known a Blank continue so long in one of these vacant posts (for such it is to be reckoned all the time a Blank is in it), that he has grown too formidable and dangerous to be removed.

But to return to myself. Since I am so very commodious a person, and so very necessary in all well-regulated governments, I desire you will take my case into consideration, that I may be no longer made a tool of, and only employed to stop a gap. Such usage, without a pun, makes me look very blank. For all which reasons I humbly recommend myself to your protection, and am

Your most obedient servant,

'BLANK.'

P. S. I herewith send you a paper drawn up by a country attorney, employed by two gentlemen, whose names he was not acquainted with, and who did not think fit to let him into the secret which they were transacting. I heard him call it "a blank instrument;" and read it after the following manner. You may see by this single instance of what use I am to the busy world.

"I, T. Blank, Esquire, of Blank Town, in the County of Blank, do own myself indebted in the sum of Blank, to Goodman Blank, for the service he did me in procuring for me the goods following, Blank: and I do hereby promise the said Blank to pay unto him the said sum of Blank, on the Blank day of the month of Blank next ensuing, under the penalty and forfeiture of Blank."

I shall take time to consider the case of this my imaginary correspondent, and in the meanwhile shall present my reader with a letter which seems to come from a person that is made up of flesh and blood.

'GOOD MR. SPECTATOR,

I AM married to a very honest gentleman that is exceeding good-natured, and at the same time very choleric. There is no standing before him when he is in a passion; but as soon as it is over he is the best-humoured creature in the world. When he is angry he breaks all my china-ware that chances to lie in his way, and the next morning sends me in twice as much as he broke the day before. I may positively say that he has broke me a child's fortune since we were first married together.

As soon as he begins to fret, down goes every thing that is within reach of his cane. I once prevailed upon him never to carry a stick in his hand, but this saved me nothing; for upon seeing me do something that did not please him, he kicked down a great jar, that cost him above ten pounds but the week before. I then laid the fragments together in a heap, and gave him his cane again, desiring him that, if he chanced to be in anger, he would spend his passion upon the china that was broke to his hand; but the very next day, upon my giving a wrong message to one of the servants, he flew into such a rage, that he swept down a dozen tea-dishes, which, to my misfortune, stood very convenient for a side blow.

I then removed all my china into a room which he never frequents; but I got nothing by this neither, for my looking-glasses immediately went to rack.

In short, sir, whenever he is in a passion, he is angry at every thing that is brittle; and if on such occasions he had nothing to vent his rage upon, I do not know whether my bones would be in safety. Let me be beg of you, sir, to let me know whether there be any cure for this unaccountable distemper; or if not, that you will be pleased to publish this letter: for my husband, having a great veneration for your writings, will by that means know you do not approve of his conduct.

'I am, your most humble servant, &c.'

N^o 561. WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1711.

Adsit

Regula, peccatis quæ pœnas irrogat æquas:

Ne scutis dignum horribili sectere flagello.

HOR. SAT. III. L. I. VER. 117.

Let rules be fix'd that may our rage contain,
And punish faults with a proportion'd pain;
And do not flay him who deserves alone
A whipping for the fault that he hath done.

CREECH.

It is the work of a philosopher to be every day subduing his passions, and laying aside his prejudices. I endeavour at least to look upon men and their actions only as an impartial Spectator, without any regard to them as they happen to advance or cross my own private interest. But while I am thus employed myself, I cannot help observing how those about me suffer themselves to be blinded by prejudice and inclination, how readily they pronounce on every man's character, which they can give in two words, and make him either good for nothing, or qualified for every thing. On the contrary, those who search thoroughly into human nature will find it much more difficult to determine the value of their fellow-creatures, and that men's characters are not thus to be given in general words. There is indeed no such thing as a person entirely good or bad; virtue and vice are blended and mixed together, in a greater or less propor-

tion, in every one; and if you would search for some particular good quality in its most eminent degree of perfection, you will often find it in a mind where it is darkened and eclipsed by a hundred other irregular passions.

Men have either no character at all, says a celebrated author, or it is that of being inconsistent with themselves. They find it easier to join extremities than to be uniform and of a piece. This is finely illustrated in Xenophon's life of Cyrus the Great. That author tells us, that Cyrus having taken a most beautiful lady named Panthea, the wife of Abradatas, committed her to the custody of Araspas, a young Persian nobleman, who had a little before maintained in discourse, that a mind truly virtuous was incapable of entertaining an unlawful passion. The young gentleman had not long been in possession of his fair captive, when a complaint was made to Cyrus, that he not only solicited the Lady Panthea to receive him in the room of her absent husband; but that, finding his entreaties had no effect, he was preparing to make use of force. Cyrus, who loved the young man, immediately sent for him, and in a gentle manner representing to him his fault, and putting him in mind of his former assertion, the unhappy youth, confounded with a quick sense of his guilt and shame, burst out into a flood of tears, and spoke as follows:

'Oh Cyrus, I am convinced that I have two souls. Love has taught me this piece of philosophy. If I had but one soul, it could not at the same time pant after virtue and vice, wish and abhor the same thing. It is certain therefore we have two souls: when the good soul rules I undertake noble and virtuous actions; but when the bad soul predominates, I am forced to do evil. All I can say at present is, that I find my good soul, encouraged by your presence, has got the better of my bad.'

I know not whether my readers will allow of this piece of philosophy; but if they will not, they must confess we meet with as different passions in one and the same soul as can be supposed in two. We can hardly read the life of a great man who lived in former ages, or converse with any who is eminent among our contemporaries, that is not an instance of what I am saying.

But as I have hitherto only argued against the partiality and injustice of giving our judgment upon men in gross, who are such a composition of virtues and vices, of good and evil, I might carry this reflection still further, and make it extend to most of their actions. If on the one hand we fairly weighed every circumstance, we should frequently find them obliged to do that action we at first sight condemn, in order to avoid another we should have been much more displeased with. If on the other hand we nicely examined such actions as appear most dazzling to the eye, we should find most of them either deficient and lame in several parts, produced by a bad ambition, or directed to an ill end. The very same action may sometimes be so oddly circumstanced, that it is difficult to determine whether it ought to be rewarded or punished. Those who compiled the laws of England were so sensible of this, that they laid it down as one of their first maxims, 'It is better suffering a mischief than an inconvenience; which is as much as to say in other words, that, since no law can take in or provide for all cases, it is better private men should have some injustice done them, than that a public grievance should not be redressed. This is usually pleaded in defence of all those hardships which fall

on particular persons in particular occasions, as could not be foreseen when a law was made. The remedy this however as much as possible, the power of chancery was erected, which frequently regulates and breaks the teeth of the common law in cases of men's properties, while in criminal cases there is a power of pardoning still lodged in the crown.

Notwithstanding this, it is perhaps impossible for a large government to distribute rewards and punishments strictly proportioned to the merits of every action. The Spartan commonwealth was indeed wonderfully exact in this particular; and I do not remember in all my reading to have met with so nice an example of justice as that recorded by Plutarch, with which I shall close my paper on this day.

The city of Sparta being unexpectedly attacked by a powerful army of Thebans, was in very great danger of falling into the hands of their enemies. The citizens suddenly gathered themselves into a body, fought with a resolution equal to the necessity of their affairs, yet no one so remarkably distinguished himself on this occasion, to the admiration of both armies, as Lidas, the son of Phalaris, who was at that time in the bloom of his youth, and very remarkable for the comeliness of his person. He was coming out of the bath when the alarm was given, so that he had not time to put on his clothes, much less his armour; however, supported with a desire to serve his country in so great an exigency, snatching up a spear in one hand and a sword in the other, he flung himself into the thickest ranks of his enemies. Nothing could withstand his fury: in what part soever he fought, he put the enemies to flight without receiving a single wound. Whether, says Plutarch, he was the particular care of some god, who rewarded his valor that day with an extraordinary protection, or that his enemies, struck with the unusualness of his dress, and beauty of his shape, supposed him something more than man, I shall not determine.

The gallantry of this action was judged so great by the Spartans, that the Ephori, or chief magistrates, decreed he should be presented with a garland; but, as soon as they had done so, sent him a thousand drachmas for going out to the battle unarmed.

Nº 565. FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1714.

*Deum namque ire per omnes
Terrasque, tractusque maris, cælumque profundum*
VIRG. Georg. iv. v. 1.

For God the whole created mass inspires,
Thro' heav'n and earth, and ocean's depths he throes
His influence round, and knoules as he goes.
DRYDEN.

I was yesterday about sun-set walking in the open fields, until the night insensibly fell upon me. I first amused myself with all the richness and variety of colours which appeared in the western part of heaven; in proportion as they faded away, I went out, several stars and planets appeared one after another, until the whole firmament was aglow. The blueness of the ether was extremely heightened and enlivened by the season of the year, and by the rays of all those luminaries that passed through it. The galaxy appeared in its most beautiful white. To complete the scene, the full moon rose at length in that clouded majesty which nature takes notice of, and opened to the eye a picture of nature, which was more finely and

I disposed among softer lights, than that which the sun had before discovered to us.

As I was surveying the moon walking in her brightness, and taking her progress among the constellations, a thought rose in me which I believe very often perplexes and disturbs men of serious and contemplative natures. David himself fell into it in that reflection, 'When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou carest for him!' In the same manner, when I considered that infinite host of stars, or, to speak more philosophically, of suns which were then shining on me, with those innumerable sets of planets or worlds, which were moving round their respective centres; when I still enlarged the idea, and supposed another heaven of suns and worlds rising still above us which we discovered, and these still enlightened by a superior firmament of luminaries, which are situated at so great a distance, that they may appear to the inhabitants of the former as the stars do to us; in short, while I pursued this thought, I could not but reflect on that little insignificant figure which I myself bore amidst the immensity of God's works.

Were the sun, which enlightens this part of the creation, with all the host of planetary worlds that move about him, utterly extinguished and annihilated, they would not be missed more than a grain of sand upon the sea-shore. The space they possess is so exceedingly little in comparison of the whole, that it would scarce make a blank in the creation. The chasm would be imperceptible to an eye that could take in the whole compass of nature, and pass from one end of the creation to the other; as it is possible there may be such a sense in ourselves hereafter, or in creatures which are at present more exalted than ourselves. We see many stars by the help of glasses which we do not discover with our naked eyes; and the finer our telescopes are the more still are our discoveries. Huygenius carries this thought so far, that he does not think it impossible there may be stars whose light is not yet travelled down to us, since their first creation. There is no question but the universe has certain bounds set to it; but when we consider that it is the work of infinite power, prompted by infinite goodness, with an infinite space to exert itself in, how can our imagination set any bounds to it?

To return therefore to my first thought. I could not but look upon myself with secret horror, as a being that was not worth the smallest regard of one who had so great a work under his care and superintendency. I was afraid of being overlooked amidst the immensity of nature, and lost among that infinite variety of creatures, which in all probability swarm through all these immeasurable regions of matter.

In order to recover myself from this mortifying thought, I considered that it took its rise from those narrow conceptions which we are apt to entertain of the divine nature. We ourselves cannot attend to many different objects at the same time. If we are careful to inspect some things, we must of course neglect others. This imperfection, which we observe in ourselves, is an imperfection that cleaves in some degree to creatures of the highest capacities, as they are creatures, that is, beings of finite and limited natures. The presence of every created being is confined to a certain measure of space, and consequently his observation is stinted to a certain number of objects. The sphere in which we move, and act, and understand, is of a

wider circumference to one creature than another, according as we rise one above another in the scale of existence. But the widest of these our spheres has its circumference. When therefore we reflect on the divine nature, we are so used and accustomed to this imperfection in ourselves, that we cannot forbear in some measure ascribing it to him in whom there is no shadow of imperfection. Our reason indeed assures us that his attributes are infinite; but the pooriness of our conceptions is such that it cannot forbear setting bounds to every thing it contemplates, until our reason comes again to our succour, and throws down all those little prejudices which rise in us unawares, and are natural to the mind of man.

We shall therefore utterly extinguish this melancholy thought, of our being overlooked by our Maker in the multiplicity of his works, and the infinity of those objects among which he seems to be incessantly employed, if we consider, in the first place, that he is omnipresent; and, in the second, that he is omniscient.

If we consider him in his omnipresence: his being passes through, actuates, and supports the whole frame of nature. His creation, and every part of it, is full of him. There is nothing he has made that is either so distant, so little, or so inconsiderable, which he does not essentially inhabit. His substance is within the substance of every being, whether material or immaterial, and as intimately present to it as that being is to itself. It would be an imperfection in him, were he able to remove out of one place into another, or to withdraw himself from any thing he has created, or from any part of that space which is diffused and spread abroad to infinity. In short, to speak of him in the language of the old philosopher, he is a Being whose centre is every where, and his circumference no where.

In the second place, he is omniscient as well as omnipresent. His omniscience indeed necessarily and naturally flows from his omnipresence; he cannot but be conscious of every motion that arises in the whole material world, which he thus essentially pervades, and of every thought that is stirring in the intellectual world, to every part of which he is thus intimately united. Several moralists have considered the creation as the temple of God, which he has built with his own hands, and which is filled with his presence. Others have considered infinite space as the receptacle, or rather the habitation, of the Almighty; but the noblest and most exalted way of considering this infinite space is that of Sir Isaac Newton, who calls it the sensorium of the Godhead. Brutes and men have their *sensoria*, or little sensoriums, by which they apprehend the presence and perceive the actions of a few objects that lie contiguous to them. Their knowledge and observation turn within a very narrow circle. But as God Almighty cannot but perceive and know every thing in which he resides, infinite space gives room to infinite knowledge, and is, as it were, an organ to omniscience.

Were the soul separate from the body, and with one glance of thought should start beyond the bounds of the creation, should it for millions of years continue its progress through infinite space with the same activity, it would still find itself within the embrace of its Creator, and encompassed round with the immensity of the Godhead. While we are in the body he is not less present with us because he is concealed from us. 'O that I knew where I might find him!' says Job. 'Behold I go forward, but he is not there; and backward,

but I cannot perceive him: on the left hand, where he does work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand that I cannot see him *.' In short, reason as well as revelation assures us that he cannot be absent from us, notwithstanding he is undiscovered by us.

In this consideration of God Almighty's omnipresence and omniscience every uncomfortable thought vanishes. He cannot but regard every thing that has being, especially such of his creatures who fear they are not regarded by him. He is privy to all their thoughts, and to that anxiety of heart in particular which is apt to trouble them on this occasion: for, as it is impossible he should overlook any of his creatures, so we may be confident that he regards, with an eye of mercy, those who endeavour to recommend themselves to his notice, and in an unfeigned humility of heart think themselves unworthy that he should be mindful of them †.

ADDISON.

Nº 566. MONDAY, JULY 12, 1714.

Militia species minor est.

OVID. Ars Am. l. ii. ver. 233.

Love is a kind of warfare.

As my correspondents begin to grow pretty numerous, I think myself obliged to take some notice of them, and shall therefore make this paper a miscellany of letters. I have, since my re-assuming the office of Spectator, received abundance of epistles from gentlemen of the blade, who I find have been so used to action that they know not how to lie still. They seem generally to be of opinion that the fair at home ought to reward them for their services abroad, and that, till the cause of their country calls them into the field, they have a sort of right to quarter themselves upon the ladies. In order to favour their approaches, I am desired by some to enlarge upon the accomplishments of their profession, and by others to give them my advice in the carrying on their attacks. But let us hear what the gentlemen say for themselves.

'MR SPECTATOR,

'THOUGH it may look somewhat perverse amidst the arts of peace to talk too much of war, it is but gratitude to pay the last office to its manes, since even peace itself is, in some measure, obliged to it for its being.

'You have, in your former papers, always recommended the accomplished to the favour of the fair; and I hope you will allow me to represent some part of a military life not altogether unnecessary to the forming a gentleman. I need not tell you that in France, whose fashions we have been formerly so fond of, almost every one derives his pretences to merit from the sword; and that a man has scarce the face to make his court to a lady, without some credentials from the service to recommend him. As the profession is very ancient, we have reason to think some of the greatest men among the old Romans derived many of their virtues from it, the commanders being frequently in other respects some of the most shining characters of the age.

'The army not only gives a man opportunities

of exercising those two great virtues, patience and courage, but often produces them in mind, which they had scarce any footing before. I must confess that it is one of the best schools in the world to receive a general notion of mankind in, and to obtain freedom of behaviour, which is not so easily acquired in any other place. At the same time must own, that some military airs are pretty extraordinary, and that a man who goes into an army a coxcomb will come out of it a public nuisance: but a man of sense, or one who had not been sufficiently used to a mixed education, generally takes the true turn. The countenance in all ages is allowed to be the standard of good-breeding; and I believe there is not a finer observation in Monsieur Rochefoucault, than that "a man who has been bred up wholly to business can never get the air of a courtier at court, nor will immediately catch it in the camp." The reason of this most certainly is, that the very essence of good-breeding and politeness consists in sentiments, which are so minute that they escape observation, and he falls short of the original; he would copy after; but when he sees the new things charged and aggravated to a fault, he is sooner endeavours to come up to the pattern which is set before him, than, though he stops somewhat short of that, he naturally rests where in reality he ought. I was, two or three days ago, much pleased with the observation of a humorous gentleman upon one of his friends, who was in every respect every way an accomplished person. "He wanted nothing but a dash of the coxcomb," said he; by which he understood a little of that business and unconcern in the common actions of life, which is usually so visible among gentlemen of the army, and which a campaign or two would infallibly have given him.

'You will easily guess, sir, by this my paragraph upon a military education, that I am not a soldier; and indeed I am so. I remember, within three years after I had been in the army, I was ordered into the country a recruiting. I had no particular success in this part of the service, and was over and above assured, at my going away, that I might have taken a young lady, who at the most considerable fortune in the country, along with me. I preferred the pursuit of fame at that time to all other considerations; and, though I was not absolutely bent on a wooden leg, resolved at least to get a scar or two for the good of Europe. I have at present as much desire of this sort of honour, and if you could recommend me effectually should be well enough contented to pass the remainder of my days in the arms of some dear creature, and upon a pretty estate in the country. This, as I take it, would be following the example of Lucius Cincinnatus, the old Roman demagogue, who, at the end of a war, left the camp to take the plough. I am, sir, with all imaginable respect,

'Your most obedient,

'humble servant,

'WILL WATLEY

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I AM an half-pay officer, and am at present a friend in the country. Here is a rich widow in the neighbourhood, who has made fools of all the fox-hunters within fifty miles of her. She declares she intends to marry, but has not yet been asked by the man she could like. She usually admires her humble admirers to an audience of two; but, as she has once given them denial, will never see them more. I am assured by a female friend

* Job xxiii. 8, &c

† See Nos. 571, 580, 590, and 628.

shall have fair play at her; but as my whole depends on my first approaches, I desire advice, whether I had best storm, or proceed of sap.

'I am, sir,
'Yours, &c.'

I had forgot to tell you that I have carried one of her out-works, that is, secured it.

SPECTATOR,

I assisted in several sieges in the Low Countries and being still willing to employ my talents as soldier and engineer, lay down this morning at six o'clock before the door of an obstinate fellow, who had for some time refused me admission.

I made a lodgment in an outer parlour twelve: the enemy retired to her bed-chamber, I still pursued, and about two o'clock this noon she thought fit to capitulate. Her demands were indeed somewhat high, in relation to settlement of her fortune. But, being in possession of the house, I intend to insist upon carte blanche, and am in hopes, by keeping off all other considerations for the space of twenty-four hours, to bring her into a compliance. I beg your speedy return, and am,

'sir, yours,
'PETER PUSH.'

From my camp in Red-lion-square, Saturday, the 13th of the afternoon.

567. WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1714.

— *Inceptus clamor, frustantur hiantes.*
VIRG. Æn. vi. ver. 493.

— The weak voice deceives their gasping throats.
DRYDEN.

I have received private advice from some of my correspondents, that if I would give my paper a general run I should take care to season it with scandal. I have indeed observed of late that few things sell which are not filled with great names and illustrious titles. The reader generally casts his eye upon a new book, and, if he finds several names separated from one another by a dash, he picks it up and peruses it with great satisfaction.

M and an A, a T and an r, with a short line between them, has sold many insipid pamphlets. I have known a whole edition go off by the sale of two or three well-written &c—s.

A sprinkling of the words 'faction, Frenchman, pirate, plunderer,' and the like significant terms, an Italic character, have also a very good effect on the eye of the purchaser; not to mention 'cribbler, liar, rogue, rascal, knave, and villain,' about which it is impossible to carry on a more agreeable controversy.

Our party-writers are so sensible of the secret virtue of an innuendo to recommend their productions, that of late they never mention the Queen's Pardon at length, though they speak of them with honour, and with that deference which is due to them from every private person. It gives a great satisfaction to a peruser of those mysterious works that he is able to decipher them without help, and, by the strength of his own natural parts,

to fill up a blank space, or make out a word that has only the first or last letter to it.

Some of our authors indeed, when they would be more satirical than ordinary, omit only the vowels of a great man's name, and fall most unmercifully upon all the consonants. This way of writing was first of all introduced by Tom Brown*, of facetious memory, who, after having gutted a proper name of all its intermediate vowels, used to plant it in his works, and make as free with it as he pleased, without any danger of the statute.

That I may imitate these celebrated authors, and publish a paper which shall be more taking than ordinary, I have here drawn up a very curious libel, in which a reader of penetration will find a great deal of concealed satire, and if he be acquainted with the present posture of affairs, will easily discover the meaning of it.

If there are four persons in the nation who endeavour to bring all things into confusion, and ruin their native country, I think every honest Englishman ought to be upon his guard. That there are such every one will agree with me, who hears me name *** with his first friend and favourite ***, not to mention *** nor ***. These people may cry ch—rch, ch—rch, as long as they please; but, to make use of a homely proverb, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." This I am sure of, that if a certain prince should concur with a certain prelate (and we have Monsieur Z——n's word for it), our posterity would be in a sweet pickle. Must the British nation suffer, forsooth, because my Lady Q—p—t—s has been disoblige'd? Or is it reasonable that our English fleet, which used to be the terror of the ocean, should lie wind-bound for the sake of a —? I love to speak out, and declare my mind clearly, when I am talking for the good of my country. I will not make my court to an ill-man, though he were a B——y or a T——i. Nay, I would not stick to call so wretched a politician a traitor, an enemy to his country, and a bl—nd—rb—m, &c. &c.'

The remaining part of this political treatise, which is written after the manner of the most celebrated authors in Great Britain, I may communicate to the public at a more convenient season. In the meanwhile I shall leave this with my curious reader, as some ingenious writers do their enigmas; and, if any sagacious person can fairly unriddle it, I will print his explanation, and, if he pleases, acquaint the world with his name.

I hope this short essay will convince my readers it is not for want of abilities that I avoid state tracts, and that, if I would apply my mind to it, I might in a little time be as great a master of the political scratch as any the most eminent writer of the age. I shall only add, that in order to outshine all this modern race of synopsists, and thoroughly content my English reader, I intend shortly to publish a Spectator that shall not have a single vowel in it.

ADDISON.

* Tom Brown.

* M and an h means *Mariborough*, and a T and an r means *Treasurer*.

N^o 568. FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1714.

— Dum recitas, incipit esse tuus.
MART. Epig. 39. L. 1.

Reciting makes it thine.

I was yesterday in a coffee-house not far from the Royal Exchange, where I observed three persons in close conference over a pipe of tobacco; upon which, having filled one for my own use, I lighted it at the little wax-candle that stood before them; and, after having thrown in two or three whiffs amongst them, sat down and made one of the company. I need not tell my reader that lighting a man's pipe at the same candle is looked upon among brother smokers as an overture to conversation and friendship. As we here laid our heads together in a very amicable manner, being entrenched under a cloud of our own raising, I took up the last Spectator, and casting my eye over it, 'The Spectator,' says I, 'is very witty to-day; upon which a lusty lethargic old gentleman, who sat at the upper end of the table, having gradually blown out of his mouth a great deal of smoke which he had been collecting for some time before, 'Ay,' says he, 'more witty than wise, I am afraid.' His neighbour, who sat at his right hand, immediately coloured, and being an angry politician, laid down his pipe with so much wrath that he broke it in the middle, and by that means furnished me with a tobacco-stopper. I took it up very sedately, and, looking him full in the face, made use of it from time to time all the while he was speaking: 'This fellow,' says he, 'can't for his life keep out of politics. Do you see how he abuses four great men here?' I fixed my eye very attentively on the paper, and asked him if he meant those who were represented by asterisks. 'Asterisks,' says he, 'do you call them? they are all of them stars—he might as well have put garters to them. Then pray do but mind the two or three next lines. Ch-ch and p-dd-ng in the same sentence! Our clergy are very much beholden to him!' Upon this the third gentleman, who was of a mild disposition, and, as I found, a whig in his heart, desired him not to be too severe upon the Spectator neither; 'for,' says he, 'you find he is very cautious of giving offence, and has therefore put two dashes into his pudding. 'A fig for his dash,' says the angry politician; 'in his next sentences he gives a plain innuendo that our posterity will be in a sweet pickle. What does the fool mean by his pickle? Why does he not write it at length, if he means honestly?'—'I have read over the whole sentence,' says I; 'but I look upon the parenthesis in the belly of it to be the most dangerous part, and as full of insinuations as it can hold. But who,' says I, 'is my Lady Q-p-t-a?'—'Ay, answer that if you can, sir,' says the furious statesman to the poor whig that sat over against him. But without giving him time to reply, 'I do assure you,' says he, 'were I my Lady Q-p-t-a, I would sue him for *sandatum magnatum*. What is the world come to? Must every body be allowed to——?' He had by this time filled a new pipe, and applying it to his lips, when we expected the last word of his sentence, put us off with a whiff of tobacco; which he redoubled with so much rage and trepidation that he almost stifled the whole company. After a short pause, I owned that I thought the Spectator had gone too far in the writing so many letters of

my Lady Q-p-t-a's name; 'but however,' says he, 'he has made a little amends for it in his sentence, where he leaves a blank space so much as a consonant to direct us. I mean, after those words, "the fleet that used to be the terror of the ocean, should be wind-bound for the sake of a——," after which ensues a clause, in my opinion looks modest enough.'—'Sir,' says my antagonist, 'you may easily know his design by his gaping; I suppose he designs his pipe, when you call it, for an hole to creep out at, but I believe it will hardly serve his turn. Who is to endure to see the great officers of state, the Duke and T-t's, treated after so scurrilous a manner?'—'I can't for my life,' says I, 'imagine what the Spectator means.'—'No!' says he, 'I am a humble servant, sir!' Upon which he flung himself back in his chair after a contemptuous manner, and smiled upon the old lethargic gentleman with his left hand, who I found was his great acquaintance. The whig however had begun to conceive a great will towards me, and, seeing my pipe out, he generously offered me the use of his box. I declined it with great civility, being obliged to meet a friend about that time in another part of the city.

At my leaving the coffee-house, I could not but bear reflecting with myself upon that great tribe of fools who may be termed the over-writer, and the difficulty of writing any thing in this manner of age, which a weak head may not construe into private satire and personal reflection.

A man who has a good nose at an innuendo smells treason and sedition in the most modest words that can be put together, and never a word of vice or folly stigmatised, but finds out one or two of his acquaintance pointed at by the writer. I remember an empty pragmatical fellow in a country, who, upon reading over *The Whole Duty of Man*, had written the names of several persons in the village at the side of every sin which was mentioned by that excellent author; so that he had converted one of the best books in the world into a libel against the squire, churchwarden, overseer of the poor, and all other the most considerable persons in the parish. This book, with these extraordinary marginal notes, fell accidentally into the hands of one who had never seen it before, upon which there arose a current report that somebody had written a book against the squire of the whole parish. The minister of the place, being at that time a controversy with some of the congregation upon the account of his taxes, was under some suspicion of being the author. A good man set the people right, by showing that the satirical passages might be applied to several others of two or three neighbouring villages; and that the book was written against all sinners in England.

ADDISON.

569. MONDAY, JULY 19, 1714.

*res dicuntur multis urgere culullis
torquere nero, quem perperie laborent,
sit amicitia dignus—*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 434.

se were the kings who never chose a friend
I with full cup, they had unmask'd his soul,
d seen the bottom of his deepest thoughts.
ROSCOMMON.

s are so incurable as those which men are
glory in. One would wonder how drunk-
should have the good luck to be of this
. Anacharsis being invited to a match of
g at Corinth, demanded the prize very hu-
ly, because he was drunk before any of the
the company; 'for,' says he, 'when we
ace, he who arrives at the goal first is en-
to the reward: on the contrary, in this
generation, the honour falls upon him who
off the greatest quantity of liquor, and
down the rest of the company. I was the
ay with honest Will Funnell the West Saxon,
as reckoning up how much liquor had passed
him in the last twenty years of his life,
according to his computation, amounted to
three hogheads of October, four ton of
half a kilderkin of small beer, nineteen bar-
cider, and three glasses of champagne; be-
which he had assisted at four hundred bowls
sch, not to mention sips, drams, and whets
it number. I question not but every reader's
ry will suggest to him several ambitious young
who are as vain in this particular as Will
t, and can boast of as glorious exploits.

modern philosophers observe, that there is a
decay of moisture in the globe of the earth,
hey chiefly ascribe to the growth of vegeta-
which incorporate into their own substance
fluid bodies that never return again to their
nature: but, with submission, they ought to
into their account those innumerable ra-
beings which fetch their nourishment chiefly
f liquids; especially when we consider that
compared with their fellow-creatures, drink
more than comes to their share.

t, however highly this tribe of people may
of themselves, a drunken man is a greater
ter than any that is to be found among all the
ores which God has made; as indeed there is
aracter which appears more despicable and
med, in the eyes of all reasonable persons,
that of a drunkard. Bonus, one of our own
trymen, who was addicted to this vice, having
p for a share in the Roman empire, and being
ated in a great battle, hanged himself. When
as seen by the army in this melancholy situa-
notwithstanding he had behaved himself very
ely, the common jest was, that the thing they
hanging upon the tree before them was not a
t, but a bottle.

his vice has very fatal effects on the mind, the
y, and fortune, of the person who is devoted
t.

n regard to the mind, it first of all discovers
ry flaw in it. The sober man, by the strength
reason, may keep under and subdue every vice
folly to which he is most inclined; but wine
ken every latent seed sprout up in the soul, and
w itself; it gives fury to the passions, and force
those objects which are apt to produce them.
a young fellow complained to an old philo-

sopher that his wife was not handsome, 'Put less
water in your wine,' says the philosopher, 'and
you will quickly make her so.' Wine heightens
indifference into love, love into jealousy, and jea-
lously into madness. It often turns the good-natured
man into an idiot, and the choleric into an assassin.
It gives bitterness to resentment, it makes vanity
insupportable, and displays every little spot of the
soul in its utmost deformity.

Nor does this vice only betray the hidden faults
of a man, and show them in the most odious co-
lours, but often occasions faults to which he is not
naturally subject. There is more of turn than of
truth in a saying of Seneca, that drunkenness does
not produce but discover faults. Common expe-
rience teaches the contrary. Wine throws a man
out of himself, and infuses qualities into the mind
which she is a stranger to in her sober moments.
The person you converse with, after the third bot-
tle, is not the same man who at first sat down at
table with you. Upon this maxim is founded one
of the prettiest sayings I ever met with, which is
ascribed to Publius Syrus, '*Qui ebrium ludificat,
lædit absentem*.' 'He who jests upon a man that is
drunk injures the absent.'

Thus does drunkenness act in a direct contradic-
tion to reason, whose business it is to clear the mind
of every vice which is crept into it, and to guard
it against all the approaches of any that endea-
vours to make its entrance. But besides these ill
effects which this vice produces in the person who
is actually under its dominion, it has also a bad in-
fluence on the mind even in its sober moments, as
it insensibly weakens the understanding, impairs
the memory, and makes those faults habitual which
are produced by frequent excesses.

I should now proceed to show the ill effects which
this vice has on the bodies and fortunes of men;
but these I shall reserve for the subject of some
future paper.

ADDISON.

Nº 570. WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1714.

—*Nugæque canora.*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 392.

Chiming trifles.

ROSCOMMON.

THERE is scarce a man living who is not actuated
by ambition. When this principle meets with an
honest mind and great abilities, it does infinite ser-
vice to the world; on the contrary, when a man
only thinks of distinguishing himself without being
thus qualified for it, he becomes a very pernicious
or a very ridiculous creature. I shall here confine
myself to that petty kind of ambition, by which
some men grow eminent for odd accomplishments
and trivial performances. How many are there
whose whole reputation depends upon a pun or a
quibble? You may often see an artist in the streets
gain a circle of admirers by carrying a long pole
upon his chin or forehead in a perpendicular po-
sure. Ambition has taught some to write with their
feet, and others to walk upon their hands. Some
tumble into fame, and others grow immortal by
throwing themselves through a hoop.

*'Cætera de genere hoc adeo sunt multa, loquacem
Delamare valent Fubium—'*

HOR. Sat. l. i. 1. ver. 18.

'With thousands more of this ambitious race
Would tire e'en Fabius to relate each case.'
HORNECK.

I am led into this train of thought by an adventure I lately met with.

I was the other day at a tavern, where the master of the house* accommodating us himself with every thing we wanted, I accidentally fell into a discourse with him; and talking of a certain great man, who shall be nameless, he told me that he had sometimes the honour to treat him with a whistle; adding (by the way of parenthesis) 'for you must know, gentlemen, that I whistle the best of any man in Europe.' This naturally put me upon desiring him to give us a sample of his art; upon which he called for a case-knife, and, applying the edge of it to his mouth, converted it into a musical instrument, and entertained me with an Italian solo. Upon laying down his knife, he took up a pair of clean tobacco-pipes; and, after having slid the small end of them over the table in a most melodious trill, he fetched a tune out of them, whistling to them at the same time in concert. In short, the tobacco-pipes became musical pipes in the hands of our virtuoso, who confessed to me ingenuously, he had broke such quantities of them, that he had almost broke himself before he had brought this piece of music to any tolerable perfection. I then told him I would bring a company of friends to dine with him next week, as an encouragement to his ingenuity; upon which he thanked me, saying that he would provide himself with a new frying-pan against that day. I replied, that it was no matter; roast and boiled would serve our turn. He smiled at my simplicity, and told me that it was his design to give us a tune upon it. As I was surprised at such a promise, he sent for an old frying-pan, and, grating it upon the board, whistled to it in such a melodious manner, that you could scarcely distinguish it from a bass-viol. He then took his seat with us at the table, and, hearing my friend that was with me hum over a tune to himself, he told him if he would sing out he would accompany his voice with a tobacco-pipe. As my friend has an agreeable bass, he chose rather to sing to the frying-pan, and indeed between them they made up a most extraordinary concert. Finding our landlord so great a proficient in kitchen music, I asked him if he was master of the tongs and key. He told me that he had laid it down some years since as a little unfashionable; but that, if I pleased, he would give me a lesson upon the gridiron. He then informed me that he had added two bars to the gridiron, in order to give it a greater compass of sound; and I perceived was as well pleased with the invention as Sappho could have been upon adding two strings to the lute. To be short, I found that his whole kitchen was furnished with musical instruments; and could not but look upon this artist as a kind of burlesque musician.

He afterwards of his own accord fell into the imitation of several singing birds. My friends and I toasted our mistresses to the nightingale, when all of a sudden we were surprised with the music of the thrush. He next proceeded to the skylark, mounting up by a proper scale of notes, and afterwards falling to the ground with a very regular and easy descent. He then contracted his whistle to the voice of several birds of the smallest size. As he is a man of a larger bulk and higher stature than ordinary, you would fancy him a giant when

you looked upon him, and a tom-tit when you saw your eyes. I must not omit acquainting you that this accomplished person was formerly master of a toyshop near Temple-bar; and the famous Charles Mathers was bred up under him. I am told that the misfortunes which he has met in the world are chiefly owing to his great devotion to his music; and therefore cannot but commend him to my readers as one who deserves favour, and may afford them great diversion. A bottle of wine, which he sells at the garden, near the end of the little piazza in the garden*.

Nº 571. FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1714

Calum quid querimus ultra?

LUC.

What seek we beyond heaven?

As the work I have engaged in will not consist of papers of humour and learning, but of several essays moral and divine, I shall publish following one, which is founded on a former Spectator†, and sent me by a particular friend, questioning but it will please such of my readers as think it no disparagement to their understanding to give way sometimes to a serious thought.

'*First,*

'In your paper of Friday the 9th instant, on an occasion to consider the ubiquity of the Maker, and, at the same time to show, that, as he is present to every thing, he cannot but be attractive to every thing, and privy to all the modes and parts of existence: or, in other words, that his essence and omnipresence are co-existent, and run together through the whole infinitude of space. This consideration might furnish us with many incentives to devotion, and motives to morality; but, as the subject has been handled by several excellent writers, I shall consider it in a light where we have not seen it placed by others.

'First, How disconsolate is the condition of an intellectual being, who is thus present to the Maker, but at the same time receives no extraordinary benefit or advantage from this presence.

'Secondly, How deplorable is the condition of an intellectual being, who feels no other relief from this his presence but such as proceed from divine wrath and indignation!

'Thirdly, How happy is the condition of an intellectual being, who is sensible of his Maker's presence, from the secret effects of his mercy and loving-kindness!

'First, How disconsolate is the condition of an intellectual being, who is thus present to the Maker, but at the same time receives no extraordinary benefit or advantage from this his presence. Every particle of matter is actuated by the Almighty Being which passes through it, and the heavens and the earth, the stars and planets, are and gravitate by virtue of this great principle within them. All the dead parts of our system are invigorated by the presence of their Creator, and made capable of exerting their respective faculties. The several instincts, in the brute creation, do likewise operate and work towards the ends which are agreeable to them by the

* The host's name was Dainty; and, being in the city trained bands, he was usually called Captain Dainty.

* This tavern was much frequented by Spectators. See Nos. 565, 580, 590, and 622.

energy. Man only, who does not co-operate with this Holy Spirit, and is unattentive to his presence, receives none of those advantages from it, which are perfective of his nature, and necessary to his well-being. The Divinity is with him, and in him, and every where about him, but of no advantage to him. It is the same thing to a man without religion, as if there were no God in the world. It is indeed impossible for an infinite Being to remove himself from any of his creatures; but though he cannot withdraw his essence from us, which would argue an imperfection in him, he can withdraw from us all the joys and consolations of it. His presence may perhaps be necessary to support us in our existence; but he may leave this our existence to itself, with regard to its happiness or misery. For in this sense he may cast us away from his presence, and take his Holy Spirit from us. This single consideration one would think sufficient to make us open our hearts to all those infusions of joy and gladness which are so near at hand, and ready to be poured in upon us; especially when we consider, secondly, the deplorable condition of an intellectual being, who feels no other effects from his Maker's presence but such as proceed from divine wrath and indignation.

'We may assure ourselves that the great Author of nature will not always be as one who is indifferent to any of his creatures. Those who will not feel him in his love will be sure at length to feel him in his displeasure. And how dreadful is the condition of that creature, who is only sensible of the being of his Creator by what he suffers from him! He is as essentially present in hell as in heaven; but the inhabitants of the former behold him only in his wrath, and shrink within the flames to conceal themselves from him. It is not in the power of imagination to conceive the fearful effects of Omnipotence incensed.

'But I shall only consider the wretchedness of an intellectual being, who in this life lies under the displeasure of him, that at all times and in all places is intimately united with him. He is able to disquiet the soul, and vex it in all its faculties. He can hinder any of the greatest comforts of life from refreshing us, and give an edge to every one of its slightest calamities. Who then can bear the thought of being an outcast from his presence, that is, from the comforts of it; or of feeling it only in its terrors! How pathetic is that expostulation of Job, when for the trial of his patience he was made to look upon himself in this deplorable condition! "Why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am become a burden to myself?" But, thirdly, how happy is the condition of that intellectual being, who is sensible of his Maker's presence from the secret effects of his mercy and loving-kindness!

'The blessed in heaven behold him face to face, that is, are as sensible of his presence as we are of the presence of any person whom we look upon with our eyes. There is, doubtless, a faculty in spirits by which they apprehend one another as our senses do material objects; and there is no question but our souls, when they are disembodied, or placed in glorified bodies, will by this faculty, in whatever part of space they reside, be always sensible of the Divine Presence. We, who have this veil of flesh standing between us and the world of spirits, must be content to know that the Spirit of God is present with us, by the effects which he produced in us. Our outward senses are too gross to apprehend him; we may, however, taste and see how gracious he is, by his influence upon our

minds, by those virtuous thoughts which he awakens in us, by those secret comforts and refreshments which he conveys into our souls, and by those ravishing joys and inward satisfactions which are perpetually springing up, and diffusing themselves among all the thoughts of good men. He is lodged in our very essence, and is as a soul within the soul to irradiate its understanding, rectify its will, purify its passions, and enliven all the powers of man. How happy therefore is an intellectual being, who by prayer and meditation, by virtue and good works, opens this communication between God and his own soul! Though the whole creation frowns upon him, and all nature looks black about him, he has his light and support within him, that are able to cheer his mind, and bear him up in the midst of all those horrors which encompass him. He knows that his helper is at hand, and is always nearer to him than any thing else can be, which is capable of annoying or terrifying him. In the midst of calumny or contempt he attends to that Being who whispers better things to his soul, and whom he looks upon as his defender, his glory, and the lifter-up of his head. In his deepest solitude and retirement he knows that he is in company with the greatest of beings; and perceives within himself such real sensations of his presence, as are more delightful than any thing that can be met with in the conversation of his creatures. Even in the hour of death he considers the pains of his dissolution to be nothing else but the breaking down of that partition, which stands betwixt his soul and the sight of that Being who is always present with him, and is about to manifest itself to him in fulness of joy.

'If we would be thus happy, and thus sensible of our Maker's presence, from the secret effects of his mercy and goodness, we must keep such a watch over all our thoughts, that in the language of the scripture, his soul may have pleasure in us. We must take care not to grieve his Holy Spirit, and endeavour to make the meditations of our hearts always acceptable in his sight, that he may delight thus to reside and dwell in us. The light of nature could direct Seneca to this doctrine, in a very remarkable passage among his epistles: "*Sacer in est in nobis spiritus bonorum malorumque custos, et observator, et quemadmodum nos illum tractamus, ita et ille nos.*" "There is a holy spirit residing in us, who watches and observes both good and evil men, and will treat us after the same manner that we treat him." But I shall conclude this discourse with those more emphatical words in divine revelation, "If a man love me he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

ADDISON.

Nº 572. MONDAY, JULY 26, 1714.

— *Quod Medicorum est
Promittunt Medici* —

HOR. Ep. l. 1. 2. ver. 115.

Physicians only boast the healing art.

I AM the more pleased with these my papers, since I find they have encouraged several men of learning and wit to become my correspondents. I yesterday received the following essay against quacks, which I shall here communicate to my readers for the good of the public, begging the writer's pardon for those additions and retrenchments which I have made in it.

'THE desire of life is so natural and strong a passion, that I have long since ceased to wonder at the great encouragement which the practice of physic finds among us. Well-constituted governments have always made the profession of a physician both honourable and advantageous. Homer's Machaon and Virgil's Iapetus were men of renown, heroes in war, and made at least as much havoc among their enemies as among their friends. Those who have little or no faith in the abilities of a quack will apply themselves to him, either because he is willing to sell health at a reasonable profit, or because the patient, like a drowning man, catches at every twig, and hopes for relief from the most ignorant, when the most able physicians give him none. Though impudence and many words are as necessary to these itinerary Galens, as a laced-hat or a merry-andrew, yet they would turn very little to the advantage of the owner, if there were not some inward disposition in the sick man to favour the pretensions of the mountebank. Love of life in the one, and of money in the other, creates a good correspondence between them.

'There is scarcely a city in Great Britain but has one of this tribe who takes it into his protection, and on the market-day harangues the good people of the place with aphorisms and receipts. You may depend upon it he comes not there for his own private interest, but out of a particular affection to the town. I remember one of these public-spirited artists at Hammersmith, who told his audience, that he had been born and bred there, and that, having a special regard for the place of his nativity, he was determined to make a present of five shillings to as many as would accept of it. The whole crowd stood agape, and ready to take the doctor at his word; when putting his hand into a long bag, as every one was expecting his crown-piece, he drew out an handful of little packets, each of which he informed the spectators was constantly sold at five shillings and sixpence, but that he would bate the odd five shillings to every inhabitant of that place: the whole assembly immediately closed with this generous offer, and took off all his physic, after the doctor had made them vouch for one another, that there were no foreigners among them, but that they were all Hammersmith men.

'There is another branch of pretenders to this art, who, without either horse or pickle-herring, lie snug in a garret, and send down notice to the world of their extraordinary parts and abilities by printed bills and advertisements. These seem to have derived their custom from an eastern nation which Herodotus speaks of, among whom it was a law that, whenever any cure was performed, both the method of the cure, and an account of the distemper, should be fixed in some public place; but, as customs will corrupt, these our moderns provide themselves of persons to attest the cure before they publish or make an experiment of the prescription. I have heard of a porter, who serves as a knight of the post under one of these operators, and, though he was never sick in his life, has been cured of all the diseases in the Dispensary. These are the men whose sagacity has invented elixirs of all sorts, pills and lozenges, and take it as an affront if you come to them before you are given over by every body else. Their medicines are infallible, and never fail of success, that is, of enriching the doctor, and setting the patient effectually at rest.

'I lately dropt into a coffee-house at Westminster, where I found the room hung round with ornaments of this nature. There were elixirs, tinctures,

the Anodyne Fetus, English pills, electuaries, &c. in short more remedies than I believe there are diseases. At the sight of so many inventions, I could not but imagine myself in a kind of arsenal or magazine where store of arms was deposited against any sudden invasion. Should you be attacked by the enemy sideways, here was an infallible piece of defensive armour to cure the injury: should a distemper beat up your head-quarters, here you might purchase an impenetrable helmet, or, in the language of the artist, a cephalic tincture: if your main body be assaulted, here are various kinds of armour in cases of various occasions. I began to congratulate the present age upon the happiness men might reasonably hope for, when death was thus in a manner defeated; and when pain itself would be of so short a duration, that it would but just serve to enhance the value of pleasure. While I was in these thoughts, I was luckily called to mind a story of an ingenious gentleman of the last age, who lying violently afflicted with the gout, a person came and offered his service to cure him by a method which he assured me was infallible; the servant who received the message carried it up to his master, who inquiring whether the person came on foot or in a chariot, and being informed that he was on foot: "I am," says he, "send the knave about his business: was his method as infallible as he pretends, he would long before now have been in his coach and box." In like manner I concluded that, had all these advertisers arrived to that skill they pretend to, they would have had no need for so many years successively to publish to the world the place of their abode, and the virtues of their medicines. One of these gentlemen indeed pretends to an effectual cure for leanness: what effects it may have upon those who have tried it I cannot tell; but I am credibly informed that the call for it has been so great, that it has effectually cured the doctor himself of that distemper. Could each of them produce so good an instance of the success of his medicines, they might soon persuade the world to an opinion of them.

'I observe that most of the bills agree in one expression, viz. that "with God's blessing" they perform such and such cures; this expression is certainly very proper and emphatical, for that is all they have for it. And if ever a cure is performed on a patient where they are concerned, they can claim no greater share in it than Virgil's Iapetus in the curing of Æneas; he tried his skill, was very assiduous about the wound, and indeed it was the only visible means that relieved the hero; but the poet assures us it was the particular assistance of a deity that speeded the operation. An English reader may see the whole story in Mr. Dryden's translation:

"Propp'd on his lance the pensive hero stood,
And heard and saw, unmov'd, the mourning crowd.
The fam'd physician tucks his robes around,
With ready hands, and hastens to the wound.
With gentle touches he performs his part,
This way and that soliciting the dart,
And exercises all his heavenly art.
All so'thing simples, known of sovereign use,
He presses out, and pours their noble juice;
These first infus'd to lenify the pain.
He tugs with pincers, but he tugs in vain.
Then to the patron of his art he pray'd;
The patron of his art refus'd his aid."

"But now the goddess, mother, mov'd with grief,
And pierc'd with pity, listens her relief.
A branch of healing dittany she brought,
Which in the Cretan fields with care she sought;
Rough is the stem, which woolly leaves surround;
The leaves with down, the flow'rs with purple crown'd."

Tell known to wounded goats; a sure relief
 o draw the pointed steel, and ease the grief.
 his Venus brings, in clouds involv'd; and brews
 h' extracted liquor with ambrosian dews,
 nd o' th'rous panacee; unseen she stands,
 em'ring the mixture with her heavenly hands;
 nd pours it in a bowl already crown'd
 /th juice of medicinal herbs, prepar'd to bathe the wound.
 he leech, unknowing of superior art,
 /hich aids the cure, with this foment the part; }
 nd in a moment ceas'd the raging smart
 anch'd is the blood, and in the bottom stands;
 he steel, but scarcely touch'd with tender hands,
 loves up and follows of its own accord;
 nd health and vigour are at once restor'd.
 apis first perceived the closing wound;
 nd first the footsteps of a god he found:
 Arms, arms!" he cries: "the sword and shield prepare,
 nd send the willing chief, renew'd, to war.
 'his is no mortal work, no cure of mine,
 lor art's effect, but done by hands divine."

. PEANCE (afterwards Bp. of Rochester).

N^o 573. WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1714.

— Castigata remordent.

JUV. Sat. II. ver. 35.

Chastised, the accusation they retort.

Y paper on the club of widows has brought me several letters; and, among the rest, a long one om Mrs. President, as follows:

'SWART SIR,

You are pleased to be very merry, as you imagine, with us widows; and you seem to ground your tire on our receiving consolation so soon after the death of our dears, and the number we are eased to admit for our companions; but you never reflect what husbands we have buried, and how short a sorrow the loss of them was capable of occasioning. For my own part, Mrs. President you call me, my first husband I was married to fourteen by my uncle and guardian (as I afterwards discovered) by way of sale, for the third art of my fortune. This fellow looked upon me as a mere child he might breed up after his own fancy: if he kissed my chambermaid before my face, I was supposed so ignorant, how could I think there was any hurt in it? When he came one roaring drunk at five in the morning, it was the custom of all men that live in the world. I was not to see a penny of money, for, poor thing, how could I manage it? He took a handsome cousin of his into the house (as he said) to be my house-keeper, and to govern my servants; for how should I know how to rule a family? and while she had that money she pleased, which was but reasonable for the trouble she was at for my good, I was not to be so censorious as to dislike familiarity and kindness between near relations. I was too great a coward to contend, but not so ignorant a child as to be thus imposed upon. I resented his contempt as I ought to do, and as most poor passive blinded wives do, till it pleased heaven to take away my tyrant, who left me free possession of my own and, and a large jointure. My youth and money brought me many lovers, and several endeavoured to establish an interest in my heart while my husband was in his last sickness; the honourable Edward Waitfort was one of the first who addressed me, advised to it by a cousin of his that was my intimate friend, and knew to a penny what I was worth. Mr. Waitfort is a very agreeable man, and every body would like him as well as he does himself, if they did not plainly see that his esteem and

love is all taken up, and by such an object as it is impossible to get the better of; I mean himself. He made no doubt of marrying me within four or five months, and began to proceed with such an assured easy air, that piqued my pride, not to banish him; quite contrary, out of pure malice, I heard his first declaration with so much innocent surprise, and blushed so prettily, I perceived it touched his very heart, and he thought me the best-natured silly poor thing on earth. When a man has such a notion of a woman, he loves her better than he thinks he does. I was overjoyed to be thus revenged on him for designing on my fortune; and, finding it was in my power to unake his heart ache, I resolved to complete my conquest, and entertained several other pretenders. The first impression of my undesigning innocence was so strong in his head, he attributed all my followers to the inevitable force of my charms; and, from several blushes and side glances, concluded himself the favourite; and, when I used him like a dog for my diversion, he thought it was all prudence and fear; and pitied the violence I did my own inclinations to comply with my friends, when I married Sir Nicholas Fribble of sixty years of age. You know, sir, the case of Mrs. Medlar. I hope you would not have had me cry out my eyes for such a husband. I shed tears enough for my widowhood a week after my marriage; and when he was put in his grave, reckoning he had been two years dead, and myself a widow of that standing, I married three weeks afterwards John Sturdy, Esq. his next heir. I had indeed some thoughts of taking Mr. Waitfort, but I found he could stay; and besides, he thought it indecent to ask me to marry again till my year was out; so, privately resolving him for my fourth, I took Mr. Sturdy for the present. Would you believe it, sir, Mr. Sturdy was just five-and-twenty, about six foot high, and the stoutest fox-hunter in the country, and I believe I wished ten thousand times for my old Fribble again; he was following his dogs all the day, and all the night keeping them up at table with him and his companions; however, I think myself obliged to them for leading him a chase in which he broke his neck. Mr. Waitfort began his addresses anew; and I verily believe I had married him now, but there was a young officer in the guards that had debauched two or three of my acquaintance, and I could not forbear being a little vain of his courtship. Mr. Waitfort heard of it, and read me such an insolent lecture upon the conduct of women, I married the officer that very day, out of pure spite to him. Half an hour after I was married I received a penitential letter from the honourable Mr. Edward Waitfort, in which he begged pardon for his passion, as proceeding from the violence of his love. I triumphed when I read it, and could not help, out of the pride of my heart, showing it to my new spouse; and we were very merry together upon it. Alas! my mirth lasted a short time; my young husband was very much in debt when I married him, and his first action afterwards was to set up a gilt chariot and six in fine trappings before and behind, I had married so hastily, I had not the prudence to reserve my estate in my own hands; my ready money was lost in two nights at the Groom-porter's; and my diamond necklace, which was stole, I did not know how, I met in the street upon Jenny Wheedle's neck. My plate vanished piece by piece; and I had been reduced to downright pewter, if my officer had not been deliciously killed in a duel, by a fellow that had cheated him of five hundred pounds, and after

wards, at his own request, satisfied him and me too, by running him through the body. Mr. Waitfort was still in love, and told me so again; and, to prevent all fears of ill usage, he desired me to reserve every thing in my own hands: but now my acquaintance began to wish me joy of his constancy, my charms were declining, and I could not resist the delight I took in showing the young firts about town it was yet in my power to give pain to a man of sense; this, and some private hopes he would hang himself, and what a glory would it be for me, and how I should be envied, made me accept of being third wife to my Lord Friday. I proposed, from my rank and his estate, to live in all the joys of pride: but how was I mistaken! he was neither extravagant, nor ill-natured, nor debauched. I suffered however more with him than with all my others. He was splenetic. I was forced to sit whole days hearkening to his imaginary ails; it was impossible to tell what would please him; what he liked when the sun shined made him sick when it rained; he had no distemper, but lived in constant fear of them all; my good genius dictated to me to bring him acquainted with Dr. Gruel; from that day he was always contented, because he had names for all his complaints; the good doctor furnished him with reason for all his pains, and prescriptions for every fancy that troubled him; in hot weather he lived upon juleps, and let blood to prevent fevers; when it grew cloudy he generally apprehended a consumption: to shorten the history of this wretched part of my life, he ruined a good constitution by endeavouring to mend it; and took several medicines, which ended in taking the grand remedy, which cured both him and me of all our uneasinesses. After his death I did not expect to hear any more of Mr. Waitfort. I knew he had renounced me to all his friends, and been very witty upon my choice, which he affected to talk of with great indifference. I gave over thinking of him, being told that he was engaged with a pretty woman and a great fortune; it vexed me a little, but not enough to make me neglect the advice of my cousin Wishwell, that came to see me the day my lord went into the country with Russel; she told me experimentally, nothing put an unfaithful lover and a dear husband so soon out of one's head as a new one; and, at the same time, proposed to me a kinsman of hers. "You understand enough of the world," said she, "to know money is the most valuable consideration; he is very rich, and I am sure cannot live long; he has a cough that must carry him off soon." I knew afterwards she had given the selfsame character of me to him; but however I was so much persuaded by her, I hastened on the match for fear he should die before the time came; he had the same fears, and was so pressing, I married him in a fortnight, resolving to keep it private a fortnight longer. During this fortnight Mr. Waitfort came to make me a visit: he told me he had waited on me sooner, but had that respect for me, he would not interrupt me in the first day of my affliction for my dead lord; that, as soon as he heard I was at liberty to make another choice, he had broke off a match very advantageous for his fortune, just upon the point of conclusion, and was forty times more in love with me than ever. I never received more pleasure in my life than from this declaration: but I composed my face to a grave air, and said the news of his engagement had touched me to the heart, that in a rash jealous fit I had married a man I could never have thought on, if I had not lost all hopes of him.

Good-natured Mr. Waitfort had like to have dropped down dead at hearing this, but went from me with such an air as plainly showed me he laid the blame upon himself, and hated those friends that had advised him to the fatal application; he seemed as much touched by my misfortune as I was, for he had not the least doubt I was passionately in love with him. The truth of the story is, my new husband gave me reason to repine. I had not staid for him; he had married me for money, and I soon found he loved money to distraction; there was nothing he would not do to get it; nothing he would not suffer to preserve it; the smallest expense kept him awake whole nights, and when he paid a bill, it was with as much reluctance, and after as many delays, as a man that costs the loss of a limb. I heard nothing but reproaches for extravagancy whatever I did. I saw very well that he would have starved me, but for large my jointures; and he suffered agonies between the grief of seeing me have so good a stomach, and the fear that, if he made me fast, it might prejudice my health. I did not doubt he would have broke my heart, if I did not break his, which was allowable by the law of self-defence. The way was very easy. I resolved to spend as much money as I could; and, before he was aware of the stroke appeared before him in a two thousand pound diamond necklace; he said nothing, but went quietly to his chamber, and, as it is thought, compassed himself with a dose of opium. I behaved ever so well upon the occasion that to this day I believe he died of an apoplexy. Mr. Waitfort was resolved not to be too late this time, and I heard from him in two days. I am almost out of my wits at the present writing, and very doubtful whether I shall marry him or no. I do not think of a seventh; the ridiculous reason you mention, but out of jealousy, that I think so much constancy should be rewarded, though I may not do it after all probability. I do not believe all the unreasonable manners of mankind can give a pretence why I should have been constant to the memory of any of the deceased, or have spent much time in grieving for insolent, insignificant, negligent, extravagant, violent, or covetous husband; my first insulted me, my second was nothing to me, my third disgusted me, the fourth would have ruined me, the fifth tormented me, and the sixth would have starved me. If the other ladies you name would turn over in their husbands' pictures at length, you would find they have had as little reason as myself to lose their hours in weeping and wailing.

Nº 574. FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1711.

*Non possidentem multa nocuerunt
Recte beatum; rectius occupat
Nonem beati, qui Deorum
Abominabiles suspicant uti,
Duramque callid pauperum peti.*

HOR. OL. II. l. 6. v. 4.

Believe not those that lands possess,
And shining heaps of useless ore,
The only lords of happiness;
But rather those that know
For what kind fates bestow,
And have the art to use the store:
That have the generous skill to bear
The hated weight of poverty.

CREECH.

I WAS once engaged in discourse with a Roman about 'the great secret.' As this kind of secret means those of them who are not professed Christians.

errun with enthusiasm and philosophy, it was very using to hear this religious adept descanting on his tended discovery. He talked of the secret as of spirit which lived within an emerald, and contented every thing that was near it to the highest perfection it is capable of. 'It gives a lustre,' says 'to the sun, and water to the diamond. It irradiates every metal, and enriches lead with all properties of gold. It heightens smoke into fire, flame into light, and light into glory.' He then added, that 'a single ray of it dissipates care, and care, and melancholy, from the person whom it falls. In short,' says he, 'its presence usually changes every place into a kind of heaven.' After he had gone on for some time in this intelligible cant, I found that he jumbled natural and moral ideas together into the same discourse, and that his great secret was nothing else but content.

This virtue does indeed produce, in some measure, all those effects which the alchemist usually ascribes to what he calls the philosopher's stone; but if it does not bring riches, it does the same thing, by banishing the desire of them. If it can remove the disquietudes arising out of a man's mind, body, or fortune, it makes him easy under them. It has indeed a kindly influence on the soul man, in respect of every being to whom he is related. It extinguishes all murmur, repining, and ingratitude, towards that Being who has allotted him his part to act in this world. It destroys all inordinate ambition, and every tendency to corruption with regard to the community wherein he is placed. It gives sweetness to his conversation, and a perpetual serenity to all his thoughts.

Among the many methods which might be made use of for the acquiring of this virtue, I shall only mention the two following. First of all, a man should always consider how much he has more than he wants: and secondly, how much more unhappy might he be than he really is.

First of all, a man should always consider how much more he has than he wants. I am wonderfully pleased with the reply which Aristippus made to one who condoled him upon the loss of a farm: 'Why,' said he, 'I have three farms still, and you have but one; so that I ought rather to be afflicted than you than you for me.' On the contrary, foolish men are more apt to consider what they have lost than what they possess; and to fix their eyes upon those who are richer than themselves, rather than those who are under greater difficulties. All real pleasures and conveniences of life lie in a narrow compass; but it is the humour of mankind to be always looking forward, and straining after what has got the start of them in wealth and power. For this reason, as there are none can be properly called rich who have not more than they want, there are few rich men in any of the politer nations but among the middle sort of people, who keep their wishes within their fortunes, and have more wealth than they know how to enjoy. Persons of a higher rank live in a kind of splendid poverty, and are perpetually wanting, because, instead of acquiescing in the solid pleasures of life, they endeavour to outvie one another in shadows and appearances. Men of sense have at all times held with a great deal of mirth this silly game which is playing over their heads, and, by contracting their desires, enjoy all that secret satisfaction which others are always in quest of. The truth is, the ridiculous chase after imaginary pleasures cannot be sufficiently exposed, as it is the great source

of those evils which generally undo a nation. Let a man's estate be what it will, he is a poor man if he does not live within it, and naturally sets himself to sale to any one that can give him his price. When Pittacus, after the death of his brother, who had left him a good estate, was offered a great sum of money by the King of Lydia, he thanked him for his kindness, but told him he had already more by half than he knew what to do with. In short, content is equivalent to wealth, and luxury to poverty; or, to give the thought a more agreeable turn, 'Content is natural wealth,' says Socrates; to which I shall add, 'Luxury is artificial poverty.' I shall therefore recommend to the consideration of those who are always aiming after superfluous and imaginary enjoyments, and will not be at the trouble of contracting their desires, an excellent saying of Bion the philosopher; namely, that 'no man has so much care as he who endeavours after the most happiness.'

In the second place, every one ought to reflect how much more unhappy he might be than he really is. The former consideration took in all those who are sufficiently provided with the means to make themselves easy; this regards such as actually lie under some pressure or misfortune. These may receive great alleviation from such a comparison as the unhappy person may make between himself and others, or between the misfortune which he suffers, and greater misfortunes which might have befallen him.

I like the story of the honest Dutchman, who, upon breaking his leg by a fall from the mainmast, told the standers-by, it was a great mercy that it was not his neck. To which, since I am got into quotations, give me leave to add the saying of an old philosopher, who, after having invited some of his friends to dine with him, was ruffled by his wife that came into the room in a passion, and threw down the table that stood before them: 'Every one,' says he, 'has his calamity, and he is a happy man that has no greater than this.' We find an instance to the same purpose in the life of Doctor Hammond, written by Bishop Fell. As this good man was troubled with a complication of distempers, when he had the gout upon him he used to thank God that it was not the stone, and when he had the stone, that he had not both these distempers on him at the same time.

I cannot conclude this essay without observing, that there was never any system besides that of Christianity, which could effectually produce in the mind of man the virtue I have been hitherto speaking of. In order to make us content with our present condition, many of the present philosophers tell us that our discontent only hurts ourselves, without being able to make any alteration in our circumstances; others, that whatever evil befalls us is derived to us by a fatal necessity, to which the gods themselves are subject; while others very gravely tell the man who is miserable, that it is necessary he should be so to keep up the harmony of the universe, and that the scheme of Providence would be troubled and perverted were he otherwise. These, and the like considerations, rather silence than satisfy a man. They may show him that his discontent is unreasonable, but are by no means sufficient to relieve it. They rather give despair than consolation. In a word, a man might reply to one of these comforters, as Augustus did to his friend who advised him not to grieve for the death of a person whom he loved, because his grief could not fetch him again: 'It is for that very reason,' said the emperor, 'that I grieve.'

On the contrary, religion bears a more tender regard to human nature. It prescribes to every miserable man the means of bettering his condition; nay, it shows him that the bearing of his afflictions as he ought to do will naturally end in the removal of them: it makes him easy here, because it can make him happy hereafter.

Upon the whole, a contented mind is the greatest blessing a man can enjoy in this world; and if in the present life his happiness arises from the subduing of his desires, it will arise in the next from the gratification of them.

ADDISON.

Nº 575. MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1714.

— *Nec morti esse locum* —
VIRG. Georg. iv. ver. 226.

No room is left for death.

DRYDEN.

A LEWD young fellow seeing an aged hermit go by him barefoot, 'Father,' says he, 'you are in a very miserable condition if there is not another world.'—'True, son,' said the hermit, 'but what is thy condition if there is?' Man is a creature designed for two different states of being, or rather for two different lives. His first life is short and transient; his second permanent and lasting. The question we are all concerned in is this, in which of those two lives it is our chief interest to make ourselves happy? Or, in other words, whether we should endeavour to secure to ourselves the pleasures and gratifications of a life which is uncertain and precarious, and at its utmost length of a very inconsiderable duration; or to secure to ourselves the pleasures of a life which is fixed and settled, and will never end. Every man, upon the first hearing of this question, knows very well which side of it he ought to close with. But however right we are in theory, it is plain that in practice we adhere to the wrong side of the question. We make provisions for this life as though it were never to have an end, and for the other life as though it were never to have a beginning.

Should a spirit of superior rank, who is a stranger to human nature, accidentally light upon the earth, and take a survey of its inhabitants; what would his notions of us be? Would not he think that we are a species of beings made for quite different ends and purposes than what we really are? Must not he imagine that we were placed in this world to get riches and honours? Would not he think that it was our duty to toil after wealth, and station, and title? Nay, would not he believe we were forbidden poverty by threats of eternal punishment, and enjoined to pursue our pleasures under pain of damnation? He would certainly imagine that we were influenced by a scheme of duties quite opposite to those which are indeed prescribed to us. And truly, according to such an imagination, he must conclude that we are a species of the most obedient creatures in the universe; that we are constant to our duty; and that we keep a steady eye on the end for which we were sent hither.

But how great would be his astonishment when he learned that we were beings not designed to exist in this world above threescore and ten years, and that the greatest part of this busy species fall short even of that age! How would he be lost in horror and admiration, when he should know that

this set of creatures, who lay out all their efforts for this life, which scarce deserves the name of existence; when, I say, he should know that this set of creatures are to exist to all eternity, another life, for which they make no preparation! Nothing can be a greater disgrace to reason, than that men, who are persuaded of these two different states of being, should be perpetually employed in providing for a life of threescore and ten years, and neglecting to make provision for that which after many myriads of years will be still new, and still beginning; especially when we consider our endeavours for making ourselves great, or honourable, or whatever else we place our happiness in, may after all prove unsuccessful; whereas, if we constantly and sincerely endeavour to make ourselves happy in the other life, we are that our endeavours will succeed, and that we shall not be disappointed of our hope.

The following question is started by one of the schoolmen. Supposing the whole body of the earth were a great ball or mass of the finest sand, and that a single grain or particle of this sand should be annihilated every thousand years? Suppose then that you had it in your choice to be happy all the while this prodigious mass of sand was consumed by this slow method till there was not a grain of it left, on condition you were to be miserable for ever after? Or, supposing the earth might be happy for ever after on condition you would be miserable till the whole mass of sand were thus annihilated at the rate of one sand-grain a thousand years; which of these two cases would you make your choice?

It must be confessed in this case, so many thousands of years are to the imagination as a bubble of eternity, though in reality they do not bear a great proportion to that duration which we follow them, as an unit does to the greatest number which you can put together in figures, and one of those sands to the supposed heap. But therefore tells us, without any manner of hesitation, which would be the better part in this choice. However, as I have before intimated, our reason might in such a case be so overset by the imagination as to dispose some persons to sink under the consideration of the great length of the first part of this duration, and of the great distance of the second duration which is to succeed it. The question, I say, might give itself up to that happiness which is at hand, considering that it is so very near, and that it would last so very long. But when we consider what choice we actually have before us is this, whether we will choose to be happy for the space of three-score and ten, nay, perhaps of only twenty or ten years, I might say of only a day or a hour, and miserable to all eternity? or, on the contrary, miserable for that short term of years, and happy for a whole eternity: what words are sufficient to express that folly and want of consideration which in such a case makes a wrong choice?

I here put the case even at the worst, by supposing, what seldom happens, that a contrary virtue makes us miserable in this life; but to suppose, as it generally happens, that virtue makes us more happy even in this life than the contrary course of vice, how can we sufficiently admire the stupidity or madness of those persons who are capable of making to absurd a choice?

Every wise man therefore will consider it only as it may conduce to the happiness of the other, and cheerfully sacrifice the pleasures of a few years to those of an eternity.

ADDISON.

Nº 576. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1714.

*Nitor in adversum; nec me, qui cetera, vincit
Impetus; et rapido contrarius æther orbi.*
OVID. Met. l. ii. ver. 72.

I steer against their motions, nor am I
Borne back by all the current of the sky.
ADDISON.

REMEMBER a young man of very lively parts, and a sprightly turn in conversation, who had only a fault, which was an inordinate desire of appearing fashionable. This ran him into many errors, and consequently into many distempers. He never went to bed till two o'clock in the morning, because he would not be a queer fellow; and was very now and then knocked down by a constable, to signalize his vivacity. He was initiated into all a dozen clubs before he was one-and-twenty; and so improved in them his natural gaiety of temper, that you might frequently trace him to his lodging by a range of broken windows, and other like monuments of wit and gallantry. To be sure, after having fully established his reputation being a very agreeable rake, he died of old age five-and-twenty.

There is indeed nothing which betrays a man to so many errors and inconveniences as the desire of not appearing singular; for which reason it is very necessary to form a right idea of singularity, that we may know when it is laudable, and when it is vicious.

In the first place every man of sense will agree with me, that singularity is laudable when, in contradiction to a multitude, it adheres to the dictates of conscience, morality, and honour. In these cases we ought to consider that it is not custom, but duty, which is the rule of action; and that we could be only so far sociable, as we are reasonable creatures. Truth is never the less so for not being attended to: and it is the nature of actions, not the number of actors, by which we ought to regulate our behaviour. Singularity in concerns of this kind is to be looked upon as heroic bravery, which a man leaves the species only as he soars above it. What greater instance can there be of weak and pusillanimous temper than for a man to pass his whole life in opposition to his own sentiments? or not to dare to be what he thinks he ought to be?

Singularity, therefore, is only vicious when it makes men act contrary to reason, or when it puts them upon distinguishing themselves by trifles. As for the first of these, who are singular in any thing that is irreligious, immoral, or dishonourable, I believe every one will easily give them up. I shall therefore speak of those only who are remarkable for their singularity in things of no importance; as in dress, behaviour, conversation, and all the little intercourses of life. In these cases there is a certain deference due to custom; and, notwithstanding there may be a colour of reason to deduce from the multitude in some particulars, a man ought to sacrifice his private inclinations and opinions to the practice of the public. It must be confessed that good sense often makes an humorous; but then it unqualifies him for being of any account in the world, and renders him ridiculous to persons of a much inferior understanding.

I have heard of a gentleman in the north of England, who was a remarkable instance of this foolish singularity. He had lain it down as a rule

within himself, to act in the most indifferent parts of life according to the most abstracted notions of reason and good sense, without any regard to fashion or example. This humour broke out at first in many little oddnesses: he had never any stated hours for his dinner, supper, or sleep; because, said he, we ought to attend the calls of nature, and not set our appetites to our meals, but bring our meals to our appetites. In his conversation with country gentlemen he would not make use of a phrase that was not strictly true: he never told any of them that he was his humble servant, but that he was his well-wisher, and would rather be thought a malcontent than drink the king's health when he was not dry. He would thrust his head out of his chamber window every morning, and, after having gaped for fresh air about half an hour, repeat fifty verses as loud as he could bawl them, for the benefit of his lungs; to which end he generally took them out of Homer; the Greek tongue, especially in that author, being more deep and sonorous, and more conducive to expectoration than any other. He had many other particularities, for which he gave sound and philosophical reasons. As this humour still grew upon him, he chose to wear a turban instead of a periwig; concluding very justly that a bandage of clean linen about his head was much more wholesome, as well as cleanly, than the caul of a wig, which is soiled with frequent perspirations. He afterwards judiciously observed, that the many ligatures in our English dress must naturally check the circulation of the blood; for which reason he made his breeches and his doublet of one continued piece of cloth, after the manner of the Hussars. In short, by following the pure dictates of reason, he at length departed so much from the rest of his countrymen, and indeed from his whole species, that his friends would have clapped him into Bedlam, and have begged his estate; but the judge, being informed that he did no harm, contented himself with issuing out a commission of lunacy against him, and putting his estate into the hands of proper guardians.

The fate of this philosopher puts me in mind of a remark in Monsieur Fontenelle's Dialogues of the Dead. 'The ambitious and the covetous,' says he, 'are madmen to all intents and purposes as much as those who are shut up in dark rooms; but they have the good luck to have numbers on their side; whereas the frenzy of one who is given up for a lunatic is a phrenzy *hors d'œuvre*; that is, in other words, something which is singular in its kind, and does not fall in with the madness of a multitude.'

The subject of this essay was occasioned by a letter which I received not long since, and which, for want of room at present, I shall insert in my next paper.

ADDISON.

N^o 577. FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1714.

— *Hoc tolerabile, si non*
Et furere incipias — JUV. Sat. vi. ver. 613.

This might be borne with, if you did not rave.

THE letter mentioned in my last paper is as follows:

SIR,

You have so lately decried that custom, too much in use amongst most people of making themselves the subjects of their writings and conversation, that I had some difficulty to persuade myself to give you this trouble, till I had considered that though I should speak in the first person, yet I could not be justly charged with vanity, since I shall not add my name; as also, because what I shall write, will not, to say the best, redound to my praise; but is only designed to remove a prejudice conceived against me, as I hope with very little foundation. My short history is this.

I have lived for some years last past altogether in London, till about a month ago an acquaintance of mine, for whom I have done some small services in town, invited me to pass part of the summer with him at his house in the country. I accepted his invitation, and found a very hearty welcome. My friend, an honest plain man, not being qualified to pass away his time without the reliefs of business, has grafted the farmer upon the gentleman, and brought himself to submit even to the servile parts of that employment, such as inspecting his plough, and the like. This necessarily takes up some of his hours every day; and, as I have no relish for such diversions, I used at these times to retire either to my chamber, or a shady walk near the house, and entertain myself with some agreeable author. Now, you must know, Mr. Spectator, that when I read, especially if it be poetry, it is very usual with me, when I meet with any passage or expression which strikes me much, to pronounce it aloud, with that tone of the voice which I think agreeable to the sentiments there expressed; and to this I generally add some motion or action of the body. It was not long before I was observed by some of the family in one of these heroic fits, who thereupon received impressions very much to my disadvantage. This however I did not soon discover, nor should have done probably, had it not been for the following accident. I had one day shut myself up in my chamber, and was very deeply engaged in the second book of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. I walked to and fro with the book in my hand; and, to speak the truth, I fear I made no little noise; when, presently coming to the following lines:

“ ———— On a sudden open fly,
 With impetuous recoil and jarring sound,
 Th' infernal doors, and on their hinges grate
 Harsh thunder, &c.”

I in great transport threw open the door of my chamber, and found the greatest part of the family standing on the outside in a very great consternation. I was in no less confusion, and begged pardon for having disturbed them; addressing myself particularly to comfort one of the children who received an unlucky fall in this action, while he was too intently surveying my meditations, through

the key-hole. To be short, after this adventure easily observed that great part of the family, especially the women and children, looked upon me with some apprehensions of fear; and my friend himself, though he still continues his civilities to me, did not seem altogether easy: I took notice that the butler was never after this accident, ordered to leave the bottle upon the table at dinner. Add to this, that I frequently overheard the servants mention me by the name of “a crazed gentleman, the gentleman a little too, the mad Londoner, and the like. This made me think it high time for me to shift my quarters, and I resolved to do the first handsome opportunity and was confirmed in this resolution by a very lady in the neighbourhood who frequently visited us, and who one day, after having heard all the fine things I was able to say, was pleased with a scornful smile to bid me “go to sleep.”

The first minute I got to my lodgings it was I set pen to paper to desire your opinion, while upon the evidence before you, I am mad or no. I can bring certificates that I behave myself soberly before company, and I hope there is at least some merit in withdrawing to be mad. Look, sir, I am contented to be esteemed a little more, as the phrase is, but should be sorry to be more than my neighbours; therefore, pray let me be so much in my senses as you can afford. I know I could bring yourself as an instance of a man who has confessed talking to himself; but your particular case and cannot justify me, who will not keep silence any part of my life. What should own myself in love? You know I have always allowed the comfort of soliloquy. — But I will say no more upon this subject, because I have long since observed the ready way to be thought mad is to contend that you are not mad. — We generally conclude that man drunk who talks pains to be thought sober. I will therefore leave myself to your determination; but am the more desirous to be thought in my senses, that it may do no discredit to you when I assure you that I have always been very much

“Your admirer.

“P. S. If I must be mad, I desire the young ladies may believe it is for her.”

“The humble Petition of John a Nokes and J. a Styles,

“Showeth,

“THAT your petitioners have had causes depending in Westminster-hall above five hundred years, so that we despair of ever seeing them brought to issue; that your petitioners have not been involved in these lawsuits out of any litigious temper of their own, but by the instigation of contentious persons that the young lawyers in our Inns of court are continually setting us together by the ears, and that they do us no hurt, because they plead for us without a fee; that many of the gentlemen of the law have no other clients in the world besides us; that when they have nothing else to do they make us plaintiffs and defendants, though they are never retained by any of us; that they neither condemn, or acquit us, without any manner of regard to our reputations and good names in the world. Your petitioners therefore, being encouraged by the favourable reception that you lately gave to our kinsman Blank, do humbly pray that you will put an end to the controversies which have been so long depending between your said petitioners, and that our enemy may be

ndure from generation to generation; it being
ur resolution to live hereafter as it becometh men
if peaceable dispositions.

'And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall
ver pray, &c.' * * *

N^o 578. MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1714.

— *Eque stris humana in corpora transit,*
Inque jeras noster —

OVID. Met. l. xv. ver. 167.

— Th' unbodied spirit flies
And lodges where it lights in man or beast.
DRYDEN.

HERE has been very great reason, on several ac-
counts, for the learned world to endeavour at set-
ting what it was that might be said to compose
personal identity.

Mr. Locke, after having premised that the word
person properly signifies a thinking intelligent be-
ing that has reason and reflection, and can consider
itself as itself, concludes, that it is consciousness
alone, and not an identity of substance, which
takes this personal identity of sameness. 'Had I
be same consciousness,' says that author, 'that I
aw the ark and Noah's flood, as that I saw an
verflowing of the Thames last winter; or as that
now write; I could no more doubt that I who
rite this now, that saw the Thames overflow last
winter, and that viewed the flood at the general
cluge, was the same self, place that self in what
stance you please, than that I who write this
n the same myself now while I write, whether I
onist of all the same substance, material or im-
aterial, or no, that I was yesterday; for as to
his point of being the same self, it matters not
whether this present self be made up of the same
r other substances.'

I was mightily pleased with a story in some me-
re applicable to this piece of philosophy, which
read the other day in the Persian Tales, as they
re lately very well translated by Mr. Phillips; and
with an abridgment whereof I shall here present
y readers.

I shall only premise that these stories are writ-
ter the eastern manner, but somewhat more cor-
rect.

'Fadlallah, a prince of great virtue, succeeded
is father Bin Ortoc, in the kingdom of Mousel.
le reigned over his faithful subjects for some time,
nd lived in great happiness with his beautiful
onsort Queen Zemroude, when there appeared at
is court a young dervis of so lively and entertain-
ing a turn of wit, as won upon the affections of
very one he conversed with. His reputation grew
o fast every day, that it at last raised a curiosity
the prince himself to see and talk with him. He
id so; and, far from finding that common fave
at flattered him, he was soon convinced that every-
ing he had heard of him fell short of the truth.

'Fadlallah immediately lost all manner of relish
or the conversation of other men; and, as he was
very day more and more satisfied of the abilities
f this stranger, offered him the first posts in his
ingdom. The young dervis, after having thanked
m with a very singular modesty, desired to be
reused, as having made a vow never to accept of
ay employment, and preferring a free and inde-
endent state of life to all other conditions.

'The king was infinitely charmed with so great
an example of moderation; and though he could

not get him to engage in a life of business, made
him however his chief companion and first fa-
vourite.

'As they were one day hunting together, and
happened to be separated from the rest of the
company, the dervis entertained Fadlallah with an
account of his travels and adventures. After hav-
ing related to him several curiosities which he had
seen in the Indies, "It was in this place," says he,
"that I contracted an acquaintance with an old
brachman, who was skilled in the most hidden
powers of nature: he died within my arms, and
with his parting breath communicated to me one of
the most valuable of his secrets, on condition I
should never reveal it to any man." The king im-
mediately, reflecting on his young favourite's hav-
ing refused the late offers of greatness he had made
him, told him he presumed it was the power of
making gold. "No, sir," says the dervis, "it is
somewhat more wonderful than that; it is the power
of reanimating a dead body, by flinging my own
soul into it."

'While he was yet speaking, a doe came bound-
ing by them, and the king, who had his bow ready,
shot her through the heart; telling the dervis, that
a fair opportunity now offered for him to show his
art. The young man immediately left his own
body breathless on the ground, while at the same
instant that of the doe was reanimated. She
came to the king, fawned upon him, and, after
having played several wanton tricks, fell again
upon the grass; at the same instant the body of
the dervis recovered its life. The king was infi-
nitely pleased at so uncommon an operation, and
conjured his friend by every thing that was sacred
to communicate it to him. The dervis at first made
some scruple of violating his promise to the dying
brachman; but told him at last that he found he could
conceal nothing from so excellent a prince; after
having obliged him therefore by an oath to secrecy,
he taught him to repeat two cabalistic words, in
pronouncing of which the whole secret consisted.
The king, impatient to try the experiment, imme-
diately repeated them as he had been taught, and
in an instant found himself in the body of the doe.
He had but a little time to contemplate himself in
this new being; for the treacherous dervis, shooting
his own soul into the royal corpse, and bending the
prince's own bow against him, had laid him dead
on the spot, had not the king, who perceived his
intent, fled swiftly to the woods.

'The dervis, now triumphant in his villany, re-
turned to Mousel, and filled the throne and bed of
the unhappy Fadlallah.

'The first thing he took care of, in order to se-
cure himself in the possession of his new-acquired
kingdom, was to issue out a proclamation, ordering
his subjects to destroy all the deer in the realm.
The king had perished among the rest, had he not
avoided his pursuers by reanimating the body of a
nightingale which he saw lie dead at the foot of a
tree. In this new shape he winged his way in
safety to the palace: where, perching on a tree
which stood near the queen's apartment, he filled
the whole place with so many melodious and me-
lancholy notes as drew her to the window. He
had the mortification to see that, instead of being
pitied, he only moved the mirth of his princess,
and of a young female slave who was with her.
He continued however to serenade her every morn-
ing, till at last the queen, charmed with his har-
mony, sent for the bird-catchers, and ordered them
to employ their utmost skill to put that little crea-
ture in her possession. The king, pleased with an

opportunity of being once more near his beloved consort, easily suffered himself to be taken; and when he was presented to her, though he showed a fearfulness to be touched by any of the other ladies, flew of his own accord, and hid himself in the queen's bosom. Zemroude was highly pleased at the unexpected fondness of her new favourite, and ordered him to be kept in an open cage in her own apartment. He had there an opportunity of making his court to her every morning, by a thousand little actions, which his shape allowed him. The queen passed away whole hours every day in hearing and playing with him. Fadhallah could even have thought himself happy in this state of life, had he not frequently endured the inexpressible torment of seeing the dervis enter the apartment and caress his queen even in his presence.

'The usurper, amidst his toying with the princess, would often endeavour to ingratiate himself with her nightingale; and while the enraged Fadhallah pecked at him with his bill, beat his wings, and showed all the marks of an impotent rage, it only afforded his rival and the queen new matter for their diversion.

'Zemroude was likewise fond of a little lap-dog, which she kept in her apartment, and which one night happened to die.

'The king immediately found himself inclined to quit the shape of the nightingale, and enliven this new body. He did so, and the next morning Zemroude saw her favourite bird lie dead in the cage. It is impossible to express her grief on this occasion; and when she called to mind all its little actions, which even appeared to have somewhat in them like reason, she was inconsolable for her loss.

'Her women immediately sent for the dervis to come and comfort her; who, after having in vain represented to her the weakness of being grieved at such an accident, touched at last by her repeated complaints, "Well, madam," says he, "I will exert the utmost of my art to please you. Your nightingale shall again revive every morning, and serenade you as before." The queen beheld him with a look which easily showed she did not believe him; when, laying himself down in a sofa, he shot his soul into the nightingale, and Zemroude was amazed to see her bird revive.

'The king, who was a spectator of all that passed, lying under the shape of a lap-dog in one corner of the room, immediately recovered his own body, and, running to the cage with the utmost indignation, twisted off the neck of the false nightingale.

'Zemroude was more than ever amazed and concerned at this second accident, until the king entreating her to hear him, related to her his whole adventure.

'The body of the dervis which was found dead in the wood, and his edict for killing all the deer, left her no room to doubt of the truth of it; but the story adds, that out of an extreme delicacy, peculiar to the oriental ladies, she was so highly afflicted at the innocent adultery in which she had for some time lived with the dervis, that no arguments, even from Fadhallah himself, could compose her mind. She shortly after died with grief, begging his pardon with her last breath for what the most rigid justice could not have interpreted as a crime.

'The king was so afflicted with her death, that he left his kingdom to one of his nearest relations, and passed the rest of his days in solitude and retirement.'

Nº 579. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1790

— *Odora canum &c.*

VIRG. *Æn.* iv. *vers.*

Sagacious bounds.

IN the reign of King Charles the First the company of Stationers, into whose hands the printing of the Bible is committed by patent, made a very remarkable *erratum*, or blunder, in one of their editions; for, instead of 'Thou shalt not commit adultery' they printed off several thousands of copies with 'Thou shalt commit adultery.' Archbishop Laud to punish their negligence, laid a considerable fine upon that company in the star-chamber.

By the practice of the world, which prevails in this degenerate age, I am afraid that very many young profligates of both sexes are possessed of a spurious edition of the Bible, and observe no commandment according to that faulty reading.

Adulterers in the first ages of the church were excommunicated for ever, and unqualified all their lives from bearing a part in Christian assemblies; notwithstanding they might seek it with tears, and all the appearances of the most unfeigned repentance.

I might here mention some ancient laws among the heathens, which punished this crime with death; and others of the same kind, which are now in force among several governments that have embraced the reformed religion. But, because a subject of this nature may be too serious for my ordinary readers, who are very apt to throw by my paper when they are not enlivened with something that is diverting or uncommon, I shall here publish the contents of a little manuscript lately fallen into my hands, and which pretends to great antiquity; though, by reason of some modern phrases and particulars in it, I can by no means allow it to be genuine, but rather the production of a modern enthusiast.

It is well known by the learned, that there was a temple upon mount *Ætna* dedicated to *Vulcan*, which was guarded by dogs of so exquisite a breed, say the historians, that they could discern whether the persons who came thither were chaste or otherwise. They used to meet and fawn upon such as were chaste, caressing them as the friends of their master *Vulcan*; but flew at those who were polluted, and never ceased barking at them till they had driven them from the temple.

My manuscript gives the following account of these dogs, and was probably designed as a comment upon this story.

'These dogs were given to *Vulcan* by his wife *Diana*, the goddess of hunting and of chastity, having bred them out of some of her hounds, in which she had observed this natural instinct and sagacity. It was thought she did it in spite to *Vulcan*, who, upon her return home, always found her husband in a good or bad humour, according to the reception which she met with from his dogs. They lived in the temple several years, but were such misapprehenders that they frightened away most of the visitors. The women of Sicily made a solemn deposition to the priest, by which they acquainted him, that they would not come up to the temple with their annual offerings unless he muzzled his mastiffs; and at last compromised the matter with him, that no offering should always be brought by a chaste young girl, who were none of them above seven years old. It was wonderful, says the author, to

ow different the treatment was which the dogs to these little misses, from that which they shown to their mothers. It is said that the of Syracuse, having married a young lady, being naturally of a jealous temper, made an interest with the priests of this temple, that procured a whelp from them of this famous d. The young puppy was very troublesome to air lady at first, insomuch that she solicited her and to send him away; but the good man cut short with the old Sicilian proverb, "Love me, my dog." From which time she lived very peaceably with both of them. The ladies of Syracuse were very much annoyed with him, and several of very good reputation refused to come to it till he was discarded. There were indeed some of them that defied his sagacity; but it was proved, though he did not actually bite them, he would growl at them most confoundedly. To relate to the dogs of the temple; after they had lived in great repute for several years, it so happened, that as one of the priests, who had been giving a charitable visit to a widow who lived on promontory of Lilybeum, returned home pretty late in the evening, the dogs flew at him with such fury, that they would have worried him if his brethren had not come in to his assistance; upon which, says my author, the dogs were all of them tamed, as having lost their original instinct.

I cannot conclude this paper without wishing that we had some of this breed of dogs in Great Britain, which would certainly do justice, I should think, to the ladies of our country, and show the world the difference between pagan women and those who are instructed in sounder principles of virtue and religion.

ADDISON.

N^o 580. FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1714.

— *Si verbo audacia detur,
Non metuum magni dixisse patina cæli.*
OVID. Met. l. i. ver. 175.

This place, the brightest mansion of the sky,
I'll call the palace of the Deity.
DRYDEN.

SIR,
I CONSIDERED in my two last letters * that awful and tremendous subject, the ubiquity or omnipresence of the Divine Being. I have shown that he is equally present in all places throughout the whole extent of infinite space. This doctrine is so agreeable to reason, that we meet with it in the writings of the enlightened heathens, as I might show at large, were it not already done by other hands. But though the Deity be thus essentially present throughout all the immensity of space, there is one part of it in which he discovers himself in a most transcendent and visible glory; this is that place which is marked out in scripture under the different appellations of "paradise, the third heaven, the throne of God, and the habitation of his glory." It is here where the glorified body of our Saviour resides, and where all the celestial hierarchies, and the innumerable hosts of angels, are represented as perpetually surrounding the seat of God with hal-lujahs and hymns of praise. This is that presence of God which some of the divines call his glorious, and others his majestic presence. He is indeed as essentially present in all other places as in this;

but it is here where he resides in a sensible magnificence, and in the midst of all those splendours which can affect the imagination of created beings.

It is very remarkable that this opinion of God Almighty's presence in heaven, whether discovered by the light of nature, or by a general tradition from our first parents, prevails among all the nations of the world, whatsoever different notions they entertain of the Godhead. If you look into Homer, the most ancient of the Greek writers, you see the supreme power seated in the heavens, and encompassed with inferior deities, among whom the Muses are represented as singing incessantly about his throne. Who does not here see the main strokes and outlines of this great truth we are speaking of? The same doctrine is shadowed out in many other heathen authors, though at the same time, like several other revealed truths, dashed and adulterated with a mixture of fables and human inventions. But to pass over the notions of the Greeks and Romans, those more enlightened parts of the pagan world, we find there is scarce a people among the late-discovered nations who are not trained up in an opinion that heaven is the habitation of the divinity whom they worship.

As in Solomon's temple there was the *Sanctum Sanctorum*, in which a visible glory appeared among the figures of the cherubims, and into which none but the high-priest himself was permitted to enter, after having made an atonement for the sins of the people; so if we consider the whole creation as one great temple, there is in it this Holy of Holies, into which the High-priest of our salvation entered, and took his place among angels and arch-angels, after having made a propitiation for the sins of mankind.

With how much skill must the throne of God be erected! with what glorious designs is that habitation beautified, which is contrived and built by him who inspired Hiram with wisdom! how great must be the majesty of that place, where the whole art of creation has been employed, and where God has chosen to show himself in the most magnificent manner; what must be the architecture of infinite power under the direction of infinite wisdom? A spirit cannot but be transported after an ineffable manner with the sight of those objects, which were made to affect him by that Being who knows the inward frame of a soul, and how to please and ravish it in all its most secret powers and faculties. It is to this majestic presence of God we may apply those beautiful expressions in holy writ: "Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea the stars are not pure in his sight." The light of the sun, and all the glories of the world in which we live, are but as weak and sickly glimmerings, or rather darkness itself, in comparison of those splendours which encompass the throne of God.

As the glory of this place is transcendent beyond imagination, so probably is the extent of it. There is light behind light, and glory within glory. How far that space may reach, in which God thus appears in perfect majesty, we cannot possibly conceive. Though it is not infinite, it may be indefinite: and, though not immeasurable in itself, it may be so with regard to any created eye or imagination. If he has made these lower regions of matter so inconceivably wide and magnificent for the habitation of mortal and perishable beings, how great may we suppose the courts of his house to be, where he makes his residence in a more especial manner, and displays himself in the fulness of his glory, among an innumerable

* See also Nos. 565, 571, 590, and 626.

company of angels and spirits of just men made perfect?

'This is certain, that our imaginations cannot be raised too high when we think on a place where omnipotence and omniscience have so signally exerted themselves, because that they are able to produce a scene infinitely more great and glorious than what we are able to imagine. It is not impossible but at the consummation of all things these outward apartments of nature, which are now suited to those beings who inhabit them, may be taken in and added to that glorious place of which I am here speaking, and by that means made a proper habitation for beings who are exempt from mortality, and cleared of their imperfections: for so the scripture seems to intimate when it speaks of "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

'I have only considered this glorious place with regard to the sight and imagination, though it is highly probable that our other senses may here likewise enjoy their highest gratifications. There is nothing which more ravishes and transports the soul than harmony; and we have great reason to believe, from the descriptions of this place in holy scripture, that this is one of the entertainments of it. And if the soul of man can be so wonderfully affected with those strains of music which human art is capable of producing, how much more will it be raised and elevated by those in which is exerted the whole power of harmony! The senses are faculties of the human soul, though they cannot be employed, during this our vital union, without proper instruments in the body. Why therefore should we exclude the satisfaction of these faculties, which we find by experience are inlets of great pleasure to the soul, from among those entertainments which are to make up our happiness hereafter? Why should we suppose that our hearing and seeing will not be gratified with those objects which are most agreeable to them, and which they cannot meet with in these lower regions of nature; "objects, which neither eye hath seen, nor ear heard, nor can it enter into the heart of man to conceive?"—"I knew a man in Christ (says St. Paul, speaking of himself) above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth), such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man (whether in the body or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth) how that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not possible for a man to utter." By this is meant that what he heard was so infinitely different from any thing which he had heard in this world, that it was impossible to express it in such words as might convey a notion of it to his hearers.

'It is very natural for us to take delight in inquiries concerning any foreign country, where we are some time or other to make our abode; and as we all hope to be admitted into this glorious place, it is both a laudable and useful curiosity, to get what information we can of it, whilst we make use of revelation for our guide. When these everlasting doors shall be open to us, we may be sure that the pleasures and beauties of this place will infinitely transcend our present hopes and expectations, and that the glorious appearance of the throne of God will rise infinitely beyond whatever we are able to conceive of it. We might here entertain ourselves with many other speculations on this subject, from those several hints which we find of it in the holy scriptures; as, whether there may not

be different mansions and apartments of glory to beings of different natures; whether, as they excel one another in perfection, they are not admitted nearer to the throne of the Almighty; and joy greater manifestations of his presence; whether there are not solemn times and occasions, when the multitude of heaven celebrate the greatness of their Maker in more extraordinary forms of praise and adoration; as Adam, though he had fallen in a state of innocence, would, in the eyes of our divines, have kept holy the sabbath-day in more particular manner than any other of them. These, and the like speculation, we may innocently indulge, so long as we make use of it to inspire us with a desire of becoming inhabitants of this delightful place.

'I have in this, and in two foregoing letters treated on the most serious subject that can enter the mind of man, the omnipresence of the Divine Being, which, if possible, should never drop from our meditations. We have considered the Divine Being, as he inhabits infinitely, as he dwells among his works, as he is present to the mind of man, and as he discovers himself in a glorious manner among the regions of the sky. Such a consideration should be kept awake in all times, and in all places, and possess our souls with a perpetual awe and reverence. It should be interwoven with all our thoughts and perceptions, and become one with the consciousness of our own being. It is not to be reflected on with coldness of philosophy, but ought to sink us in the lowest prostration before him, who is so astonishingly great, wonderful, and holy.'

ADDISON.

Nº 581. MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1714

*Sunt bona, sunt quædam mediocria, sunt mala plura
Quæ leguntur*

MART. Ep. 17. 11

Some good, some bad, some neither one nor t'other.

I AM at present sitting with a heap of letters before me, which I have received under the character of Spectator. I have complaints from lovers of schemes from projectors, scandal from ladies, congratulations, compliments, and advice, in abundance.

I have not been thus long an author, to be sensible of the natural fondness every person has for their own productions; and I begin to think I have treated my correspondents a little uncivilly in stringing them all together on a pile, and letting them lie so long unregarded. I am therefore, for the future, think myself obliged to take some notice of such letters as I receive, and may possibly do it at the end of each month.

In the meantime, I intend my present paper to be a short answer to most of those which have been already sent me.

The public, however, is not to expect I shall let them into all my secrets; and, though I appear abstruse to most people, it is sufficient understood by my particular correspondents.

My well-wisher Van Nath is very arch, but quite enough so to appear in print.

Philadelphus will, in a little time, see his fully answered by a treatise which is now in press.

was very improper at that time to comply with

is Kitty must excuse me.

A gentleman who sent me a copy of verses on mistress's dancing is, I believe, too thoroughly to compose correctly.

have too great a respect for both the universality praise one at the expense of the other.

Mr Nimble is a very honest fellow, and I desire to present my humble service to his cousin Bumper.

am obliged for the letter upon prejudice.

may in due time animadvert on the case of Grumble.

the petition of P. S. granted.

at of Sarah Loveit refused.

the papers of A. S. are returned.

thank Aristippus for his kind invitation.

my friend at Woodstock is a bold man, to undertake for all within ten miles of him.

am afraid the entertainment of Tom Turn-over hardly relished by the good cities of London and Westminster.

must consider further of it, before I indulge P. in those freedoms he takes with the ladies' lings.

am obliged to the ingenious gentleman who gave me an ode on the subject of the late Spectator and shall take particular notice of his last letter.

When the lady who wrote me a letter, dated the 20th, in relation to some passages in a letter, will be more particular in her directions, I will be so in my answer.

The poor gentleman, who fancies my writings and reclaim an husband who can abuse such a character as he describes, has, I am afraid, too great an opinion of my skill.

Philanthropos is, I dare say, a very well-meaning man, but a little too prolix in his compositions. Constantius himself must be the best judge in the world he mentions.

The letter dated from Lincoln is received.

Arethusa and her friend may hear further from

Celia is a little too hasty.

Harriet is a good girl, but must not courtesy to a man she does not know.

I must ingenuously confess my friend Samson's staff has quite puzzled me, and writ me a longer letter which I cannot comprehend one word of. Collidan must also explain what he means by his trifling.

I think it beneath my spectatorial dignity to concern myself in the affair of the boiled dumplings.

I shall consult some literati on the project sent me for the discovery of the longitude.

I know not how to conclude this paper better, than by inserting a couple of letters which are really genuine, and which I look upon to be two of the smartest pieces I have received from my correspondents of either sex.

'BROTHER SPEC,

WHILE you are surveying every object that falls in your way, I am wholly taken up with one. Had that sage, who demanded what beauty was, lived to see the dear angel I love, he would not have asked such a question. Had another seen her, he would himself have loved the person in whom heaven has made virtue visible; and, were you yourself to be in her company, you could never, with all your loquacity, say enough of her good-

humour and sense. I send you the outlines of a picture, which I can no more finish than I can sufficiently admire the dear original.

'I am

'Your most affectionate brother,
'CONSTANTIO SPEC.'

'GOOD MR. PERT,

'I WILL allow you nothing till you resolve me the following question. Pray what is the reason that, while you only talk now upon Wednesdays, Fridays, and Mondays, you pretend to be a greater talker than when you spoke every day, as you formerly used to do? If this be your plunging out of your taciturnity, pray let the length of your speeches compensate for the scarceness of them.

'I am, good Mr. Pert,

'Your admirer,

'If you will be long enough for me,
'AMANDA LOVELENGTH.'

Nº 582. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1714.

— *Tenet inamabile multos
Scribendi cacoethes* —

JUV. Sat. vii. ver. 51.

The curse of writing is an endless itch.

CH. DRYDEN.

THERE is a certain distemper which is mentioned neither by Galen nor Hippocrates, nor to be met with in the London Dispensatory. Juvenal, in the motto of my paper, terms it a Cacoethes; which is a hard word for a disease called in plain English 'The itch of writing.' This cacoethes is as epidemic as the small-pox, there being very few who are not seized with it some time or other in their lives. There is however this difference in these two distempers, that the first, after having indisposed you for a time, never returns again; whereas this I am speaking of, when it is once got into the blood, seldom comes out of it. The British nation is very much afflicted with this malady; and, though very many remedies have been applied to persons infected with it, few of them have ever proved successful. Some have been cauterized with satires and lampoons, but have received little or no benefit from them; others have had their heads fastened for an hour together between the cleft board*, which is made use of as a cure for the disease when it appears in its greatest malignity. There is indeed one kind of this malady which has been sometimes removed, like the biting of a tarantula, with the sound of a musical instrument, which is commonly known by the name of a cat-call. But if you have a patient of this kind under your care, you may assure yourself there is no other way of recovering him effectually, but by forbidding him the use of pen, ink, and paper.

But, to drop the allegory before I have tired it out, there is no species of scribblers more offensive, and more incurable, than your periodical writers, whose works return upon the public on certain days and at stated times. We have not the consolation in the perusal of these authors which we find at the reading of all others, namely, that we are sure if we have but patience we may come to the end of their labours. I have often admired an humorous saying of Diogenes, who, reading a dull author to several of his friends, when every one began to be

* That is, put in the pillory.

tired, finding he was almost come to a blank leaf at the end of it, cried, 'Courage, lads, I see land.' On the contrary, our progress through that kind of writers I am now speaking of is never at an end. One day makes work for another—we do not know when to promise ourselves rest.

It is a melancholy thing to consider that the art of printing, which might be the greatest blessing to mankind, should prove detrimental to us, and that it should be made use of to scatter prejudice and ignorance through a people, instead of conveying to them truth and knowledge.

I was lately reading a very whimsical treatise, entitled William Ramsay's Vindication of Astrology. This profound author, among many mystical passages, has the following one: 'The absence of the sun is not the cause of night, forasmuch as his light is so great that it may illuminate the earth all over at once as clear as broad day; but there are tenebrious and dark stars, by whose influence night is brought on, and which do ray out darkness and obscurity upon the earth as the sun does light.'

I consider writers in the same view this sage astrologer does the heavenly bodies. Some of them are stars that scatter light as others do darkness. I could mention several authors who are tenebrious stars of the first magnitude, and point out a knot of gentlemen who have been dull in concert, and may be looked upon as a dark constellation. The nation has been a great while benighted with several of these antiluminaries. I suffered them to ray out their darkness as long as I was able to endure it, till at length I came to a resolution of rising upon them, and hope in a little time to drive them quite out of the British hemisphere.

ADDISON.

Nº 583. FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1714.

*Ipse thymum pinoque ferens de montibus altis,
Iacta erat late circum, cui talis cura:
Ipse labore manum duro terat; ipse seraces
Fugat humo plantas, et amicos irriget imbres.*

VIRG. Georg. liv. ver. 112.

With his own hand, the guardian of the bees
For slips of pines may search the mountain trees;
And with wild thyme and savvy plant the plain,
Till his hard horny fingers ache with pain;
And deck with fruitful trees the fields around,
And with refreshing waters drench the ground.
DRYDEN.

Every station of life has duties which are proper to it. Those who are determined by choice to any particular kind of business are indeed more happy than those who are determined by necessity; but both are under an equal obligation of fixing on employments, which may be either useful to themselves or beneficial to others: no one of the sons of Adam ought to think himself exempt from that labour and industry which were denounced to our first parent, and in him to all his posterity. Those, to whom birth or fortune may seem to make such an application unnecessary, ought to find out some calling or profession for themselves, that they may not lie as a burden on the species, and be the only useless parts of the creation.

Many of our country gentlemen in their busy hours apply themselves wholly to the chase, or to some other diversion which they find in the fields and woods. This gave occasion to one of our most eminent English writers to represent every one of them as lying under a kind of curse pronounced

to them in the words of Goliath, 'I will give thee to the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of a field.'

Though exercises of this kind, when taken with moderation, may have a good influence on the mind and body, the country affords no other amusements of a more noble kind.

Among these I know none more delightful to self, and beneficial to the public, than that of planting. I could mention a nobleman whose fortune has placed him in several parts of Britain and who has always left these visible marks behind him, which show he has been there: he never left a house in his life, without leaving all about it seeds of wealth, and bestowing legacies on a posterity of the owner. Had all the gentlemen in England made the same improvements upon their estates, our whole country would have been at this time as one great garden. Nor ought such employment to be looked upon as too inglorious for men of the highest rank. There have been heroes in this art, as well as in others. We are told a particular of Cyrus the Great, that he planted the Lesser Asia. There is indeed something more magnificent in this kind of amusement: it gives a nobler air to several parts of nature; it fills the earth with a variety of beautiful scenes, and is something in it like creation. For this reason a pleasure of one who plants is something like that of a poet, who, as Aristotle observes, is more delighted with his productions than any other craftsman or artist whatsoever.

Plantations have one advantage in them which is not to be found in most other works, as they give pleasure of a more lasting date, and continue to improve in the eye of the planter. When we have finished a building, or any other undertaking of the like nature, it immediately decays upon our hands; you see it brought to its utmost point of perfection, and from that time hastening to ruin. On the contrary, when you have finished your plantations, they are still arriving at greater degrees of perfection as long as you live, and appear more delightful in every succeeding year than they did in the foregoing.

But I do not only recommend this art to nobles and great estates as a pleasing amusement, but as it is a kind of virtuous employment, and may therefore be calculated by moral motives; particularly from the love which we ought to have for our country, and the regard which we ought to bear to our posterity. As for the first, I need only mention what is frequently observed by others, that the increase of forest-trees does by no means bear a proportion to the destruction of them, inasmuch that in a few years the nation may be at a loss to supply itself with timber sufficient for the fleets of England. It is when a man talks of posterity in matters of this nature he is looked upon with an eye of suspicion; the cunning and selfish part of mankind. Men are of the humour of an old fellow of a college, when he was pressed by the society to contribute something that might redound to the good of his successors, grew very peevish; 'We are short-lived,' says he, 'something for posterity; but I shall find posterity do something for me.'

But I think men are inexorable, who are the duty of this nature, since it is so easily destroyed. When a man considers that the putting a tree into the ground is doing good to one who will make his appearance in the world about fifty years hence, or that he is perhaps making one of his descendants easy or rich, by so inconsiderable an expense; if he finds himself agreeable to it, he will

include that he has a poor and base heart, void of generous principles and love to mankind.

There is one consideration which may very much force what I have here said. Many honest minds, as are naturally disposed to do good in the world, become beneficial to mankind, complain within themselves that they have not talents for it. This therefore is a good office, which is suited to the meanest capacities, and which may be performed by multitudes, who have not abilities sufficient to serve well of their country, and to recommend themselves to their posterity, by any other method. It is the phrase of a friend of mine, when any useful country neighbour dies, that 'you may trace in;' which I look upon as a good funeral oration to the death of an honest husbandman, who bathed the impressions of his industry behind him in a place where he has lived.

Upon the foregoing considerations, I can scarce bear representing the subject of this paper as a kind of moral virtue; which, as I have already said, recommends itself likewise by the pleasure it attends it. It must be confessed that this is one of those turbulent pleasures which is not apt to satisfy a man in the heats of youth; but, if it be so tumultuous, it is more lasting. Nothing can be more delightful than to entertain ourselves with objects of our own making, and to walk under the shades which our own industry has raised. Amusements of this nature compose the mind, and at rest all those passions which are uneasy to the soul of man, besides that they naturally consider good thoughts, and dispose us to laudable contemplations. Many of the old philosophers secured away the greatest parts of their lives among their gardens. Epicurus himself could not seek sensual pleasure attainable in any other way. Every reader, who is acquainted with Horace, Virgil, and Horace, the greatest geniuses of antiquity, knows very well with how much rapture they have spoken on this subject; and that Virgil in particular has written a whole book on the art of planting.

This art seems to have been more especially adapted to the nature of man in his primeval state, when he had life enough to see his produce flourish in their utmost beauty, and gradually decay with him. One who lived before the flood might have seen a wood of the tallest oaks in the world. But I only mention this particular, in order to introduce, in my next paper, a history which I have found among the accounts of China, and which may be looked upon as an antediluvian idyl.

ADDISON.

Nº 554. MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1714.

*Hic gelidi fontes, hic mollia prata, Lycori,
Hic nemus, hic toto tecum consumerer ævo.*
VIRG. Ecl. x. ver. 42.

Come see what pleasures in our plains abound;
The woods, the fountains, and the flow'ry ground:
Here I could live, and love, and die, with only you.
DRYDEN.

LILPA was one of the hundred and fifty daughters of Shalum, of the race of Cohn, by whom some of the learned think is meant Cain. She was exceedingly beautiful; and, when she was but a girl of sixteen and ten years of age, received the addresses of several who made love to her. Among these were two brothers, Harpath and Shalum. Harpath, being the first-born, was master of that

fruitful region which lies at the foot of mount Tirzah, in the southern parts of China. Shalum (which is to say the planter, in the Chinese language) possessed all the neighbouring hills, and that great range of mountains which goes under the name of Tirzah. Harpath was of a haughty contemptuous spirit; Shalum was of a gentle disposition, beloved both by God and man.

It is said that, among the antediluvian women, the daughters of Cohn had their minds wholly set upon riches; for which reason the beautiful Lilpa preferred Harpath to Shalum, because of his numerous flocks and herds, that covered all the low country which runs along the foot of mount Tirzah, and is watered by several fountains and streams breaking out of the sides of that mountain.

Harpath made so quick a dispatch of his courtship, that he married Lilpa in the hundredth year of her age; and, being of an insolent temper, laughed to scorn his brother Shalum for having pretended to the beautiful Lilpa, when he was master of nothing but a long chain of rocks and mountains. This so much provoked Shalum, that he is said to have cursed his brother in the bitterness of his heart, and to have prayed that one of his mountains might fall upon his head if ever he came within the shadow of it.

From this time forward Harpath would never venture out of the valleys, but came to an untimely end in the two hundred and fiftieth year of his age, being drowned in a river as he attempted to cross it. This river is called to this day, from his name who perished in it, the river Harpath; and, what is very remarkable, issues out of one of those mountains which Shalum wished might fall upon his brother, when he cursed him in the bitterness of his heart.

Lilpa was in the hundred and sixtieth year of her age at the death of her husband, having brought him but fifty children before he was snatched away, as has been already related. Many of the antediluvians made love to the young widow; though no one was thought so likely to succeed in her affections as her first lover Shalum, who renewed his court to her about ten years after the death of Harpath; for it was not thought decent in those days that a widow should be seen by a man within ten years after the decease of her husband.

Shalum falling into a deep melancholy, and resolving to take away that objection which had been raised against him when he made his first addresses to Lilpa, began, immediately after her marriage with Harpath, to plant all that mountainous region which fell to his lot in the division of this country. He knew how to adapt every plant to its proper soil, and is thought to have inherited many traditional secrets of that art from the first man. This employment turned at length to his profit as well as to his amusement: his mountains were in a few years shaded with young trees, that gradually shot up into groves, woods, and forests, intermixed with walks, and lawns, and gardens; inasmuch that the whole region, from a naked and desolate prospect, began now to look like a second Paradise. The pleasantness of the place, and the agreeable disposition of Shalum, who was reckoned one of the mildest and wisest of all who lived before the flood, drew into it multitudes of people, who were perpetually employed in the sinking of wells, the digging of trenches, and the hollowing of trees, for the better distribution of water through every part of this spacious plantation.

The habitations of Shalum looked every year more beautiful in the eyes of Hilpa, who, after the space of seventy autumns, was wonderfully pleased with the distant prospect of Shalum's hills, which were then covered with innumerable tufts of trees, and gloomy scenes, that gave a magnificence to the place, and converted it into one of the finest landscapes the eye of man could behold.

The Chinese record a letter which Shalum is said to have written to Hilpa in the eleventh year of her widowhood. I shall here translate it, without departing from that noble simplicity of sentiments and plainness of manners which appear in the original.

Shalum was at this time one hundred and eighty years old, and Hilpa one hundred and seventy.

'Shalum, Master of Mount Tirzah, to Hilpa, Mistress of the Vallies.

'In the 788th year of the creation.

'WHAT have I not suffered, O thou daughter of Zilpah, since thou gavest thyself away in marriage to my rival? I grew weary of the light of the sun, and have ever since been covering myself with woods and forests. These threescore and ten years have I bewailed the loss of thee on the tops of Mount Tirzah, and soothed my melancholy among a thousand gloomy shades of my own raising. My dwellings are at present as the garden of God; every part of them is filled with fruits, and flowers, and fountains. The whole mountain is perfumed for thy reception. Come up into it, O my beloved, and let us people this spot of the new world with a beautiful race of mortals; let us multiply exceedingly among these delightful shades, and fill every quarter of them with sons and daughters. Remember, O thou daughter of Zilpah, that the age of man is but a thousand years; that beauty is the admiration but of a few centuries. It flourishes as a mountain oak, or as a cedar on the top of Tirzah, which in three or four hundred years will fade away, and never be thought of by posterity, unless a young wood springs from its roots. Think well on this, and remember thy neighbour in the mountains.'

Having here inserted this letter, which I look upon as the only antediluvian billet-doux now extant, I shall in my next paper give the answer to it, and the sequel of this story.

ADDISON.

Nº 585. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1714.

*Ipsi lætitia voces ad sidera jactant
Intonsi montes: ipsa jam carmina rupes,
Ipsa sonant arbusta*

VIRG. Ecl. v. ver. 63.

The mountain tops unshorn, the rocks rejoice;
The lowly shrub partake of human voice.

DRYDEN.

THE SEQUEL OF THE STORY OF SHALUM AND HILPA.

THE letter inserted in my last had so good an effect upon Hilpa, that she answered it in less than a twelvemonth, after the following manner:

'Hilpa, Mistress of the Vallies, to Shalum, Master of Mount Tirzah.

'In the 789th year of the creation.

'WHAT have I to do with thee, O Shalum? Thou praisest Hilpa's beauty, but art thou not secretly

enamoured with the verdure of her meadows? thou not more affected with the prospect of green vallies than thou wouldst be with the sight of her person? The lowings of my herds, and bleatings of my flocks, make a pleasant melody in thy mountains, and sound sweetly in thy ears. What though I am delighted with the waving thy forests, and those breezes of perfume which flow from the top of Tirzah, are these like the riches of the valley?

'I knew thee, O Shalum; thou art more wise and happy than any of the sons of men. Dwellings are among the cedars; thou searchest the diversity of soils, thou understandest the influences of the stars, and markest the changes of seasons. Can a woman appear lovely in the eyes of such an one? Disquiet me not, O Shalum; leave me alone, that I may enjoy those goodly possessions which are fallen to my lot. Win me not with thy enticing words. May thy trees increase and multiply; mayest thou add wood to wood, and shade to shade; but tempt not Hilpa to destroy solitude, and make thy retirement populous.'

The Chinese say that a little time afterwards he accepted of a treat in one of the neighbouring vallies to which Shalum had invited her. This treat lasted for two years, and is said to have cost Shalum two hundred antelopes, two thousand ostriches, and a thousand tuns of milk; but what most of all commended it, was that variety of delicious fruits and potherbs, in which no person then living could in any way equal Shalum.

He treated her in the bower which he had planted amidst the wood of nightingales. The wood was made up of such fruit-trees and flowering-birds; so that it had drawn into it all the beauties of the country, and was filled from one end of the year to the other with the most agreeable company in season.

He showed her every day some beautiful and surprising scene in this new region of woods, and, as by this means he had all the opportunities he could wish for of opening his mind to her, he succeeded so well, that upon her departure he made him a kind of promise, and gave her his word to return him a positive answer in less than fifty years.

She had not been long among her own people in the vallies, when she received new overtures from him at the same time a most splendid visit, from Shalum, who was a mighty man of old, and had made a great city, which he called after his own name. Every house was made for at least a thousand years, nay, there were some that were leased out for three lives; so that the quantity of wood and timber consumed in this building is scarce to be imagined by those who live in the present age of the world. This great man entertained her with the voice of musical instruments which had lately invented, and danced before her to the sound of the timbrel. He also presented her with several domestic utensils wrought in brass and iron, which had been newly found out for the convenience of life. In the meantime Shalum grew very vain with himself, and was sorely displeased at the delay for the reception which she had given to him, inasmuch that he never wrote to her or spoke to her during a whole revolution of Saturn; but, when he again renewed his addresses to her, which he did in his long silence, is said very often to have cast a wishing eye upon mount Tirzah.

Her mind continued wavering about twenty years longer between Shalum and Mispach; for though her inclinations favoured the former, her interest pleaded very powerfully for the other. While her heart was in this unsettled condition, he following accident happened, which determined her choice. A high tower of wood that stood in the city of Mispach having caught fire by

flash of lightning, in a few days reduced the whole town to ashes. Mispach resolved to rebuild the place, whatever it should cost him; and, having already destroyed all the timber of the country, he was forced to have recourse to Shalum, whose forests were now two hundred years old. He purchased these woods with so many herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, and with such a vast extent of fields and pastures, that Shalum was now grown more wealthy than Mispach; and therefore appeared so charming in the eyes of Zilpah's daughter, that she no longer refused him in marriage. In the day in which he brought her up into the mountains he raised a most prodigious pile of cedar, and of every sweet-smelling wood, which reached above three hundred cubits in height: he also cast into the pile bundles of myrrh and sheaves of spikenard, enriching it with every spicy shrub, and making it fat with the gums of his plantations. This was the burnt-offering which Shalum offered on the day of his espousals: the smoke of it ascended up to heaven, and filled the whole country with incense and perfume.

ADDISON.

N° 586. FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1714.

—*Quæ in vita usurpant homines, cogitant, curant, vident quæque agunt vigilantes, agitantque, ea cuique in somno accidunt.*

CIC. de Div.

The things which employ men's waking thoughts and actions recur to their imaginations in sleep.

In the last post I received the following letter, which is built upon a thought that is new, and very well carried on; for which reasons I shall give it to the public without alteration, addition, or amendment.

SIR,

It was a good piece of advice which Pythagoras gave to his scholars—that every night before they slept they should examine what they had been doing that day, and so discover what actions were worthy of pursuit to-morrow, and what little vices were to be prevented from slipping unawares into habit. If I might second the philosopher's advice, it should be mine, that in a morning before my scholar rose he should consider what he had done about that night, and with the same strictness as if the condition he has believed himself to be in was real. Such a scrutiny into the actions of his fancy must be of considerable advantage; for this reason, because the circumstances which a man imagines himself in during sleep are generally such as entirely favour his inclinations, good or bad, and give him imaginary opportunities of pursuing them to the utmost; so that his temper will lie fairly open to his view, while he considers how it is moved when free from those constraints which the accidents of real life put it under. Dreams are certainly the result of our waking thoughts, and our daily hopes and fears are what give the mind such variable relishes of pleasure, and such severe touches

of pain, in its midnight rambles. A man that murders his enemy, or deserts his friend in a dream, had need to guard his temper against revenge and ingratitude, and take heed that he be not tempted to do a vile thing in the pursuit of false or the neglect of true honour. For my part, I seldom receive a benefit, but in a night or two's time I make most noble returns for it; which, though my benefactor is not a whit the better for, yet it pleases me to think that it was from a principle of gratitude in me that my mind was susceptible of such generous transport, while I thought myself repaying the kindness of my friend: and I have often been ready to beg pardon, instead of returning an injury, after considering that when the offender was in my power I had carried my resentments much too far.

'I think it has been observed in the course of your papers, how much one's happiness or misery may depend upon the imagination: of which truth those strange workings of fancy in sleep are no inconsiderable instances; so that not only the advantage a man has of making discoveries of himself, but a regard to his own ease or disquiet, may induce him to accept of my advice. Such as are willing to comply with it, I shall put into a way of doing it with pleasure, by observing only one maxim which I shall give them, viz. "To go to bed with a mind entirely free from passion, and a body clear of the least intemperance."

'They, indeed, who can sink into sleep with their thoughts less calm or innocent than they should be, do but plunge themselves into scenes of guilt and misery; or they who are willing to purchase any midnight disquietudes for the satisfaction of a full meal, or a skin full of wine; these I have nothing to say to, as not knowing how to invite them to reflections full of shame and horror: but those that will observe this rule, I promise them they shall awake into health and cheerfulness, and be capable of recounting with delight those glorious moments, wherein the mind has been indulging itself in such luxury of thought, such noble hurry of imagination. Suppose a man's going supperless to bed should introduce him to the table of some great prince or other, where he shall be entertained with the noblest marks of honour and plenty, and do so much business after, that he shall rise with as good a stomach to his breakfast as if he had fasted all night long: or suppose he should see his dearest friends remain all night in great distresses, which he could instantly have disengaged them from, could he have been content to have gone to bed without the other bottle; believe me these effects of fancy are no contemptible consequences of commanding or indulging one's appetite.

'I forbear recommending my advice upon many other accounts till I hear how you and your readers relish what I have already said; among whom, if there be any that may pretend it is useless to them, because they never dream at all, there may be others perhaps who do little else all day long. Were every one as sensible as I am of what happens to him in his sleep, it would be no dispute whether we pass so considerable a portion of our time in the condition of stocks and stones, or whether the soul were not perpetually at work upon the principle of thought. However, it is an honest endeavour of mine to persuade my countrymen to reap some advantage from so many unregarded hours, and as such you will encourage it.

'I shall conclude with giving you a sketch or two of my way of proceeding.

'If I have any business of consequence to do to-morrow, I am scarce dropped asleep to-night but I am in the midst of it; and when awake, I consider the whole procession of the affair, and get the advantage of the next day's experience before the sun has risen upon it.

'There is scarce a great post but what I have some time or other been in; but my behaviour while I was master of a college pleases me so well, that whenever there is a province of that nature vacant I intend to step in as soon as I can.

'I have done many things that would not pass examination, when I have had the art of flying or being invisible; for which reason I am glad I am not possessed of those extraordinary qualities.

'Lastly, Mr. Spectator, I have been a great correspondent of yours, and have read many of my letters in your paper which I never wrote you. If you have a mind I should really be so, I have got a parcel of visions and other miscellanies in my noctuary, which I shall send to enrich your paper with on proper occasions.

'I am, &c.

'Oxford, Aug. 20.

'JOHN SHALLOW *.'

BYRON.

No 587. MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1714.

Intus, et in cute novis.

PERS. Sat. III. ver. 30.

I know thee to thy bottom; from within
Thy shallow centre, to the utmost skin.
DRYDEN.

THOUGH the author of the following vision is unknown to me, I am apt to think it may be the work of that ingenious gentleman, who promised me, in the last paper, some extracts out of his noctuary.

* SIR,

'I was the other day reading the life of Mahomet. Among many other extravagancies, I find it recorded of that impostor, that in the fourth year of his age the angel Gabriel caught him up while he was among his playfellows; and, carrying him aside, cut open his breast, plucked out his heart, and wrung out of it that black drop of blood, in which, says the Turkish divines, is contained the *Fomes Peccati*, so that he was free from sin ever after. I immediately said to myself, though this story be a fiction, a very good moral may be drawn from it, would every man but apply it to himself, and endeavour to squeeze out of his heart whatever sins or ill qualities he finds in it.

'While my mind was wholly taken up with this contemplation, I insensibly fell into a most pleas-

* This paper was written by Mr. John Byron, who likewise wrote the letters in the next paper, No 587, and in No 593. He was also author of the pastoral poem in No 603. Mr. Byron was born at Kersal, near Manchester, in 1691, and educated first at Merchant Taylors' school, and afterwards at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was elected a fellow. In 1716 he went to France for his health, and on his return to London he applied to physic with a view of making it his profession; and soon after married, to the great displeasure of his relations, a lady with little or no fortune. He now supported himself principally by teaching a newly-invented system of short-hand. In 1724 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society; and soon after, by the death of an elder brother without issue, the paternal estate at Kersal came to him by inheritance, and rendered him independent. He was a man of fine taste, and a great proficient in polite literature, yet strongly tinctured with the enthusiastic notions of Behmen and other mystics. Mr. Byron died at Manchester, Sept. 26, 1763.

ing slumber, when methought two porters carried my chamber, carrying a large chest between them. After having set it down in the middle of the street, they departed. I immediately endeavoured to open what was sent me, when a shape, like us which we paint our angels, appeared before me, and forbade me. "Inclosed," said he, "are the hearts of several of your friends and acquaintances; but, before you can be qualified to see and understand the failings of others, you must be pure yourself;" whereupon he drew out his watch-knife, cut me open, took out my heart, and began to squeeze it. I was in a great confusion to know many things, which I had always cherished as virtues, issued out of my heart on this occasion. In short, after it had been thoroughly squeezed, looked like an empty bladder; when the bottom, breathing a fresh particle of divine spirit, it, restored it safe to its former repository; and, having sewed me up, we began to examine the chest.

'The hearts were all inclosed in transparent phials, and preserved in liquor which looked like spirits of wine. The first which I cast my eye upon I was afraid would have broke the phial which contained it. It shot up and down, with a credible swiftness, through the liquor in which it swam, and very frequently bounced against the side of the phial. The fumes, or spot in the middle of it, was not large, but of a red fiery colour, and seemed to be the cause of these violent agitations. "That," says my instructor, "is the heart of the Dreadnought, who behaved himself well in the wars, but has for these ten years last past been aiming at some post of honour to no purpose. He is lately retired into the country, where, choked up with spleen and choler, he rails at better men than himself, and will be for ever uneasy, because it is impossible he should think his merit sufficiently rewarded." The next heart that I examined was remarkable for its smallness; it lay at the bottom of the phial, and I could hardly perceive that it beat at all. The fumes were black, and had almost diffused itself over the whole heart. "This," says my interpreter, "is the brain of Dick Gloomy, who never thirsted after anything but money. Notwithstanding all his riches, he is still poor. This has flung him into a most deplorable state of melancholy and despondency. He is a composition of envy and idleness; he envies mankind, but gives them their revenge by being more uneasy to himself than to any one else."

'The phial I looked upon next contained a very fair heart which beat very strongly. The fumes and spot in it was exceeding small; but I could not help observing, that which way soever I turned the phial it always appeared uppermost, and in the strongest point of light. "The heart you are examining," says my companion, "belongs to W. J. Worthy. He has, indeed, a most noble soul, and is possessed of a thousand good qualities. The speck which you discover is vanity."

'Here," says the angel, "is the heart of the love, your intimate friend."—"Frederick," said I, "are at present very cold to one another, and I do not care for looking on the heart of a man which I fear is overcast with rancour." The teacher commanded me to look upon it: I did so, and, to my unspeakable surprise, found that the swelling spot, which I at first took to be directed towards me, was only passion; and that upon nearer inspection it wholly disappeared: upon which the phantom told me Frederick was one of the best-natured men alive.

This," says my teacher, "is a female heart of acquaintance." I found the *fomes* in it of the size, and of an hundred different colours, which were still varying every moment. Upon my going to whom it belonged, I was informed that it was the heart of Coquetilla.

I set it down, and drew out another, in which I took the *fomes* at first sight to be very small, but I was amazed to find that, as I looked stedfastly at it, it grew still larger. It was the heart of Ssa, a noted prude who lives the next door to me.

"I show you this," says the phantom, "because it is indeed a rarity, and you have the happiness to know the person to whom it belongs." He then put it into my hands a large crystal glass, that included an heart, in which, though I examined it to the utmost nicety, I could not perceive any thing. I made no scruple to affirm that it must be the heart of Seraphina; and was glad, but not surprised, to find that it was so. "She is indeed," continued my guide, "the ornament, as well as the glory of her sex." At these last words he pointed to the hearts of several of her female acquaintances which lay in different phials, and had very large sizes in them, all of a deep blue. "You are not to wonder," says he, "that you see no spot in an heart, whose innocence has been proof against all corruptions of a depraved age. If it has any thing, it is too small to be discovered by human eyes."

I laid it down, and took up the hearts of other ladies, in all of which the *fomes* ran in several sizes, which were twisted together, and made a very perplexed figure. I asked the meaning of it, and was told it represented deceit.

I should have been glad to have examined the contents of several of my acquaintances, whom I knew to be particularly addicted to drinking, gaming, fighting, &c. but my interpreter told me I must wait till another opportunity, and flung the cover of the chest with so much violence immediately awoke me*.

FROM.

588. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1714.

Vicis, omnis in imbecillitate est et gratia, et caritas.
CICERO.

One pretends that all kindness and benevolence is founded in weakness.

Man may be considered in two views, as a reasonable and as a social being; capable of becoming himself either happy or miserable, and of contributing to the happiness or misery of his fellow-creatures. Suitably to this double capacity, the contriver of human nature hath wisely furnished it with two principles of action, self-love, and benevolence; designed one of them to render man faithful to his own personal interest, the other to pose him for giving his utmost assistance to all engaged in the same pursuit. This is such an account of our frame, so agreeable to reason, so much to the honour of our Maker, and the credit of our species, that it may appear somewhat unaccountable what should induce men to represent human nature as they do under characters of disadvantage;

or, having drawn it with a little and sordid aspect, what pleasure they can possibly take in such a picture. Do they reflect that it is their own, and, if we would believe themselves, is not more odious than the original? One of the first that talked in this lofty strain of our nature was Epicurus. Benevolence, would his followers say, is all founded in weakness; and, whatever he pretended, the kindness that passeth between men and men is by every man directed to himself. This, it must be confessed, is of a piece with the rest of that hopeful philosophy, which, having patched man up out of the four elements, attributes his being to chance, and derives all his actions from an unintelligible declination of atoms. And for these glorious discoveries the poet is beyond measure transported in the praises of his hero, as if he must needs be something more than man, only for an endeavour to prove that man is in nothing superior to beasts. In this school was Mr. Hobbes instructed to speak after the same manner, if he did not rather draw his knowledge from an observation of his own temper*; for he somewhere unluckily lays down this as a rule, that from the similitudes of thoughts and passions of one man to the thoughts and passions of another, whosoever looks into himself and considers what he doth when he thinks, hopes, fears, &c. and upon what grounds, he shall hereby read and know what are the thoughts and passions of all other men upon the like occasions. Now we will allow Mr. Hobbes to know best how he was inclined; but in earnest, I should be heartily out of conceit with myself if I thought myself of this unamiable temper as he affirms, and should have as little kindness for myself as for any body in the world. Hitherto I always imagined that kind and benevolent propensions were the original growth of the heart of man; and, however checked and overtopped by counter-inclinations that have since sprung up within us, have still some force in the worst of tempers, and a considerable influence on the best. And methinks it is a fair step towards the proof of this, that the most beneficent of all beings is he who hath an absolute fulness of perfection in himself, who gave existence to the universe, and so cannot be supposed to want that which he communicated, without diminishing from the plenitude of his own power and happiness. The philosophers before-mentioned have indeed done all that in them lay to invalidate this argument; for, placing the gods in a state of the most elevated blessedness, they describe them as selfish as we poor miserable mortals can be, and shut them out from all concern for mankind, upon the score of their having no need of us. But if he that sitteth in the heavens wants not us, we stand in continual need of him; and, surely, next to the survey of the immense treasures of his own mind, the most exalted pleasure he receives is from beholding millions of creatures, lately drawn out of the gulf of non-existence, rejoicing in the various degrees of being and happiness imparted to them. And as this is the true, the glorious character of the Deity, so in forming a reasonable creature he would not, if possible, suffer his image to pass out of his hands unadorned with a resemblance of himself in this most lovely part of his nature. For what complacency could a mind, whose love is as

* We must consider this reflection on Hobbes as illiberal and unfounded; for by various testimonies we learn, that he was a good and an amiable man, as well as possessed of superior understanding and uncommon penetrability and penetration: exceptionable as his writings are, his life appears to have been without reproach.

This vision of hearts, the dissection of the beau's head, 275, and of the coquette's heart, No 281, probably suggested to George Alexander Stevens the first idea of his celebrated lectures on heads.

unbounded as his knowledge, have in a work so unlike himself; a creature that should be capable of knowing and conversing with a vast circle of objects, and love none but himself? What proportion would there be between the head and the heart of such a creature, its affections, and its understanding? Or could a society of such creatures, with no other bottom but self-love on which to maintain a commerce, ever flourish? Reason, it is certain, would oblige every man to pursue the general happiness as the means to procure and establish his own; and yet, if, besides this consideration, there were not a natural instinct, prompting men to desire the welfare and satisfaction of others, self-love, in defiance of the admonitions of reason, would quickly run all things into a state of war and confusion. As nearly interested as the soul is in the fate of the body, our provident Creator saw it necessary, by the constant returns of hunger and thirst, those importunate appetites, to put it in mind of its charge; knowing that if we should eat and drink no oftener than cold abstracted speculation should put us upon these exercises, and then leave it to reason to prescribe the quantity, we should soon refine ourselves out of this bodily life. And, indeed, it is obvious to remark, that we follow nothing heartily unless carried to it by inclinations which anticipate our reason, and, like a bias, draw the mind strongly towards it. In order, therefore, to establish a perpetual intercourse of benefits amongst mankind, their Maker would not fail to give them this generous prepossession of benevolence, if, as I have said, it were possible. And from whence can we go about to argue its impossibility? Is it inconsistent with self-love? Are their motions contrary? No more than the diurnal rotation of the earth is opposed to its annual; or its motion round its own centre, which might be improved as an illustration of self-love, to that which whirls it about the common centre of the world, answering to universal benevolence. Is the force of self-love abated, or its interest prejudiced by benevolence? So far from it, that benevolence, though a distinct principle, is extremely serviceable to self-love, and then doth most service when it is least designed.

But to descend from reason to matter of fact; the pity which arises on sight of persons in distress, and the satisfaction of mind which is the consequence of having removed them into a happier state, are instead of a thousand arguments to prove such a thing as a disinterested benevolence. Did pity proceed from a reflection we make upon our liahleness to the same ill accidents we see befall others, it were nothing to the present purpose; but this is assigning an artificial cause of a natural passion, and can by no means be admitted as a tolerable account of it, because children and persons most thoughtless about their own condition, and incapable of entering into the prospects of futurity, feel the most violent touches of compassion. And then, as to that charming delight which immediately follows the giving joy to another, or relieving his sorrow, and is, when the objects are numerous, and the kindness of importance really inexpressible, what can this be owing to but a consciousness of a man's having done something praiseworthy, and expressive of a great soul? Whereas, if in all this he only sacrificed to vanity and self-love, as there would be nothing brave in actions that make the most shining appearance, so nature would not have rewarded them with this divine pleasure; nor could the commendations, which a person receives for benefits done upon

selfish views, be at all more satisfying when he is applauded for what he does not design; because in both cases the ends of the actions are equally answered. The conscience of a man, by making himself a benefactor to mankind, is recompensed for being so; doubtless it is, to the most interested cannot propose any thing more to their own advantage, notwithstanding the inclination is nevertheless unselfish. To be sure which attends the gratification of our vanity and thirst, is not the cause of these appetites; but are previous to any such prospect; and so is the desire of doing good; with this difference, that, being seated in the intellectual part, it is antecedent to reason, may yet be improved and regulated by it; and, I will add, is more wisely a virtue than as it is so. Thus have I intended for the dignity of that nature I have the honour to partake of; and, after all the trouble produced, I think I have a right to contend against the motto of this paper, that there is not a thing as generosity in the world. Though I were under a mistake in this, I should say nothing in relation to the immortality of the soul. I willingly err, and should believe it very much to the interest of mankind to lie under the same delusion. For the contrary notion naturally tends to depress the mind, and sinks it into a meanness fatal to God-like zeal of doing good: as, on the other hand, it teaches people to be ungrateful, in assessing them with a persuasion concerning benefactors, that they have no regard to the benefits they bestow. Now, he that bestows gratitude from among men, by so doing stops the stream of beneficence: for though in common kindnesses a truly generous man doth not return, yet he looks to the qualities of the person obliged; and as nothing renders a person unworthy of a benefit than his being without resentment of it, he will not be extremely forward to oblige such a man.

GROVE*.

N^o 589. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1711.

*Persequitur scelus ille nimis: labefactaque tendens
Scibus innumeris adductaque furibus arbor
Corruit.*

OID. Met. l. vii. c. 1.

The impious axe he plies: loud strokes resound.
Till dragg'd with ropes, and fell'd with many a wound
The loosen'd tree comes rushing to the ground.

SIR,

I AM so great an admirer of trees, that the spot of ground I have chosen to build a small seat upon, the country is almost in the midst of a large wood. I was obliged, much against my will, to cut down several trees, that I might have any such thing as a walk in my gardens: but then I have taken care to leave the space, between every walk, as much wood as I found it. The moment you turn either to the right or left you are in a forest, where nature presents you with a much more beautiful scene than could have been raised by art.

Instead of tulips or carnations I can show you oaks in my gardens of four hundred years standing, and a knot of elms that might shelter a troop of horse from the rain.

It is not without the utmost indignation that I observe several prodigal young heirs in the neighbourhood.

* Mr. Henry Grove was a dissenting minister, and kept an academy at Taunton. See Nos. 601, 605, and 611.

hood felling down the most glorious monuments their ancestors' industry, and ruining, in a day, product of ages.

I am mightily pleased with your discourse upon this, which put me upon looking into my books, to give you some account of the veneration ancients had for trees. There is an old tradition, that Abraham planted a cypress, a pine, and cedar; and that these three incorporated into a tree, which was cut down for the building of the temple of Solomon.

Isidorus, who lived in the reign of Constantine, tells us, that he saw even in his time that famous tree in the plains of Mamre, under which Abraham is reported to have dwelt; and adds, that the people looked upon it with a great veneration, and served it as a sacred tree.

The heathens still went further, and regarded as the highest piece of sacrilege to injure certain trees which they took to be protected by some deity. The story of Erisichthon, the grove at Dodona, and that at Delphi, are all instances of this kind.

If we consider the machine in Virgil, so much ridiculed by several critics, in this light, we shall hardly think it too violent.

Aeneas, when he built his fleet in order to sail to Italy, was obliged to cut down the grove on Mount Ida, which however he durst not do until he obtained leave from Cybele, to whom it was dedicated. The goddess could not but think herself obliged to protect these ships, which were made of consecrated timber, after a very extraordinary manner, and therefore desired Jupiter, that they might not be obnoxious to the power of seas or winds. Jupiter would not grant this, but raised a storm, that as many as came safe to Italy should be transformed into goddesses of the sea; which the poet tells us was accordingly executed.

And now at length the number'd hours were come,
 And by Fate's irrevocable doom,
 When the great mother of the god was free
 To save her ships, and finish Jove's decree.
 First, from the quarter of the morn there sprung
 Light that sing'd the heavens, and shot along
 From a cloud, fring'd round with golden fires,
 Her timbrels heard, and Bercenythian quires:
 Next last a voice, with more than mortal sounds,
 With hosts in arms oppos'd, with equal horror wounds.
 "O Trojan race, your needless aid forbear;
 I know my ships are my peculiar care.
 With greater ease the bold Rutulian may,
 With hissing brands, attempt to burn the sea,
 Than singe my sacred pines. But you, my charge,
 Must from your crooked anchors, launch at large,
 And alted each a nymph; forsake the sand,
 And swim the seas, at Cybele's command."
 No sooner had the goddess ceas'd to speak,
 Than lo, th' obedient ships their hawsers break;
 And, strange to tell, like dolphins in the main,
 They plunge their prows, and dive, and spring again:
 Many beauteous maids the billows sweep,
 And rode before tall vessels on the deep."

DRYDEN's Virgil.

The common opinion concerning the nymphs, whom the ancients called Hamadryads, is more to the honour of trees than any thing yet mentioned. It was thought the fate of these nymphs had so great a dependence on some trees, more especially on those that they lived and died together. For this on they were extremely grateful to such persons who preserved those trees with which their lives subsisted. Apollonius tells us a very remarkable story to this purpose, with which I shall conclude my letter.

A certain man, called Rhæcus, observing an oak ready to fall, and being moved with a sort of compassion towards the tree, ordered his ser-

vants to pour in fresh earth at the roots of it, and set it upright. The Hamadryad, or nymph, who must necessarily have perished with the tree, appeared to him the next day, and, after having returned him her thanks, told him she was ready to grant whatever he should ask. As she was extremely beautiful, Rhæcus desired he might be entertained as her lover. The Hamadryad, not much displeased with the request, promised to give him a meeting, but commanded him for some days to abstain from the embraces of all other women, adding, that she would send a bee to him, to let him know when he was to be happy. Rhæcus was, it seems, too much addicted to gaming, and happened to be in a run of ill-luck when the faithful bee came buzzing about him; so that, instead of minding his kind invitation, he had like to have killed him for his pains. The Hamadryad was so provoked at her own disappointment, and the ill usage of her messenger, that she deprived Rhæcus of the use of his limbs. However, says the story, he was not so much a cripple, but he made a shift to cut down the tree, and consequently to fell his mistress.

Nº 590. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1714.

*Aviduo labuntur tempora motu
 Non secus ac flumen. Neque enim considerare flumen,
 Nec levis hora potest: sed ut unda impellitur unda,
 Urgeturque prior cecidit, urgetque priorem,
 Tempora sic Jugiunt pariter, pariterque sequuntur;
 Et nova sunt semper. Nam quod fuit ante, relictum est;
 Et quicquid haud fuerat: momentaque cuncta novantur.*
 OVID. Met. xv. ver. 179.

Even times are in perpetual flux, and run,
 Like rivers from their fountains, rolling on.
 For time, no more than streams is at a stay;
 The flying hour is ever on her way:
 And as the fountain still supplies their store,
 The wave behind impels the wave before;
 Thus in successive course the minutes run,
 And urge their predecessor minutes on.
 Still moving, ever new: for former things
 Are laid aside, like abdicated kings;
 And every moment alters what is done,
 And innovates some act, till then unknown.

DRYDEN.

The following discourse comes from the same hand with the essays upon infinitude.*

‘We consider infinite space as an expansion without a circumference: we consider eternity, or infinite duration, as a line that has neither a beginning nor an end. In our speculations of infinite space, we consider that particular place in which we exist as a kind of centre to the whole expansion. In our speculations of eternity, we consider the time which is present to us as the middle, which divides the whole line into two equal parts. For this reason many witty authors compare the present time to an isthmus or narrow neck of land, that rises in the midst of an ocean, immeasurably diffused on either side of it.

Philosophy, and indeed common sense, naturally throws eternity under two divisions, which we may call in English that eternity which is past, and that eternity which is to come. The learned terms of *Eternitas a parte ante*, and *Eternitas a parte post*, may be more amusing to the reader, but can have no other idea affixed to them than what is conveyed to us by those words, an eternity that is past, and an eternity that is to come.

* See Nos. 565, 571, 580, and 628.

Each of these extremities is bounded at the one extreme, or, in other words, the former has an end, and the latter a beginning.

'Let us first of all consider that eternity which is past, reserving that which is to come for the subject of another paper. The nature of this eternity is utterly inconceivable by the mind of man: our reason demonstrates to us that it has been, but at the same time can frame no idea of it, but what is big with absurdity and contradiction. We can have no other conception of any duration which is past, than that all of it was once present; and whatever was once present is at some certain distance from us, and whatever is at any certain distance from us, be the distance never so remote, cannot be eternity. The very notion of any duration being past implies that it was once present, for the idea of being once present is actually included in the idea of its being past. This therefore is a depth not to be sounded by human understanding. We are sure that there has been an eternity, and yet contradict ourselves when we measure this eternity by any notion which we can frame of it.

'If we go to the bottom of this matter, we shall find that the difficulties we meet with in our conceptions of eternity proceed from this single reason, that we can have no other idea of any kind of duration, than that by which we ourselves, and all other created beings, do exist; which is, a successive duration made up of past, present, and to come. There is nothing which exists after this manner, all the parts of whose existence were not once actually present, and consequently may be reached by a certain number of years applied to it. We may ascend as high as we please, and employ our being to that eternity which is to come, in adding millions of years to millions of years, and we can never come up to any fountain head of duration, to any beginning in eternity: but at the same time we are sure, that whatever was once present does lie within the reach of numbers, though perhaps we can never be able to put enough of them together for that purpose. We may as well say, that any thing may be actually present in any part of infinite space, which does not lie at a certain distance from us, as that any part of infinite duration was once actually present, and does not also lie at some determined distance from us. The distance in both cases may be immeasurable and indefinite as to our faculties; but our reason tells us that it cannot be so in itself. Here therefore is that difficulty which human understanding is not capable of surmounting. We are sure that something must have existed from eternity, and are at the same time unable to conceive, that any thing which exists, according to our notion of existence, can have existed from eternity.

'It is hard for a reader, who has not rolled this thought in his own mind, to follow in such an abstracted speculation; but I have been the longer on it, because I think it is a demonstrative argument of the being and eternity of a God: and, though there are many other demonstrations which lead us to this great truth, I do not think we ought to lay aside any proofs in this matter, which the light of reason has suggested to us, especially when it is such an one as has been urged by men famous for their penetration and force of understanding, and which appears altogether conclusive to those who will be at the pains to examine it.

'Having thus considered that eternity which is past, according to the best idea we can frame of it, I shall now draw up those several articles on this subject; which are dictated to us by the light

of reason, and which may be looked upon as a creed of a philosopher in this great point.

'First, it is certain that no being could be made itself; for, if so, it must have acted before it was, which is a contradiction.

'Secondly, That therefore some being must have existed from all eternity.

'Thirdly, That whatever exists after the manner of created beings, or according to any notion we have of existence, could not have existed from eternity.

'Fourthly, That this Eternal Being must therefore be the great Author of nature, "the Author of Days," who, being at an infinite distance from all perfections from all finite and created beings, is in a quite different manner from them, and in a manner of which they can have no idea.

'I know that several of the schoolmen, who would not be thought ignorant of any thing, have pretended to explain the manner of God's existence by telling us that he comprehends infinite duration in every moment; that eternity is with him *punctum stans*, a fixed point; or, which is as much sense, an infinite instant; that nothing with reference to his existence is either past or to come, which the ingenious Mr. Cowley alludes to in his description of heaven:

"Nothing is there to come, and nothing past,
But an eternal now does always last."

'For my own part, I look upon these propositions as words that have no ideas annexed to them, and think men had better own their ignorance in advance doctrines by which they mean nothing, which, indeed, are self-contradictory. We cannot be too modest in our disquisitions when we meditate on him, who is environed with so much glory and perfection, who is the source of being, the fountain of all that existence which we and his creatures derive from him. Let us therefore with the utmost humility acknowledge, that, as a being must necessarily have existed from eternity, so this being does exist after an incomprehensible manner, since it is impossible for a being to have existed from eternity after our manner or notion of existence. Revelation confirms these dictates of reason in the accounts which it gives of the divine existence, where it tells us, that he is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever: he is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending; that a thousand years are as with him one day, and one day as a thousand years; by which, and the like expressions, we are taught that his existence with relation to time or duration is infinitely different from the existence of any creatures, and consequently that it is impossible for us to frame any adequate conceptions of it.

'In the first revelation which he makes of himself, when he entitles himself, "I Am that I Am," and when Moses desires to know what name he gave him in his embassy to Pharaoh, he is told that "I Am hath sent you." Our great Author, by this revelation of himself, does not exclude every thing else from a real cause, and distinguishes himself from his creatures as the only being which truly and really exists. The ancient Platonic notion, which was drawn from speculations of eternity, wonderfully agrees with this revelation which God has made of himself. It is nothing, say they, which in reality exists, but existence, as we call it, is pieced up of past, present, and to come. Such a flitting and shadowy existence is rather a shadow of existence, than something which is like it, than *esse* and *existere*.

le only properly exists whose existence is entirely resent; that is, in other words, who exists in the most perfect manner, and in such a manner as we have no idea of.

'I shall conclude this speculation with one useful inference. How can we sufficiently prostrate ourselves and fall down before our Maker, when we consider that ineffable goodness and wisdom which intrived this existence for finite natures? What must be the overflowings of that good-will, which prompted our Creator to adapt existence to beings, whom it is not necessary; especially when we consider that he himself was before in the complete possession of existence and of happiness, and in the full enjoyment of eternity? What man can think of himself as called out and separated from nothing, of his being made a conscious, a reasonable and a happy creature, in short, of being taken as a sharer of existence, and a kind of partner in eternity, without being swallowed up in wonder, in praise, in adoration! It is indeed a thought too big for the mind of man, and rather to be entertained in the secrecy of devotion, and in the silence of his soul, than to be expressed by words. The Supreme Being has not given us powers or faculties sufficient to extol and magnify such unutterable goodness.

'It is however some comfort to us, that we shall be always doing what we shall be never able to do, and that a work which cannot be finished will however be the work of an eternity.'

ADDISON.

NO 591. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1714.

Tenerorum luser amorem.

OVID. Trist. Eleg. 3. l. iii. ver. 73.

Love the soft subject of his sportive muse.

I HAVE just received a letter from a gentleman, who tells me he has observed, with no small concern, that my papers have of late been very barren in relation to love*; a subject which, when agreeably handled, can scarce fail of being well received by both sexes.

If my invention therefore should be almost exhausted on this head, he offers to serve under me in the quality of a love casuist; for which he conceives himself to be thoroughly qualified, having made this passion his principal study, and observed it in all its different shapes and appearances, from the fifteenth to the forty-fifth year of his age.

He assures me with an air of confidence, which I hope proceeds from his real abilities, that he does not doubt of giving judgment to the satisfaction of the parties concerned on the most nice and intricate cases which can happen in an amour; as,

How great the contraction of the fingers must be before it amounts to a squeeze by the band.

What can be properly termed an absolute denial from a maid, and what from a widow.

What advances a lover may presume to make, after having received a pat upon his shoulder from his mistress's fan.

Whether a lady, at the first interview, may allow an humble servant to kiss her hand.

How far it may be permitted to caress the maid in order to succeed with the mistress.

What constructions a man may put upon a smile, and in what cases a frown goes for nothing.

On what occasions a sheepish look may do service, &c.

As a further proof of his skill, he has also sent me several maxims in love, which he assures me are the result of a long and profound reflection, some of which I think myself obliged to communicate to the public, not remembering to have seen them before in any author.

'There are more calamities in the world arising from love than from hatred.

'Love is the daughter of idleness, but the mother of disquietude.

'Men of grave natures, says Sir Francis Bacon, are the most constant; for the same reason men should be more constant than women.

'The gay part of mankind is most amorous, the serious most loving.

'A coquette often loses her reputation while she preserves her virtue.

'A prude often preserves her reputation when she has lost her virtue.

'Love refines a man's behaviour, but makes a woman's ridiculous.

'Love is generally accompanied with good-will in the young, interest in the middle-aged, and a passion too gross to name in the old.

'The endeavours to revive a decaying passion generally extinguish the remains of it.

'A woman who from being a slattern becomes over-neat, or from being over-neat becomes a slattern, is most certainly in love.'

I shall make use of this gentleman's skill as I see occasion; and, since I am got upon the subject of love, shall conclude this paper with a copy of verses which were lately sent me by an unknown hand, as I look upon them to be above the ordinary run of sonnetteers.

The author tells me they were written in one of his despairing fits; and I find entertains some hope that his mistress may pity such a passion as he has described, before she knows that she is herself Corinna.

'Conceal, fond man, conceal the mighty smart,
Nor tell Corinna she has fir'd thy heart.
In vain would'st thou complain, in vain pretend
To ask a pity which she must not lend.
She's too much thy superior to comply,
And too, too fair to let thy passion die.
Languish in secret, and with dumb surprise
Drink the restless glances of her eyes.
At awful distance entertain thy grief,
Be still in pain, but never ask relief.
Ne'er tempt her scorn of thy consuming state,
Be any way undone, but fly her hate.
Thou must submit to see thy charmer bless
Some happier youth that shall admire her less;
Who in that lovely form, that heavenly mind,
Shall miss ten thousand beauties thou could'st find.
Who with low fancy shall approach her charms,
While, half enjoy'd, she sinks into his arms.
She knows not, must not know, thy nobler fire,
Whom she, and whom the muses do inspire;
Her image only shall thy breast employ,
And fill thy captive soul with shades of joy;
Direct thy dreams by night, thy thoughts by day;
And never, never from thy bosom stray.'

* These verses were written by Gilbert, second brother of Eustace Budgell.



N° 592. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1714.

— *Studium sine docto vena.*

HOR. Ars Poet. ver. 409.

Art without a vein.

ROSCOMMON.

I look upon the playhouse as a world within itself. They have lately furnished the middle region of it with a new set of meteors, in order to give the sublime to many modern tragedies. I was there last winter at the first rehearsal of the new thunder*, which is much more deep and sonorous than any hitherto made use of. They have a Salmoneus behind the scenes who plays it off with great success. Their lightnings are made to flash more briskly than heretofore, their clouds are also better furbelowed, and more voluminous; not to mention a violent storm locked up in a great chest, that is designed for the Tempest. They are also provided with above a dozen showers of snow, which, as I am informed, are the plays of many unsuccessful poets artificially cut and shredded for that use. Mr. Rymer's Edgar is to fall in snow at the next acting of King Lear, in order to beighten, or rather to alleviate, the distress of that unfortunate prince; and to serve by way of decoration to a piece which that great critic has written against.

I do not indeed wonder that the actors should be such professed enemies to those among our nation who are commonly known by the name of critics, since it is a rule among these gentlemen to fall upon a play, not because it is ill written, but because it takes. Several of them lay it down as a maxim, that whatever dramatic performance has a long run must of necessity be good for nothing: as though the first precept in poetry were 'not to please.' Whether this rule holds good or not, I shall leave to the determination of those who are better judges than myself; if it does, I am sure it tends very much to the honour of those gentlemen who have established it; few of their pieces having been disgraced by a run of three days, and most of them being so exquisitely written, that the town would never give them more than one night's hearing.

I have a great esteem for a true critic, such as Aristotle and Longinus among the Greeks; Horace and Quintilian among the Romans; Boileau and Dacier among the French. But it is our misfortune that some, who set up for professed critics among us, are so stupid that they do not know how to put ten words together with elegance or common propriety; and withal so illiterate, that they have no taste of the learned languages, and therefore criticise upon old authors only at second-hand. They judge of them by what others have written, and not by any notions they have of the authors themselves. The words unity, action, sentiment, and diction, pronounced with an air of authority, give them a figure among unlearned readers, who are apt to believe they are very deep because

they are unintelligible. The ancient critics, of the praises of their contemporaries; to cover beauties which escaped the observation of vulgar, and very often find out reasons for justifying and excusing such little slips and errors as were committed in the writings of their contemporaries. On the contrary, most of the modern critics, who appear among us, make it their business to vilify and depreciate every production that gains applause, to detect every secondary blemish, and to prove, by far-fetched arguments, that what passes for beauties in celebrated pieces are faults and errors. In short, writings of these critics, compared with those of the ancients, are like the works of the sophists compared with those of the old philosophers.

Envy and cavil are the natural fruits of ignorance; which was probably the reason that in the heathen mythology Momus is said to be the son of Nox and Somnus, of darkness and sleep. Idle men, who have not been at the pains to polish or distinguish themselves, are very apt to detract from others; as ignorant men are very apt to decry those beauties in a celebrated work which they have not eyes to discover. Many of our modern critics, who dignify themselves by the name of critics, are the genuine descendants of those illustrious ancestors. They are often led into numerous absurdities in which they daily weary the people, by not considering that, first, there is sometimes a greater judgment shown in deviating from the rules of art than in adhering to them; and, 2dly, that there is more beauty in the works of a great genius, who is ignorant of all the rules of art, than in the works of a little genius, who not only knows but scrupulously observes them.

First, we may often take notice of men who are perfectly acquainted with all the rules of art, and notwithstanding choose to depart from them on extraordinary occasions. I could give instances out of all the tragic writers of antiquity who have shown their judgment in this particular; as purposely receded from an established rule of art in drama, when it has made way for a much higher beauty than the observation of such a rule could have been. Those who have surveyed the noblest pieces of architecture and statuary, both ancient and modern, know very well that there are frequent deviations from art in the works of the great masters, which have produced a much nobler effect than a more accurate and exact way of proceeding could have done. This often arises from what the Italians call the *gusto grande* in their art, which is what we call the sublime in writing.

In the next place, our critics do not seem sensible that there is more beauty in the works of a great genius, who is ignorant of the rules of art, than in those of a little genius who knows and observes them. It is of these men of great genius Terence speaks, in opposition to the little critical cavillers of his time;

*Quorum amulari exoptat intelligentia
Potius quam ictorum obscuram diligentiam.*

'Whose negligence he would rather imitate than the men's obscure diligence.'

A critic may have the same consolation in the success of his play as Dr. South tells us a physician has at the death of a patient, that he was like *secundum artem*. Our inimitable Shakespeare is a stumbling-block to the whole tribe of these critical critics. Who would not rather read one of his plays, where there is not a single rule of the art observed, than any production of a modern critic.

* Mr. Dennis's new and improved method of making thunder. Dennis had contrived this thunder for the advantage of his tragedy of Appius and Virginia; the players highly approved of it, and it is the same that is used at the present day. Notwithstanding the effect of this thunder, however, the play was coldly received, and laid aside. Some nights after, Dennis being in the pit at the representation of Macbeth, and hearing the thunder made use of, arose from his seat in a violent passion, exclaiming with an oath, that that was his thunder. 'See (said he) how these rascals use me: they will not let my play run, and yet they steal my thunder.'

ere there is not any one of them violated! Shakespeare was indeed born with all the seeds of poetry, and may be compared to the stone in Virgil's ring, which, as Pliny tells us, had the sire of Apollo and the nine Muses in the veins of produced by the spontaneous hand of nature without any help from art.

ADDISON.

° 593. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1714.

*Quæ per incertam lunam sub luce maligna
Est iter in sylvis—*

VIRG. Æn. vi. ver. 370.

Thus wander travellers in woods by night,
By the moon's doubtful and malignant light.
DRYDEN.

My dreaming correspondent, Mr. Shadow, has sent me a second letter, with several curious observations on dreams in general, and the method to render sleep improving: an extract of his letter will, I presume, be disagreeable to my readers.

SINCE we have so little time to spare, that none of it may be lost, I see no reason why we should neglect to examine those imaginary scenes we are presented with in sleep, only because they have a less reality in them than our waking meditations. A traveller would bring his judgment in question, who should despise the directions of his map for want of real roads in it, because here stands a dot instead of a town, or a cypher instead of a city; and it must be a long day's journey to travel through two or three inches. Fancy in dreams gives us as much such another landscape of life as that does of countries; and, though its appearances may seem strangely jumbled together, we may often observe such traces and footsteps of noble thoughts, as, if carefully pursued, might lead us into a proper path of action. There is so much rapture and ecstasy in our fancied bliss, and something so dismal and shocking in our fancied misery, that, though the activity of the body has given occasion for calling sleep the image of death, the briskness of the fancy affords us a strong intimation of something within us that can never die.

I have wondered that Alexander the Great, who came into the world sufficiently dreamed of by his parents, and had himself a tolerable knack at dreaming, should often say that sleep was one thing which made him sensible he was mortal. I, who have not such fields of action in the day-time as to divert my attention from this matter, plainly perceive that in those operations of the mind, while the body is at rest, there is a certain vastness of conception very suitable to the capacity, and demonstrative of the force of that divine part in our composition which will last for ever. Neither do I much doubt but, had we a true account of the wonders the hero last mentioned performed in his sleep, his conquering this little globe would hardly be worth mentioning. I may affirm, without vanity, that, when I compare several actions in Quintus Curtius, with some others in my own noctuary, I appear the greater hero of the two.

I shall close this subject with observing, that while we are awake we are at liberty to fix our thoughts on what we please, but in sleep we have not the command of them. The ideas which strike the fancy arise in us without our choice, either from the occurrences of the day past, the temper we lie down in, or it may be the direction of some superior being.

It is certain the imagination may be so differently affected in sleep, that our actions of the day might be either rewarded or punished with a little age of happiness or misery. St. Austin was of opinion that, if in Paradise there was the same vicissitude of sleeping and waking as in the present world, the dreams of its inhabitants would be very happy.

And so far at present are our dreams in our power, that they are generally conformable to our waking thoughts; so that it is not impossible to convey ourselves to a concert of music, the conversation of distant friends, or any other entertainment which has been before lodged in the mind.

My readers, by applying these hints, will find the necessity of making a good day of it, if they heartily wish themselves a good night.

I have often considered Marcia's prayer, and Lucia's account of Cato in this light.

*'Merc. O ye immortal powers, that guard the just,
Watch round his couch, and soften his repose,
Banish his sorrows, and becalm his soul
With easy dreams; remember all his virtues,
And show mankind that goodness is your care.*

*'Luc. Sweet are the slumbers of the virtuous man!
O Marcia, I have seen thy godlike father;
Some power invisible supports his soul,
And bears it up in all its wonted greatness.
A kind refreshing sleep is fallen upon him:
I saw him stretch'd at ease, his fancy lost
In pleasing dreams; as I drew near his couch
He smil'd and cry'd, Cæsar, thou canst not hurt me.'*

Mr. Shadow acquaints me in a postscript, that he has no manner of title to the vision which succeeded his first letter; but adds, that, as the gentleman who wrote it dreams very sensibly, he shall be glad to meet him some night or other under the great elm-tree, by which Virgil has given us a fine metaphorical image of sleep, in order to turn over a few of the leaves together, and oblige the public with an account of the dreams that lie under them.

BYRON *.

° 594. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1714.

*— Absentem qui rodit amicum;
Qui non defendit alio culpante; solutus
Qui capitis rursus hominum, jamamque dicatos;
Fingere qui non visa potest; commissa tacere
Qui nequit; hic niger est: hunc tu, Romane, coveto.
HOR. Sat. iv. l. i. ver. 81.*

He that shall rail against his absent friends,
Or hears them scandalized, and not defends;
Sports with their fame, and speaks what'er he can,
And only to be thought a witty man;
Tells tales, and brings his friend in disesteem:
That man's a knave;—be sure beware of him.
CREECH.

WERE all the vexations of life put together, we should find that a great part of them proceed from those calumnies and reproaches which we spread abroad concerning one another.

There is scarce a man living who is not, in some degree, guilty of this offence; though at the same time, however we treat one another, it must be confessed that we all consent in speaking ill of the persons who are notorious for this practice. It generally takes its rise either from an ill-will to mankind, a private inclination to make ourselves esteemed, an ostentation of wit, a vanity of being thought in the secrets of the world, or from a desire of gratifying any of these dispositions of mind in those persons with whom we converse.

* See Nos. 586, 587, and 603.

The publisher of scandal is more or less odious to mankind, and criminal in himself, as he is influenced by any one or more of the foregoing motives. But, whatever may be the occasion of spreading these false reports, he ought to consider that the effect of them is equally prejudicial and pernicious to the person at whom they are aimed. The injury is the same, though the principle from which it proceeds may be different.

As every one looks upon himself with too much indulgence when he passes a judgment on his own thoughts or actions, and as very few would be thought guilty of this abominable proceeding, which is so universally practised, and at the same time so universally blamed, I shall lay down three rules, by which I would have a man examine and search into his own heart before he stands acquitted to himself of that evil disposition of mind which I am here mentioning.

First of all, let him consider whether he does not take delight in hearing the faults of others.

Secondly, Whether he is not too apt to believe such little blackening accounts, and more inclined to be credulous on the uncharitable than on the good-natured side.

Thirdly, Whether he is not ready to spread and propagate such reports as tend to the disreputation of another.

These are the several steps by which this vice proceeds, and grows up into slander and defamation.

In the first place, a man who takes delight in hearing the faults of others, shows sufficiently that he has a true relish of scandal, and consequently the seeds of this vice within him. If his mind is gratified with hearing the reproaches which are cast on others, he will find the same pleasure in relating them, and be the more apt to do it, as he will naturally imagine every one he converses with is delighted in the same manner with himself. A man should endeavour therefore to wear out of his mind this criminal curiosity, which is perpetually heightened and inflamed by listening to such stories as tend to the disreputation of others.

In the second place, a man should consult his own heart, whether he be not apt to believe such little blackening accounts, and more inclined to be credulous on the uncharitable than on the good-natured side.

Such a credulity is very vicious in itself, and generally arises from a man's consciousness of his own secret corruptions. It is a pretty saying of Thales, 'Falsehood is just as far distant from truth as the ears are from the eyes*.' By which he would intimate, that a wise man should not easily give credit to the report of actions which he has not seen. I shall, under this head, mention two or three remarkable rules to be observed by the members of the celebrated Abbey de la Trappe, as they are published in a little French book†.

The fathers are there ordered never to give an ear to any accounts of base or criminal actions; to turn off all such discourse if possible: but, in case they hear any thing of this nature so well attested that they cannot disbelieve it, they are then to suppose that the criminal action may have proceeded from a good intention in him who is guilty of it. This is, perhaps, carrying charity to an extravagance; but it is certainly much more laudable

than to suppose, as the ill-natured part of the world does, that indifferent and even good actions proceed from bad principles and wrong intentions.

In the third place, a man should examine his heart, whether he does not find in it a disposition to propagate such reports as tend to the disreputation of another.

When the disease of the mind, which has hitherto been speaking of, arises to this degree of malignity, it discovers itself in its worst effects, and is in danger of becoming incurable. I do not therefore insist upon the guilt in this particular, which every one cannot but disapprove, who is void of humanity, or even common decency. I shall only add, that, whatever pleasure a man may take in spreading whispers of this nature, he will find an infinitely greater satisfaction in conquering the temptation he is under, by letting the secret die within his own breast.

Nº 505. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1741.

Non ut placidis coeant amicitie, res a
Serpentes acibus gementur, tigrumque
HOB. Ars Poet. lib. 1.

Nature, and the common laws of seas,
Forbidden to reconcile antipathies;
Or make a snake engender with a dove,
And hungry tigers court the tender lambs.
BOSCOMMON.

If ordinary authors would condescend to what they think, they would at least be allowed the praise of being intelligible. But they really do pains to be ridiculous; and, by the studied ornaments of style, perfectly disguise the little faults they aim at. There is a grievance of this nature to the commonwealth of letters, which I have at last time resolved to redress, and accordingly I have set this day apart for justice. What I mean is a mixture of inconsistent metaphors, which is a fault but too often found in learned writers, but almost unlearned without exception.

In order to set this matter in a clear light to every reader, I shall in the first place observe, that a metaphor is a simile in one word, which is used to convey the thoughts of the mind under resemblances and images which affect the senses. There is not any thing in the world, which may not be compared to several things, if considered in several distinct lights; or, in other words, the same thing may be expressed by different metaphors. But the mischief is, that an unskilful author runs these metaphors so absurdly into one another that there shall be no simile, no agreeable picture, no apt resemblance, but confusion, obscurity, and noise. Thus I have known a hero compared to a thunderbolt, a lion, and the sea; all and each of them proper metaphors for impetuosity, courage, and force. But by bad management it has happened, that the thunderbolt hath overflowed the banks, the lion hath been darted through the clouds, and the billows have rolled out of the lion's head desert.

The absurdity in this instance is obvious. Yet every time that clashing metaphors are put together this fault is committed more or less. As hath already been said, that metaphors are images of things which affect the senses. An image, therefore, taken from what acts upon the sight, cannot, without violence, be applied to the hearing; and

* Stobæi Serm. 61.

† Felibien, Description de l'Abbaye de la Trappe, Paris, 1671.

of the rest. It is no less an impropriety to make y being in nature or art to do things in its metaphorical state, which it could not do in its original. shall illustrate what I have said by an instance which I have read more than once in controversial writers. 'The heavy lashes,' saith a celebrated author, 'that have dropped from your pen, &c.' suppose this gentleman, having frequently heard 'gull dropping from a pen, and being lashed a satire,' he was resolved to have them both at y rate, and so uttered this complete piece of nonsense. It will more effectually discover the absurdity of these monstrous notions, if we will suppose these metaphors or images actually painted. Imagine then a baud holding a pen, and several sheets of whipcord falling from it, and you have a true representation of this sort of eloquence. believe, by this very rule, a reader may be able to judge of the union of all metaphors whatsoever, and determine which are homogeneous, and which heterogeneous; or, to speak more plainly, which are consistent and which inconsistent.

There is yet one evil more which I must take notice of, and that is the running of metaphors into ridiculous allegories; which, though an error on the other hand, causes confusion as much as the other. This becomes abominable, when the lustre of one word leads a writer out of his road, and makes him wander from his subject for a page together. I remember a young fellow of this turn, who, having said by chance that his mistress had a world of charms, thereupon took occasion to consider her as she possessed of frigid and torrid zones, and pursued her from the one pole to the other.

I shall conclude this paper with a letter written in that enormous style, which I hope my reader will by this time set his heart against. The epistle which heretofore received great applause; but, after what hath been said, let any man commend it if he dare.

'SIR,
AFTER the many heavy lashes that have fallen on your pen, you may justly expect in return all the load that my ink can lay upon your shoulders. You have quartered all the foul language upon me that could be raked out of the air of Billingsgate, without knowing who I am, or whether I deserve to be cupped and scarified at this rate. I tell you once for all, turn your eyes where you please, you shall never smell me out. Do you think that the anics, which you sow about the parish, will ever build a monument to your glory? No, sir, you may fight these battles as long as you will, but when you come to balance the account, you will find that you have been fishing in troubled waters, and that *ignis fatuus* hath bewildered you, and that indeed you have built upon a sandy foundation, and sought your hogs to a fair market.

'I am, sir,
'Yours, &c.'

MUGRES.

No 596. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1714.

Molle mecum levis cor est violabile telis.
OVID. Ep. xv. ver. 79.

Cupid's light darts my tender bosom move.
POPE.

THE case of my correspondent, who sends me the following letter, has somewhat in it so very whimsical, that I know not how to entertain my readers better than by laying it before them.

'SIR,
'Middle Temple, Sept. 18.
'I AM fully convinced that there is not upon earth a more impertinent creature than an importunate lover. We are daily complaining of the severity of our fate to people who are wholly unconcerned in it; and hourly improving a passion, which we would persuade the world is the torment of our lives. Notwithstanding this reflection, sir, I cannot forbear acquainting you with my own case. You must know then, sir, that, even from my childhood, the most prevailing inclination I could perceive in myself was a strong desire to be in favour with the fair sex. I am at present in the one-and-twentieth year of my age; and should have made choice of a she-bedfellow many years since, had not my father, who has a pretty good estate of his own getting, and passes in the world for a prudent man, been pleased to lay it down as a maxim, that nothing spoils a young fellow's fortune so much as marrying early; and that no man ought to think of wedlock till six-and-twenty. Knowing his sentiments upon this head, I thought it in vain to apply myself to women of condition, who expect settlements; so that all my amours have hitherto been with ladies who had no fortunes: but I know not how to give you so good an idea of me, as by laying before you the history of my life.

'I can very well remember, that at my school-mistress's, whenever we broke up, I was always for joining myself with the miss who lay-in, and was constantly one of the first to make a party in the play of Husband and Wife. This passion for being well with the females still increased as I advanced in years. At the dancing-school I contracted so many quarrels by struggling with my fellow-scholars for the partner I liked best, that upon a ball-night, before our mothers made their appearance, I was usually up to the nose in blood. My father, like a discreet man, soon removed me from this stage of softness to a school of discipline, where I learnt Latin and Greek. I underwent several severities in this place, till it was thought convenient to send me to the university: though, to confess the truth, I should not have arrived so early at that seat of learning, but from the discovery of an intrigue between me and my master's housekeeper; upon whom I had employed my rhetoric so effectually, that, though she was a very elderly lady, I had almost brought her to consent to marry me. Upon my arrival at Oxford, I found logic so dry, that, instead of giving attention to the dead, I soon fell to addressing the living. My first amour was with a pretty girl whom I shall call Parthenope: her mother sold ale by the town-wall. Being often caught there by the proctor, I was forced at last, that my mistress's reputation might receive no blemish, to confess my addresses were honourable. Upon this I was immediately sent home; but Parthenope soon after marrying a shoemaker, I was again suffered to return. My next affair was with my tailor's daughter, who deserted me for the sake of a young barber. Upon my complaining to one of my particular friends of this misfortune, the cruel wag made a mere jest of my calamity, and asked me with a smile, Where the needle should turn but to the pole? After this I was deeply in love with a milliner, and at last with my bed-maker, upon which I was sent away, or, in the university phrase, rusticated for ever.

'Upon my coming home, I settled to my studies so heartily, and contracted so great a reservedness

* The ordinary sign of a barber's shop; much more common at that time than at present.

by being kept from the company I most affected, that my father thought he might venture me at the Temple.

'Within a week after my arrival I began to shine again, and became enamoured with a mighty pretty creature, who had every thing but money to recommend her. Having frequent opportunities of uttering all the soft things which an heart formed for love could inspire me with, I soon gained her consent to treat of marriage; but, unfortunately for us all, in the absence of my charmer I usually talked the same language to her elder sister, who is also very pretty. Now, I assure you, Mr. Spectator, this did not proceed from any real affection I had conceived for her; but, being a perfect stranger to the conversation of men, and strongly addicted to associate with the women, I knew no other language but that of love. I should however be very much obliged to you if you could free me from the perplexity I am at present in. I have sent word to my old gentleman in the country that I am desperately in love with the younger sister; and her father, who knew no better, poor man, acquainted him by the same post, that I had for some time made my addresses to the elder. Upon this old Testy sends me up word, that he has heard so much of my exploits, that he intends immediately to order me to the South Sea. Sir, I have occasionally talked so much of dying, that I begin to think there is not much in it; and if the old squire persists in his design, I do hereby give him notice that I am providing myself with proper instruments for the destruction of despairing lovers: let him therefore look to it, and consider that by his obstinacy he may himself lose the son of his strength, the world an hopeful lawyer, my mistress a passionate lover, and you, Mr. Spectator,

'Your constant admirer,

'JEREMY LOVEMORE'

Nº 597. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1714.

— *Mens sine pondere ludit.*

PETR.

The mind uncumber'd plays.

SINCE I received my friend Shadow's letter, several of my correspondents have been pleased to send me an account how they have been employed in sleep, and what notable adventures they have been engaged in during that moonshine in the brain. I shall lay before my readers an abridgment of some few of their extravagancies, in hopes that they will in time accustom themselves to dream a little more to the purpose.

One, who styles himself Gladio, complains heavily that his fair one charges him with inconstancy, and does not use him with half the kindness which the sincerity of his passion may demand; the said Gladio having by valour and stratagem put to death tyrants, enchanters, monsters, knights, &c. without number, and exposed himself to all manner of dangers for her sake and safety. He desires in his postscript to know whether, from a constant success in them, he may not promise himself to succeed in her esteem at last.

Another, who is very prolix in his narrative, writes me word, that, having sent a venture beyond sea, he took occasion one night to fancy himself gone along with it, and grown on a sudden the richest man in all the Indies. Having been there about a year or two, a gust of wind, that forced

open his casement, blew him over to his own country again, where awaking at six o'clock, and change of the air not agreeing with him, he went to his left side in order to a second voyage: ere he could get on shipboard was unfortunately apprehended for stealing a horse, tried and condemned for the fact, and in a fair way of execution, if somebody stepping hastily into his chamber had not brought him a reprieve. His fellow too wants Mr. Shadow's advice; who dare say, would bid him be content to rue his first nap, and learn to be satisfied as his nature is.

The next is a public-spirited gentleman, who tells me, that on the second of September at six o'clock the city was on fire, and would certainly have been reduced to ashes again by this time if it had not flown over it with the New River on both sides, and happily extinguished the flames before it had prevailed too far. He would be informed whether he has not a right to petition the mayor and aldermen for a reward.

A letter, dated September the ninth, acquaints me, that the writer, being resolved to try his fortune, had fasted all that day; and, that he was so sure of dreaming upon something at night, secured an handsome slice of bride-cake, which he placed very conveniently under his pillow. In the morning his memory happened to fail him, and he could recollect nothing but an odd fancy that he had eaten his cake; which being found upon examination reduced to a few crumbs, he is resolved to renew more of his dreams another time, believing for this that there may possibly be something of it in them.

I have received numerous complaints from several delicious dreamers, desiring me to invent a method of silencing those noisy slaves whose imaginations lead them to take their early rounds about the city in a morning, doing a deal of mischief and working strange confusion in the affairs of the inhabitants. Several monarchs have done me honour to acquaint me how often they have been shook from their respective thrones by the rattling of a coach, or the rumbling of a wheelbarrow. And many private gentlemen, I find, have been bawled out of vast estates by fellows not worth three-pence. A fair lady was just upon the point of being married to a young, handsome, rich, and ingenious nobleman, when an impertinent oak passing by forbid the nuptials; and an hopeful youth who had been newly advanced to great honours and preferment, was forced by a neighbouring cat to resign all for an old song. It has been represented to me that those inconsiderable rascals do nothing but go about dissolving of marriages, spoiling of fortunes, impoverishing rich and robbing great people, interrupting beauties in the midst of their conquests, and generals in the course of their victories. A boisterous peripatetic hardly can through a street without waking half a dozen lords and princes, to open their shops or close their windows, frequently transforming sceptres into parasols, and proclamations into bills. I have by me a letter from a young statesman, who is five or six years came to be emperor of Europe, after which he made war upon the Great Turk, routed him by sea and foot, and was crowned lord of the universe in Constantinople: the conclusion of all his story is, that on the 12th instant, about seven o'clock in the morning, his imperial majesty was deposed by a chimney-sweeper.

On the other hand, I have epistolary testimonies of gratitude from many miserable people.

this clamorous tribe frequent deliverances from great misfortunes. A small-coal man *, by waking one of these distressed gentlemen, saved him from a year's imprisonment. An honest watchman, adding aloud good-morrow to another, freed him from the malice of many potent enemies, and brought all their designs against him to nothing. A certain valetudinarian confesses he has often been cured of a sore throat by the hoarseness of a woman, and relieved from a fit of the gout by the sound of old shoes. A noisy puppy that plagued a sober gentleman all night long with his impertinence, was silenced by a cinder-wench with a word of raking.

Instead therefore of suppressing this order of orators, I would propose it to my readers to make the best advantage of their morning salutations. A famous Macedonian prince, for fear of forgetting himself in the midst of his good fortune, had a youth to wait on him every morning, and bid him remember that he was a man. A citizen, who is asked by one of these orators, may regard him as kind of remembrancer, come to admonish him at it is time to return to the circumstances he has overlooked all the night-time, to leave off fancying himself what he is not, and prepare to act suitably to the condition he is really placed in.

People may dream on as long as they please, but shall take no notice of any imaginary adventures that do not happen while the sun is on this side the horizon. For which reason I stifle Fritilla's dream at church last Sunday, who, while the rest of the audience were enjoying the benefit of an excellent discourse, was losing her money and jewels to a gentleman at play, till after a strange run of ill luck she was reduced to pawn three very pretty children for her last stake. When she had thrown them away, her companion went to discover himself by his usual tokens, a cloven foot and a strong smell of brimstone; which last proved a bottle of spirits, which a good old lady applied to her nose, to put her in a condition of hearing the preacher's third head concerning time.

If a man has no mind to pass abruptly from his imagined to his real circumstances, he may employ himself a while in that new kind of observation which my onelrocritical correspondent has directed me to make of himself. Pursuing the imagination through all its extravagancies, whether in sleeping or waking, is no improper method of correcting and bringing it to act in subordination to reason, as to be delighted only with such objects as will affect it with pleasure when it is never so cool and date.

Nº 508. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1714.

*Jamne igitur ludas, quod de septentibus alter
Redebat, quoties a lincine moverat unum
Protuleratque pedem: flectat contrarius alter?*

JUV. Sat. x. ver. 28.

Will ye not now the pair of ages praise,
Who the same end pursu'd by several ways?
One pity'd, one condemn'd the woful times;
One laugh'd at follies, one lamented crimes.

DRYDEN.

ANKIND may be divided into the merry and the serious, who both of them make a very good figure the species so long as they keep their respective

humours from degenerating into the neighbouring extreme; there being a natural tendency in the one to a melancholy moroseness, and in the other to a fantastic levity.

The merry part of the world are very amiable, while they diffuse a cheerfulness through conversation at proper seasons and on proper occasions; but, on the contrary, a great grievance to society when they infect every discourse with insipid mirth, and turn into ridicule such subjects as are not suited to it. For though laughter is looked upon by the philosophers as the property of reason, the excess of it has been always considered as the mark of folly.

On the other side, seriousness has its beauty whilst it is attended with cheerfulness and humanity, and does not come in unseasonably to pall the good humour of those with whom we converse.

These two sets of men, notwithstanding they each of them shine in their respective characters, are apt to bear a natural aversion and antipathy to one another.

What is more usual than to hear men of serious temper, and austere morals, enlarging upon the vanities and follies of the young and gay part of the species, while they look with a kind of horror upon such pomps and diversions as are innocent in themselves, and only culpable when they draw the mind too much?

I could not but smile upon reading a passage in the account which Mr. Baxter gives of his own life, wherein he represents it as a great blessing that in his youth he very narrowly escaped getting a place at court.

It must indeed be confessed that levity of temper takes a man off his guard, and opens a pass to his soul for any temptation that assaults it. It favours all the approaches of vice, and weakens all the resistance of virtue; for which reason a renowned statesman in Queen Elizabeth's days, after having retired from court and public business, in order to give himself up to the duties of religion, when any of his old friends used to visit him, had still this word of advice in his mouth, 'be serious.'

An eminent Italian author of this cast of mind, speaking of the great advantage of a serious and composed temper, wishes very gravely, that for the benefit of mankind he had Trophonius's cave in his possession; which, says he, would contribute more to the reformation of manners than all the work-houses and bridewells in Europe.

We have a very particular description of this cave in Pamanias, who tells us that it was made in the form of a huge oven, and had many particular circumstances, which disposed the person who was in it to be more pensive and thoughtful than ordinary; insomuch, that no man was ever observed to laugh all his life after, who had once made his entry into this cave. It was usual in those times, when any one carried a more than ordinary gloominess in his features, to tell him that he looked like one just come out of Trophonius's cave.

On the other hand, writers of a more merry complexion have been no less severe on the opposite party; and have had one advantage above them, that they have attacked them with more turns of wit and humour.

After all, if a man's temper were at his own disposal, I think he would not choose to be of either of these parties; since the most perfect character is that which is formed out of both of them. A man would neither choose to be a hermit nor a buffoon; human nature is not so miserable, as that we should be always melancholy; nor so happy,

* The name of this famous musical small-coal man was Sam Britton. See Hawkins's Hist. of Music, vol. v.

as that we should be always merry. In a word, a man should not live as if there was no God in the world; nor, at the same time, as if there were no men in it.

ADDISON.

Nº 599. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1714

Ubique

Luctus, ubique pavor—

VIRG. Æn. II. ver. 369.

All parts resound with tumults, plaints, and fears.
DRYDEN.

It has been my custom, as I grow old, to allow myself in some little indulgencies, which I never took in my youth. Among others is that of an afternoon's nap, which I fell into in the fifty-fifth year of my age, and have continued for the three years last past. By this means I enjoy a double morning, and rise twice a day fresh to my speculations. It happens very luckily for me, that some of my dreams have proved instructive to my countrymen, so that I may be said to sleep, as well as to wake, for the good of the public. I was yesterday meditating on the account with which I have already entertained my readers concerning the cave of Trophonius. I was no sooner fallen into my usual slumber, but I dreamed that this cave was put into my possession, and that I gave public notice of its virtue, inviting every one to it who had a mind to be a serious man for the remaining part of his life. Great multitudes immediately resorted to me. The first who made the experiment was a Merry-andrew, who was put into my hands by a neighbouring justice of peace, in order to reclaim him from that profligate kind of life. Poor Pickle-herring had not taken above one turn in it, when he came out of the cave like a hermit from his cell, with a penitential look and a most rueful countenance. I then put in a young laughing fop, and, watching for his return, asked him with a smile, how he liked the place? He replied, 'Pr'ythee, friend, be not impertinent;' and stalked by me as grave as a judge. A citizen then desired me to give free ingress and egress to his wife, who was dressed in the gayest coloured ribbons I have ever seen. She went in with a flirt of her fan and a smirking countenance, but came out with the severity of a vestal; and, throwing from her several female gewgaws, told me with a sigh, that she resolved to go into deep mourning, and to wear black all the rest of her life. As I had had many coquettes recommended to me by their parents, their husbands, and their lovers, I let them in all at once, desiring them to divert themselves together as well as they could. Upon their emerging again into daylight, you would have fancied my cave to have been a nunnery, and that you had seen a solemn procession of religious marching out, one behind another, in the most profound silence and the most exemplary decency. As I was very much delighted with so edifying a sight, there came towards me a great company of males and females, laughing, singing, and dancing, in such a manner, that I could hear them a great while before I saw them. Upon my asking their leader what brought them thither? they told me all at once that they were French protestants lately arrived in Great Britain, and that, finding themselves of too gay an humour for my country, they applied themselves to me, in order to compose them for British conversation. I told them that, to oblige them, I would

soon spoil their mirth; upon which I admitted a whole shoal of them, who, after having taken a survey of the place, came out in very good order and with looks entirely English. I afterwards saw in a Dutchman, who had a great fancy to be a kelder, as he called it, but I could not observe that I had made any manner of alteration in him.

A comedian, who had gained great reputation in parts of humour, told me that he had a new mind to act Alexander the Great, and feared that he should succeed very well in it if he could extract two or three laughing features out of his face. I tried the experiment, but contracted so very much a look by it, that I am afraid he will be fit for a part hereafter, but a Timon of Athens, or a Ka in the Funeral.

I then clapped up an empty fantastic citizen in order to qualify him for an alderman. He was succeeded by a young rake of the Middle Temple, who was brought to me by his grandmother; and to her great sorrow and surprise, he came so quaker. Seeing myself surrounded with a host of freethinkers and scoffers at religion, who were making themselves merry at the sober looks and thoughtful brows of those who had been in a cave, I thrust them all in, one after another, and locked the door upon them. Upon my opening, they all looked as if they had been frightened of their wits, and were marching away with a stick in their hands to a wood that was within sight of the place. I found they were not able to keep themselves in their first serious thoughts; but, knowing these would quickly bring them to a loose frame of mind, I gave them into the custody of their friends till that happy change was wrought in them.

The last that was brought to me was a young woman, who at the first sight of my short face fell into an immoderate fit of laughter, and was for to hold her sides all the while her mother was speaking to me. Upon this I interrupted the lady, and, taking her daughter by the hand, 'Madam,' said I, 'be pleased to retire into my cave while your mother tells me your case.' I thrust her into the mouth of the cave, when the mother, after having begged pardon for the girl's rudeness, told me that she often treated her father, and the gravest of her relations, in the same manner; that she would sit giggling and laughing with her companions from one end of a tragedy to the other; that she would sometimes burst out in the middle of a sermon, and set the whole congregation staring at her. The mother was going on, when the young lady came out of the cave to me with a composed countenance and a low curtsy. She was a girl of such exuberant mirth that her visit to Trophonius only reduced her to a more than ordinary decency of behaviour, and made a very prudent prude of her. After having performed many wonderful cures, I looked about me with great satisfaction, and saw all my patients walking by themselves in a very pensive and musing posture; so that the whole place seemed covered with phlegm. I was at length resolved to go into the cave myself, and see what it was that had produced all these wonderful effects upon the company; but as I was stooping at the entrance, the door being very low, I gave such a nod in my chair that I tumbled. After having recovered myself from my tumble, I was very well pleased at the accident that had befallen me, as not knowing but a lady in the place might have spoiled my Spectator.

600. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1714.

Solenneq enim, sua sidera norunt.

VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 641.

Stars of their own, and their own suns, they know.
DRYDEN.

I HAVE always taken a particular pleasure in examining the opinions which men of different religions, different ages, and different countries, have entertained concerning the immortality of the soul, and the state of happiness which they promise themselves in another world. For, whatever prejudices and errors human nature lies under, we find that her reason, or tradition from our first parents, has discovered to all people something in these great points which bears analogy to truth, and those doctrines opened to us by divine revelation, was lately discoursing on this subject with a learned person, who has been very much conversant among the inhabitants of the more western parts of Africa*. Upon his conversing with several in that country, he tells me that their notion of heaven or a future state of happiness is this, that every thing we there wish for will immediately present itself to us. We find, say they, our souls are of such a nature that they require variety, and are not capable of being always delighted with the same objects. The Supreme Being, therefore, in compliance with this taste of happiness which he has planted in the soul of man, will raise up from age to time, say they, every gratification which is in the humour to be pleased with. If we wish to be in groves or bowers among running streams, falls of water, we shall immediately find ourselves in the midst of such a scene as we desire. We would be entertained with music and the melody of sounds, the concert arises upon our wish, and the whole region about us is filled with harmony. In short, every desire will be followed by satisfaction; and whatever a man's inclination directs him to will be present with him. Nor is it material whether the Supreme Power creates in conformity our wishes, or whether he only produces such a range in our imagination as makes us believe ourselves conversant among those scenes which delight us. Our happiness will be the same, whether we proceed from external objects, or from the impressions of the Deity upon our own private fancies. This is the account which I have received from my learned friend. Notwithstanding this system of belief be in general very chimerical and visionary, there is something sublime in its manner considering the influence of a Divine Being on human soul. It has also, like most other opinions of the heathen world upon these important points; has, I say, its foundation in truth, as it supposes the souls of good men after this life to be in a state of perfect happiness; that in this state there will no barren hopes, nor fruitless wishes, and that we shall enjoy every thing we can desire. But the peculiar circumstance which I am most pleased with in this scheme, and which arises from a just section upon human nature, is that variety of measures which it supposes the souls of good men will be possessed of in another world. This I think very probable, from the dictates both of reason

and revelation. The soul consists of many faculties, as the understanding, and the will, with all the senses both outward and inward; or, to speak more philosophically, the soul can exert herself in many different ways of action. She can understand, will, imagine, see, and hear; love, and discourse, and apply herself to many other like exercises of different kinds and natures; but, what is more to be considered, the soul is capable of receiving a most exquisite pleasure and satisfaction from the exercise of any of these its powers, when they are gratified with their proper objects; she can be entirely happy by the satisfaction of the memory, the sight, the hearing, or any other mode of perception. Every faculty is as a distinct taste in the mind, and hath objects accommodated to its proper relish. Doctor Tillotson somewhere says, that he will not presume to determine in what consists the happiness of the blessed, because God Almighty is capable of making the soul happy by ten thousand different ways. Besides those several avenues to pleasure which the soul is endowed with in this life, it is not impossible, according to the opinions of many eminent divines, but there may be new faculties in the souls of good men made perfect, as well as new senses in their glorified bodies. This we are sure of, that there will be new objects offered to all those faculties which are essential to us.

We are likewise to take notice that every particular faculty is capable of being employed on a very great variety of objects. The understanding, for example, may be happy in the contemplation of moral, natural, mathematical, and other kinds of truth. The memory likewise may turn itself to an infinite multitude of objects, especially when the soul shall have passed through the space of many millions of years, and shall reflect with pleasure on the days of eternity. Every other faculty may be considered in the same extent.

We cannot question but that the happiness of a soul will be adequate to its nature; and that it is not endowed with any faculties which are to lie useless and unemployed. The happiness is to be the happiness of the whole man; and we may easily conceive to ourselves the happiness of the soul while any one of its faculties is in the fruition of its chief good. The happiness may be of a more exalted nature in proportion as the faculty employed is so: but, as the whole soul acts in the exertion of any of its particular powers, the whole soul is happy in the pleasure which arises from any of its particular acts. For, notwithstanding, as has been before hinted, and as it has been taken notice of by one of the greatest modern philosophers*, we divide the soul into several powers and faculties, there is no such division in the soul itself, since it is the whole soul that remembers, understands, wills, or imagines. Our manner of considering the memory, understanding, will, imagination, and the like faculties, is for the better enabling us to express ourselves in such abstracted subjects of speculation, not that there is any such division in the soul itself.

Seeing then that the soul has many different faculties; or, in other words, many different ways of acting; that it can be intensely pleased or made happy by all these different faculties, or ways of acting; that it may be endowed with several latent faculties, which it is not at present in a condition to exert; that we cannot believe the soul is endowed with any faculty which is of no use to it;

* Probably Addison's father, Dean Lancelot Addison, who published *An Account of West Barbary*, &c. As the dean died in his 71st year, April 1703, this paper was probably written in his lifetime, many years, a dozen at least, before the date of its publication in the Spectator.

that, whenever any one of these faculties is transcendently pleased, the soul is in a state of happiness; and, in the last place, considering that the happiness of another world is to be the happiness of the whole man, who can question but that there is an infinite variety in those pleasures we are speaking of; and that this fulness of joy will be made up of all those pleasures which the nature of the soul is capable of receiving.

We shall be the more confirmed in this doctrine if we observe the nature of variety with regard to the mind of man. The soul does not care to be always in the same bent. The faculties relieve one another by turns, and receive an additional pleasure from the novelty of those objects about which they are conversant.

Revelation likewise very much confirms this notion, under the different views which it gives us of our future happiness. In the description of the throne of God it represents to us all those objects which are able to gratify the senses and imagination: in very many places it intimates to us all the happiness which the understanding can possibly receive in that state, where all things shall be revealed to us, and we shall know even as we are known; the raptures of devotion, of divine love, the pleasure of conversing with our blessed Saviour, with an innumerable host of angels, and with the spirits of just men made perfect, are likewise revealed to us in several parts of the holy writings. There are also mentioned those hierarchies or governments in which the blessed shall be ranged one above another, and in which we may be sure a great part of our happiness will likewise consist; for it will not be there as in this world, where every one is aiming at power and superiority: but, on the contrary, every one will find that station the most proper for him in which he is placed, and will probably think that he could not have been so happy in any other station. These, and many other particulars, are marked in divine revelation, as the several ingredients of our happiness in heaven, which all imply such a variety of joys, and such a gratification of the soul in all its different faculties, as I have been here mentioning.

Some of the rabbins tell us that the cherubims are a set of angels who know most, and the seraphims a set of angels who love most. Whether this distinction be not altogether imaginary, I shall not here examine; but it is highly probable that, among the spirits of good men, there may be some who will be more pleased with the employment of one faculty than of another; and this perhaps according to those innocent and virtuous habits or inclinations which have here taken the deepest root.

I might here apply this consideration to the spirits of wicked men, with relation to the pain which they shall suffer in every one of their faculties, and the respective miseries which shall be appropriated to each faculty in particular. But, leaving this to the reflection of my readers, I shall conclude with observing how we ought to be thankful to our great Creator, and rejoice in the being which he has bestowed upon us, for having made the soul susceptible of pleasure by so many different ways. We see by what a variety of passages joy and gladness may enter into the thoughts of man; how wonderfully a human spirit is framed, to imbibe its proper satisfactions, and taste the goodness of its Creator. We may therefore look into ourselves with rapture and amazement, and cannot sufficiently express our gratitude to him who has encom-

passed us with such a profusion of blessing, as opened in us so many capacities of enjoying them.

There cannot be a stronger argument that he has designed us for a state of future happiness, or for that heaven which he has revealed to us, than that he has thus naturally qualified the soul to receive it, and made it a being capable of receiving so much bliss. He would never have made such faculties vain, and have endowed us with powers that were not to be exerted on such objects as are suited to them. It is very manifest, by the inward force and constitution of our minds, that he has adapted them to an infinite variety of pleasures and gratifications which are not to be met with in this world. We should therefore at all times take care that we do not disappoint this his gracious purpose and attention towards us, and make those faculties, which he formed as so many qualifications for happiness and rewards, to be the instruments of pain and punishment.

ADDISON.

Nº 601. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1734.

Ὁ ἀνθρώπος ἐστὶν εὐφραδὸς κτίσμα.

ANTONIN. 1a. 2.

Man is naturally a benevolent creature.

THE following essay comes from an hand which has entertained my readers once before*.

NOTWITHSTANDING a narrow contracted temper, be that which obtains most in the world, we are not therefore to conclude this to be the genuine characteristic of mankind; because there are men who delight in nothing so much as in doing good, and receive more of their happiness at second-hand, or by rebound from others, than by direct or immediate sensation. Now, though these benevolent souls are but few, and to appearance so far advanced above the groveling multitude as if they were of another order of beings, yet in reality their nature is the same; moved by the same springs, and endowed with all the same essential qualities; only cleared, refined, and cultivated. Water is the same fluid body in winter and in summer; when it stands stilled in ice as when it flows along in gentle streams, gladdening a thousand fields in its progress. It is a property of the heart of man to be diffusive: its kind wishes spread abroad over the face of the creation; and if they be those, as we may observe too many of them, who are all wrapped up in their own dear selves, without any visible concern for their species, let us suppose that their good-nature is frozen, and by the prevailing force of some contrary quality, is strained in its operation. I shall therefore endeavour to assign some of the principal checks upon this generous propensity of the human soul, which will enable us to judge whether, and by what method, this most useful principle may be cultivated and restored to its native freedom of exercise.

The first and leading cause is an unhappy complexion of body. The heathens, ignorant of the true source of moral evil, generally charged it on the obliquity of matter, which, being eternal and independent, was incapable of change in any of its properties, even by the Almighty Mind, when he came to fashion it into a world of men, must take it as he found it. This notion, as we

ers of theirs, is a composition of truth and error. That matter is eternal, that, from the first ion of a soul to it, it perverted its inclinations, d that the ill influence it hath upon the mind is not be corrected by God himself, are all very great ors, occasioned by a truth as evident, that the pacities and dispositions of the soul depend, to great degree, on the bodily temper. As there some fools, others are knaves by constitution ; d particularly it may be said of many, that they e born with an illiberal cast of mind ; the mat- r that composes them is tenacious as birdlime ; d a kind of cramp draws their hands and their arts together, that they never care to open them, less to grasp at more. It is a melancholy lot is ; but attended with one advantage above theirs, whom it would be as painful to forbear good ices as it is to these men to perform them ; that whereas persons naturally beneficent often mistake istinct for virtue, by reason of the difficulty of distinguishing when one rules them and when the ber, men of the opposite character may be more rtain of the motive that predominates in every tion. If they cannot confer a benefit with that se and frankness which are necessary to give it grace in the eye of the world, in requital, the al merit of what they do is enhanced by the position they surmount in doing it. The strength of the virtue is seen in rising against the weight nature ; and every time they have the resolution to discharge their duty they make a sacrifice of inclination to conscience, which is always too rtateful to let its followers go without suitable arks of its approbation. Perhaps the entire cure of this ill quality is no more possible than of some stemperers that descend by inheritance. However, great deal may be done by a course of beneficence bitinately persisted in ; this, if any thing, being likely way of establishing a moral habit, which all be somewhat of a counterpoise to the force of mechanism. Only it must be remembered that e do not intermit, upon any pretence whatsoever, the custom of doing good, in regard, if there be e least cessation, nature will watch the opportunity to return, and in a short time to recover the round it was so long in quitting ; for there is this difference between mental habits and such as have eir foundation in the body : that these last are in eir nature more forcible and violent ; and, to ain upon us, need only not to be opposed ; where- e the former must be continually reinforced with eah supplies, or they will languish and die away. And this suggests the reason why good habits in eneral require longer time for their settlement an bad, and yet are sooner displaced ; the reason e, that vicious habits, as drunkenness for instance, reduce a change in the body, which the others of doing, must be maintained the same way they e acquired, by the mere dint of industry, reso- tion, and vigilance.

Another thing which suspends the operations of euevolence, is the love of the world ; proceeding rom a false notion men have taken up, that an bundance of the world is an essential ingredient n the happiness of life. Worldly things are of uch a quality as to lessen upon dividing ; so that he more partners there are, the less must fall to ery man's private share. The consequence of his is, that they look upon one another with an vil eye, each imagining all the rest to be embarked n an interest that cannot take place but to his ejudice. Hence are those eager competitions for ealth or power ; hence one man's success becomes oother's disappointment ; and, like pretenders to

the same mistress, they can seldom have common charity for their rivals. Not that they are naturally disposed to quarrel and fall out ; but it is natural for a man to prefer himself to all others, and to secure his own interest first. If that which men esteem their happiness were, like the light, the same sufficient and unconfined good, whether ten thousand enjoy the benefit of it or but one, we should see men's good-will and kind endeavours would be as universal.

*" Homo qui erranti comiter monstrat viam,
Quasi lumen de suo lumine accendat, facit,
Nilominus ipse luceat, cum illi accenderit."*

" To direct a wanderer in the right way, is to light another man's candle by one's own, which loses none of its light by what the other gains."

But, unluckily, mankind agree in making choice of objects which inevitably engage them in perpetual differences. Learn, therefore, like a wise man, the true estimate of things. Desire not more of the world than is necessary to accommodate you in passing through it ; look upon every thing beyond, not as useless only, but burdensome. Place not your quiet in things which you cannot have without putting others beside them, and thereby making them your enemies ; and which, when attained, will give you more trouble to keep than satisfaction in the enjoyment. Virtue is a good of a nobler kind ; it grows by communication ; and so little resembles earthly riches, that the more hands it is lodged in the greater is every man's particular stock. So, by propagating and mingling their fires, not only all the lights of a branch together cast a more extensive brightness, but each single light burns with a stronger flame. And lastly, take this along with you, that if wealth be an instrument of pleasure, the greatest pleasure it can put into your power is that of doing good. It is worth considering, that the organs of sense act within a narrow compass, and the appetites will soon say they have enough. Which of the two therefore is the happier man—he who, confining all his regard to the gratification of his own appetites, is capable but of short fits of pleasure—or the man who, reckoning himself a sharer in the satisfactions of others, especially those which come to them by his means, enlarges the sphere of his happiness ?

The last enemy to benevolence I shall mention is uneasiness of any kind. A guilty, or a discontented mind, a mind ruffled by ill fortune, discontented by its own passions, soured by neglect, or fretting at disappointments, hath not leisure to attend to the necessity or unreasonableness of a kindness desired, nor a taste for those pleasures which wait on beneficence, which demand a calm and unpolluted heart to relish them. The most miserable of all beings is the most envious ; as, on the other hand, the most communicative is the happiest. And if you are in search of the seat of perfect love and friendship, you will not find it till you come to the region of the blessed, where happiness like a refreshing stream, flows from heart to heart in an endless circulation, and is preserved sweet and untainted by the motion. It is old advice, if you have a favour to request of any one, to observe the softest times of address, when the soul, in a flush of good-humour, takes a pleasure to show itself pleased. Persons conscious of their own integrity, satisfied with themselves and their condition, and full of confidence in a Supreme Being, and the hope of immortality, survey all about them with a flow of good-will. As trees which like their soil, they shoot out in expressions

of kindness, and bend beneath their own precious load, to the hand of the gatherer. Now if the mind be not thus easy, it is an infallible sign that it is not in its natural state; place the mind in its right posture, it will immediately discover its innate propensity to beneficence.

[GROVE.]

Nº 602. MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1714.

Facit hoc illos hyacinthos.

JUV. Sat. vi. ver. 110.

This makes them hyacinths.

THE following letter comes from a gentleman who, I find, is very diligent in making his observations; which I think too material not to be communicated to the public.

SIR,

In order to execute the office of the love-casulist of Great Britain, with which I take myself to be invested by your paper of September 8*, I shall make some further observations upon the two sexes in general, beginning with that which always ought to have the upper hand. After having observed with much curiosity the accomplishments which are apt to captivate female hearts, I find that there is no person so irresistible as one who is a man of importance, provided it be in matters of no consequence. One who makes himself talked of, though it be for the particular cock of his hat, or for prating aloud in the boxes at a play, is in a fair way of being a favourite. I have known a young fellow make his fortune by knocking down a constable; and may venture to say, though it may seem a paradox, that many a fair one has died by a duel in which both the combatants have survived.

About three winters ago I took notice of a young lady at the theatre, who conceived a passion for a notorious rake that headed a party of cat-calls; and am credibly informed that the Emperor of the Mohocks married a rich widow within three weeks after having rendered himself formidable in the cities of London and Westminster. Scouring and breaking of windows have done frequent execution upon the sex. But there is no set of these male charmers who make their way more successfully than those who have gained themselves a name for intrigue, and have ruined the greatest number of reputations. There is a strange curiosity in the female world to be acquainted with the dear man who has been loved by others, and to know what it is that makes him so agreeable. His reputation does more than half his business. Every one, that is ambitious of being a woman of fashion, looks out for opportunities of being in his company; so that, to use the old proverb, "When his name is up he may lie a-bed."

I was very sensible of the great advantage of being a man of importance upon these occasions on the day of the king's entry, when I was seated in a balcony behind a cluster of very pretty country ladies, who had one of these showy gentlemen in the midst of them. The first trick I caught him at was bowing to several persons of quality whom he did not know; nay, he had the impudence to hem at a blue garter who had a finer equipage than ordinary; and seemed a little concerned at the impertinent buzzes of the mob, that hindered his

friend from taking notice of him. There was indeed, one who pulled off his hat to him; and the ladies asking who it was, he told them a very foreign minister that he had been very merry the night before; whereas in truth it was the common hunt.

He was never at a loss when he was asked a person's name, though he seldom knew any under a peer. He found dukes and earls among the aldermen, very good-natured fellows among the privy-councillors, with two or three agreeable rakes among the bishops and judges.

In short, I collected from his whole discourse that he was acquainted with every body, and everybody. At the same time, I am mistakes if he did not that day make more advances in the affections of his mistress, who sat near him, than he could have done in half a year's courtship.

Ovid has finely touched this method of success in love, which I shall here give my reader in Mr. Den's translation.

* Page the eleventh.

"Thus love in theatres did first improve,
And theatres are still the scene of love:
Nor shun the chariot's and the courtier's race;
The Circus is no inconvenient place.
Nor need is there of talking on the hand,
Nor nods, nor sighs, which lovers understand;
But boldly next the fair your seat provide,
Close as you can to hers, and side by side:
Pleas'd, or unpleas'd, no matter, crowding in;
For so the laws of public shows permit.
Then find occasion to begin discourse,
Inquire whose chariot this, and whose that bears:
To whatsoever side she is inclin'd,
Suit all your inclinations to her mind.
Like what she likes, from thence your court begin,
And whom she favours wish that he may win."

Again, page the sixteenth.

"O when will come the day by Heaven design'd,
When thou, the best and fairest of mankind,
Drawn by white horses, shalt in triumph ride,
With conquer'd slaves attending on thy side,
Slaves that no longer can be safe in flight:
O glorious object! O surprising sight:
O day of public joy, too good to end in night!
On such a day, if thou, and next to thee
Some beauty sits, the spectacle to see;
If she inquire the names of conquer'd kings,
Of mountains, rivers, and their hidden springs;
Answer to all thou know'st; and, if need be,
Of things unknown seem to speak knowingly:
This is Euphrates, crown'd with reeds: and then
Flows the swift Tigris, with his sea-green hair.
Invent new names of things unknown before,
Call this Armenia, that the Caspian shore;
Call this a Mede, and that the Parthian youth;
Talk probably: no matter for the truth."

Supposed by BUDGE.

Nº 603. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1714.

Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carissima, ducite meum
VING. Ecl. tom. m. 6

Restore my charms,
My lingering Daphnis, to my longing arms.
DEYDEN.

THE following copy of verses comes from one of my correspondents, and has something so singular that I do not much doubt but it will interest my readers.

My time, O ye Muses, was happily spent,
When Phæbe went with me wherever I went;

* This Phæbe was Joanna, daughter of Dr. Richard Bury archdeacon and prebendary of Ely, regius professor at

n thousand sweet pleasures I felt in my breast :
ne never fond shepherd like Colin was blest : I
t now she is gone, and has left me behind,
bat a marvellous change on a sudden I find !
hen things were as fine as could possibly be,
bought 'twas the spring ; but alas ! it was she.

' With such a companion, to tend a few sheep,
rise up and play, or to lie down and sleep,
ras so good-humour'd, so cheerful and gay,
y heart was as light as a feather all day.
t now I so cross and so peevish am grown,
strangely uneasy as never was known,
y fair one is gone, and my joys are all drown'd,
id my heart—I am sure it weighs more than a pound.

' The fountain that wont to run sweetly along,
id dance to soft murmurs the pebbles among ;
ou know'st, little Cupid, if Phoebe was there,
was pleasure to look at, 'twas music to hear :
t now she is absent, I walk by its side,
id still as it murmurs do nothing but chide ;
ut you be so cheerful while I go in pain !
ace there with your bubbling, and hear me complain.

' When my lambskins around me would oftentimes play,
nd when Phoebe and I were as joyful as they,
ow pleasant their sporting, how happy their time,
hen spring, love, and beauty were all in their prime !
t now in their frolics when by me they pass,
fling at their fleeces an handful of grass ;
t still, then, I cry, for it makes me quite mad,
see you so merry while I am so sad.

' My dog I was ever well pleased to see
me wagging his tail to my fair one and me ;
nd Phoebe was pleas'd too, and to my dog said,
me hither, poor fellow ; and patted his head.
t now, when he's fawning, I with a sour look
y, Sirrah ; and give him a blow with my crook :
nd I'll give him another ; for why should not Tray
: as dull as his master, when Phoebe's away !

' When walking with Phoebe, what sights have I seen !
ow fair was the flower, how fresh was the green !
hat a lovely appearance the trees and the shade,
be corn fields and hedges, and every thing made !
ut now she has left me, though all are still there,
hey none of them now so delightful appear :
was nought but the magic, I find, of her eyes,
ade so many beautiful prospects arise.

' Sweet music went with us both all the wood thro',
he lark, linnet, thrush, and nightingale too ;
inds over us whisper'd, flocks by us did bleat,
nd chirp went the grasshopper under our feet.
t now she is absent, though still they sing on,
he woods are but lonely, the melody's gone :
er voice in the concert, as now I have found,
ave ev'ry thing else its agreeable sound.

' Rose, what is become of thy delicate hue ?
nd where is the violet's beautiful blue ?
oes aught of its sweetness the blossom beguile ?
hat meadow, those daisies, why do they not smile ?
h ! rivals, I see what it was that you drest
nd made yourselves fine for ; a place on her breast :
on put on your colours to pleasure her eye,
o be pluck'd by her hand, on her bosom to die.

' How slowly Time creeps, till my Phoebe return !
hile amidst the soft Zephyr's cool breezes I burn !
ethinks if I knew whereabouts he would tread,
could breathe on his wings, and 'twould melt down the
lead.
ly swifter, ye minutes, bring hither my dear,
nd rest so much longer for't when she is here.
h, Colin : old Time is full of delay,
or will budge one foot faster for all thou canst say.

' Will no pitying power that hears me complain,
cure my disquiet or soften my pain ?
o be cur'd, thou must, Colin, thy passion remove ;
ut what swain is so silly to live without love ?
o, Deity, bid the dear nymph to return,
or ne'er was poor shepherd so sadly forlorn.
h ! what shall I do ? I shall die with despair !
ake heed, all ye swains, how ye love one so fair.'

BYRON.

of Trinity College, Cambridge, who died in 1742. She
s afterwards married to Dr. Dennison Cumberland, Bishop
Donfer in Killaloe in Ireland, and grandson of Dr. Richard
umberland, Bishop of Peterborough.

N° 604. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1714.

*Tu ne quæstis (scire nefas) quem mihi, quem tibi,
Finem Dii dederint, Leuconoe; nec Babilonios
Tentaria numeros —*

HOR. Od. xi. l. 1. ver. 1.

Ah! do not strive too much to know,
My dear Luconoe,
What the kind gods design to do
With me and thee.

CREECH.

THE desire of knowing future events is one of the
strongest inclinations in the mind of man. Indeed
an ability of foreseeing probable accidents is what,
in the language of men, is called wisdom and pru-
dence; but, not satisfied with the light that reason
holds out, mankind hath endeavoured to penetrate
more compendiously into futurity. Magic, oracles,
omens, lucky hours, and the various arts of super-
stition, owe their rise to this powerful cause. As
this principle is founded in self-love, every man is
sure to be solicitous in the first place about his own
fortune, the course of his life, and the time and
manner of his death.

If we consider that we are free agents, we shall
discover the absurdity of such inquiries. One of
our actions, which we might have performed or
neglected, is the cause of another that succeeds it,
and so the whole chain of life is linked together.
Pain, poverty, or infamy, are the natural product
of vicious and imprudent acts, as the contrary bless-
ings are of good ones; so that we cannot suppose
our lot to be determined without impiety. A great
enhancement of pleasure arises from its being un-
expected; and pain is doubled by being foreseen.
Upon all these, and several other accounts, we ought
to rest satisfied in this portion bestowed on us; to
adore the hand that hath fitted every thing to our
nature, and hath not more displayed his goodness
in our knowledge than in our ignorance.

It is not unworthy observation, that superstitious
inquiries into future events prevail more or less, in
proportion to the improvement of liberal arts and
useful knowledge in the several parts of the world.
Accordingly, we find that magical incantations re-
main in Lapland: in the more remote parts of
Scotland they have their second sight*; and several
of our own countrymen have seen abundance of
fairies. In Asia this credulity is strong; and the
greatest part of refined learning there consists in
the knowledge of amulets, talismans, occult num-
bers, and the like.

When I was at Grand Cairo I fell into the ac-
quaintance of a good-natured Mussulman, who
promised me many good offices which he designed
to do me when he became prime minister, which
was a fortune bestowed on his imagination by a
doctor very deep in the curious sciences. At his
repeated solicitations I went to learn my destiny
of this wonderful sage. For a small sum I had
his promise, but was desired to wait in a dark
apartment until he had run through the preparatory
ceremonies. Having a strong propensity, even then,
to dreaming, I took a nap upon the sofa where I
was placed, and had the following vision, the par-
ticulars whereof I picked up the other day among
my papers.

I found myself in an unbounded plain, where
methought the whole world, in several habits and
with different tongues, was assembled. The multi-

* Dr. Beattie, in his 'Essays,' &c. edit. p. 480 & seqq. has
some excellent remarks on this visionary faculty.

tude glided swiftly along, and I found in myself a strong inclination to mingle in the train. My eyes quickly singled out some of the most splendid figures. Several in rich caftans and glittering turbans bustled through the throng, and trampled over the bodies of those they threw down; until, to my great surprise, I found that the great pace they went only hastened them to a scaffold or a bow-string. Many beautiful damsels on the other side moved forward with great gaiety; some danced until they fell all along; and others painted their faces until they lost their noses. A tribe of creatures with busy looks falling into a fit of laughter at the misfortunes of the unhappy ladies, I turned my eyes upon them. They were each of them filling his pockets with gold and jewels; and, when there was no room left for more, these wretches, looking round with fear and horror, pined away before my face with famine and discontent.

This prospect of human misery struck me dumb for some miles. Then it was that, to disburden my mind, I took pen and ink, and did every thing that hath since happened under my office of Spectator. While I was employing myself for the good of mankind, I was surprised to meet with very unsuitable returns from my fellow-creatures. Never was poor author so beset with pamphleteers, who sometimes marched directly against me, but oftener shot at me from strong bulwarks, or rose up suddenly in ambush. They were of all characters and capacities; some with emblems of dignity, and others in liveries*: but what most surprised me was to see two or three in black gowns among my enemies. It was no small trouble to me, sometimes to have a man come up to me with an angry face, and reproach me for having lampooned him, when I had never seen or heard of him in my life. With the ladies it was otherwise: many became my enemies for not being particularly pointed out; as there were others who resented the satire which they imagined I had directed against them. My great comfort was in the company of half a dozen friends, who I found since were the club which I have so often mentioned in my papers. I laughed often at Sir Roger in my sleep, and was the more diverted with Will Honeycomb's gallantries (when we afterwards became acquainted), because I had foreseen his marriage with a farmer's daughter. The regret which arose in my mind upon the death of my companions, my anxieties for the public, and the many calamities still fleeting before my eyes, made me repent my curiosity; when the magician entered the room, and awakened me, by telling me (when it was too late) that he was just going to begin.

N. B. I have only delivered the prophecy of that part of my life which is past, it being inconvenient to divulge the second part until a more proper opportunity.

* Doubtless an allusion to the hirelings and black gowns employed by the administration in the last years of the queen's reign: Dean Swift, Prior, Atterbury, Dr. Freind, Dr. King, Mr. Oldisworth, Mrs. Manley, the writers of the Examiner, &c.

Nº 605. MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1741.

*Exuerint sylvestrem animum; cultique ferax
In quacunque voces artes, hanc tardo iuravit
VIRG. Georg. a. 1.*

They change their savage mind,
Their wildness lose, and, quitting nature's part,
Obey the rules and discipline of art.
DRYDEN.

HAVING perused the following letter, and sent it to run upon the subject of love, I referred to the learned casuist, whom I have retained in service for speculations of that kind. He returned it to me the next morning with his report annexed to it, with both of which I shall here present my reader.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
' FINDING that you have entertained an opinion in your service in quality of love-casualty, I apply myself to you, under a very great diffidence that hath for some months perplexed me. I have a couple of humble servants, one of which I have no aversion to; the other I think of very little. The first hath the reputation of a man of good sense, and is one of those people that your age are apt to value. My spark is reckoned a favourite among the men, but is a favourite of the ladies. If I marry the man of worth, as I call him, I shall oblige my parents, and improve my fortune; but with my dear beast I promise myself happiness, although not a jointure. I would ask you, whether I should consent to lead a life with a man that I have only no objection to, or with him against whom all objections to me appear frivolous. I am determined to follow a casuist's advice, and I dare say he will not put upon so serious a thing as matrimony contrary to my inclination.

'I am, &c.

'FANNY FICKLE.

'P. S. I forgot to tell you that the pretty gentleman is the most complaisant creature in the world, and is always of my mind; but the other, forsooth, fancies he has as much wit as myself, slights my lap-dog, and hath the insolence to contradict me when he thinks I am not in the right. About half an hour ago he maintained to me that a patch always implies a pimple.'

As I look upon it to be my duty rather to assist with the parents than the daughter, I shall propose some considerations to my gentle querist, which may incline her to comply with those under whose direction she is: and at the same time caution her, that it is not impossible but she may, in time, have a true affection for him who is at present so different to her; or, to use the old family maxim, that, 'if she marries first, love will come after.'

The only objection that she seems to imagine against the gentleman proposed to her, is his want of complaisance, which, I perceive, she is unwilling to return. Now I can discover but one very circumstance, that she and her lover, whatever they may think of it, are very good friends to their hearts. It is difficult to determine where love delights more in giving pleasure or pain. Let Miss Fickle ask her own heart, if she does not

ake a secret pride in making this man of good sense look very silly. Hath she ever been better pleased than when her behaviour hath made her lover ready to hang himself? or doth she ever rejoice more than when she thinks she hath driven him to the very brink of a purling stream? Let her consider, at the same time, that it is not impossible but her lover may have discovered her tricks, and hath mind to give her as good as she brings. I remember a handsome young baggage that treated a peevish Greek of my acquaintance, just come from Oxford, as if he had been a barbarian. The first week after she had fixed him, she took a pinch of snuff out of his rival's box, and apparently touched the enemy's little finger. She became a professed enemy to the arts and sciences, and scarce ever wrote a letter to him without wilfully misspelling his name. The young scholar, to be even with her, dined at coquettes as soon as he had got the word; and did not want parts to turn into ridicule her men of wit and pleasure of the town. After having irritated one another for the space of five months, she made an assignation with him four miles from London. But, as he was very ill acquainted with her pranks, he took a journey the quite contrary way. Accordingly they quarrelled, and in a few days were married. Their former hostilities are now the subject of their mirth, being content at present with that part of the only which bestows pleasure.

Women who have been married some time, not giving it in their heads to draw after them a numerous train of followers, find their satisfaction in the possession of one man's heart. I know very well that ladies in their bloom desire to be excused this particular. But, when time hath worn out their natural vanity and taught them discretion, their fondness settles on its proper object. And it is probably for this reason that, among husbands, we will find more that are fond of women beyond their prime than of those who are actually in the decline of beauty. My reader will apply the same observation to the other sex.

I need not insist upon the necessity of their pursuing one common interest, and their united care of their children; but shall only observe, by the way, that married persons are both more warm in their love and more hearty in their hatred than any others whatsoever. Mutual favours and obligations, which may be supposed to be greater here than in any other state, naturally beget an intense affection in generous minds. As, on the contrary, persons who have bestowed such favours have a particular bitterness in their resentments, when they look themselves ill treated by those of whom they are deserved so much.

Besides, Miss Fickle may consider that, as there are often many faults concealed before marriage, there are sometimes many virtues unobserved. To this we may add the great efficacy of custom in constant conversation to produce a mutual friendship and benevolence in two persons. It is a reflection, which I have heard a friend of mine make, that you may be sure a woman loves a man when she uses his expressions, tells his stories, imitates his manner. This gives a secret delight; imitation is a kind of artless flattery, and it justly favours the powerful principle of self-love. It is certain that married persons, who are possessed with a mutual esteem, not only catch the same way of talk from one another, but fall into the same traces of thinking and liking. Nay, some have carried the remark so far as to assert, that the features of man and wife grow, in time, to re-

semble one another. Let my fair correspondent therefore consider, that the gentleman recommended will have a good deal of her own face in two or three years; which she must not expect from the beau, who is too full of his dear self to copy after another. And I dare appeal to her own judgment, if that person will not be the handsomest that is the most like herself.

We have a remarkable instance to our present purpose in the history of King Edgar, which I shall here relate, and leave it with my fair correspondent to be applied to herself.

This great monarch, who is so famous in British story, fell in love, as he made his progress through his kingdom, with a certain duke's daughter, who lived near Winchester, and was the most celebrated beauty of the age. His importunities and the violence of his passion were so great, that the mother of the young lady promised him to bring her daughter to his bed the next night, though in her heart she abhorred so infamous an office. It was no sooner dark than she conveyed into his room a young maid of no disagreeable figure, who was one of her attendants, and did not want address to improve the opportunity for the advancement of her fortune. She made so good use of her time, that, when she offered to rise a little before day, the king could by no means think of parting with her; so that, finding herself under a necessity of discovering who she was, she did it in so handsome a manner, that his majesty was exceeding gracious to her, and took her ever after under his protection: insomuch that, our chronicles tell us, he carried her along with him, made her his first minister of state, and continued true to her alone, until his marriage with the beautiful Elfrieda.

[Supposed by BUNELL.]

Nº 605. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1714.

— longum cantus solata labore
Arguto confus percurrit pectine telas.
VIRG. Georg. l. ver. 294.

— meantime at home
The good wife singing plies the various loom.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'I HAVE a couple of nieces under my direction, who so often run gadding abroad, that I do not know where to have them. Their drem, their tea, and their visits, take up all their time, and they go to bed as tired with doing nothing as I am after quilting a whole under-petticoat. The only time they are not idle is while they read your Spectators; which being dedicated to the interests of virtue, I desire you to recommend the long-neglected art of needle-work. Those hours which in this age are thrown away in drem, play, visits, and the like, were employed, in my time, in writing out receipts, or working beds, chairs, and hangings, for the family. For my part, I have plied my needle these fifty years, and by my good will would never have it out of my hand. It grieves my heart to see a couple of proud idle flirts sipping their tea, for a whole afternoon, in a room hung round with the industry of their great grandmother. Pray, sir, take the laudable mystery of embroidery into your serious consideration; and, as you have a great deal of the virtue of the last age in you, continue your endeavours to reform the present.

'I am, &c.'

In obedience to the commands of my venerable correspondent, I have duly weighed this important subject, and promise myself, from the arguments here laid down, that all the fine ladies of England will be ready, as soon as their mourning is over*, to appear covered with the work of their own hands.

What a delightful entertainment must it be to the fair sex, whom their native modesty and the tenderness of men towards them exempts from public business, to pass their hours in imitating fruits and flowers, and transplanting all the beauties of nature into their own dress, or raising a new creation in their closets and apartments! How pleasing is the amusement of walking among the shades and groves planted by themselves, in surveying heroes slain by the needle, or little Cupids which they have brought into the world without pain!

This is, methinks, the most proper way wherein a lady can show a fine genius; and I cannot forbear wishing that several writers of that sex had chosen to apply themselves rather to tapestry than rhyme. Your pastoral poetesses may vent their fancy in rural landscapes, and place despairing shepherds under silken willows, or drown them in a stream of mohair. The heroic writers may work up battles as successfully, and inflame them with gold, or stain them with crimson. Even those who have only a turn to a song, or an epigram, may put many valuable stitches into a purse, and crowd a thousand graces into a pair of garters.

If I may, without breach of good manners, imagine that any pretty creature is void of genius, and would perform her part herein but very awkwardly, I must nevertheless insist upon her working, if it be only to keep her out of harm's way.

Another argument for busying good women in works of fancy is, because it takes them off from scandal, the usual attendant of tea-tables, and all other inactive scenes of life. While they are forming their birds and beasts, their neighbours will be allowed to be the fathers of their own children; and whig and tory will be but seldom mentioned where the great dispute is, whether blue or red is the more proper colour. How much greater glory would Sophronia do the general, if she would choose rather to work the battle of Blenheim in tapestry, than signalize herself with so much vehemence against those who are Frenchmen in their hearts!

A third reason that I shall mention, is the profit that is brought to the family where these pretty arts are encouraged. It is manifest that this way of life not only keeps fair ladies from running out into expenses, but is at the same time an actual improvement. How memorable would that matron be, who shall have it inscribed upon her monument, 'That she wrought out the whole Bible in tapestry, and died in a good old age, after having covered three hundred yards of wall in the mansion-house!'

The premises being considered, I humbly submit the following proposals to all mothers in Great Britain:

1. That no young virgin whatsoever be allowed to receive the addresses of her first lover but in a suit of her own embroidering.
2. That before every fresh humble servant she be obliged to appear with a new stomacher at the least.
3. That no one be actually married until she hath the child-bed pillows, &c. ready stitched, as likewise the mantle for the boy quite finished.

* The general mourning on the death of Queen Anne.

These laws, if I mistake not, would effectually restore the decayed art of needle-work, and save the virgins of Great Britain exceedingly sinfully fingered in their business.

There is a memorable custom of the Grecian ladies in this particular preserved in Homer, which hope will have a very good effect with my countrywomen. A widow, in ancient times, could not without indecency, receive a second husband, or she had woven a shroud for her deceased lord: the next of kin to him. Accordingly, the dear Penelope, having, as she thought, lost Ulysses, employed her time in preparing a winding-sheet for Laertes, the father of her husband. The story of her web being very famous, and yet sufficiently known in its several circumstances, I shall give it to my reader, as Homer makes one of her woerers relate it.

'Sweet hope she gave to every youth spurt,
With well-taught looks, and a deceitful heart:
A web she wove of many a slender twine;
Of curious texture, and perplex'd design;
My youths, she cry'd, my lord but newly dead,
Forbear awhile to court my widow'd bed,
Till I have wove, as solemn vows require,
This web, a shroud for poor Ulysses' sire.
His limbs, when fate the hero's soul demands,
Shall claim this labour of his daughter's hands,
Lest all the dames of Greece my name despise,
While the great king without a covering lies.

'Thus she: nor did my friends mistrust the guile
All day she sped the long laborious toil:
But when the burning lamps supply'd the sun,
Each night unravell'd what the day began.
Three live-long summers did the fraud prevail;
The fourth her maidens told th' amazing tale.
These eyes beheld, as close I took my stand,
The backward labours of her faithless hand:
Till, watch'd at length, and press'd on every side,
Her task she ended, and commenc'd a bride.'

ADVERTISEMENT.

'Dr. Cairns, a gradual, challenges all the gradual dunces Great Britain, to discourse with him of the nature of man and their medicinal virtues, and of the universal man, and, until he find one fitter for the title, he declares himself professor of occult philosophy and alchemy. At his chamber, every Thursday, at four o'clock, he will read a discourse of the greatest secrets in nature. He expects to invite the most learned audience that the kingdom affords [*nam ignoti multa cupido*]; and promised a discourse of the greatest secrets in nature, not only suitable to their taste and his, but to the highest attainments of human understanding. Dr. Cairns lives the next door but one to the Edinburgh Berwick-street, near Marlborough-street. Each pay-
ment a crown.'

Nº 607. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1714

*Dicite Io Penn, et Io his dicite Penn:
Decidit in cassus præda petula venæ.*

OVID. *Am. Am.* l. 1. v. 1.

Now Io Penn sing, now wreaths prepare,
And with repeated Io fill the air:
The prey is fall'n in my successful snare.

ANON.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'HAVING in your paper of Monday last published my report on the case of Mrs. Fanny Fenn wherein I have taken notice, that love comes not by marriage; I hope your readers are satisfied of the truth, that as love generally produces matrimony so it often happens that matrimony produces love. It perhaps requires more virtue to make a good husband or wife than what goes to the making of the most shining character whatsoever.

'Discretion seems absolutely necessary; and accordingly we find that the best husbands have been not famous for their wisdom. Homer, who hath drawn a perfect pattern of a prudent man, to make it the more complete, hath celebrated him as the just returns of fidelity and truth to his Penelope; inasmuch that he refused the caresses of a seducer for her sake; and, to use the expression of the best of pagan authors, "*Vetulum suum prætulit immortalitati*," his old woman was dearer to him than immortality.

'Virtue is the next necessary qualification for its domestic character, as it naturally produces constancy and mutual esteem. Thus Brutus and Porcia were more remarkable for virtue and affection than any others of the age in which they lived.

'Good-nature is a third necessary ingredient in the marriage state, without which it would inevitably sour upon a thousand occasions. When greatness of mind is joined with this amiable quality, it attracts the admiration and esteem of all who behold it. Thus Cæsar, not more remarkable for his fortune and valour than for his humanity, stole into the hearts of the Roman people, when, breaking through the custom, he pronounced an oration at the funeral of his first and best-beloved wife.

'Good-nature is insufficient, unless it be steady and uniform, and accompanied with an evenness of temper, which is above all things to be preserved in this friendship contracted for life. A man must be easy within himself before he can be so to his wife. Socrates and Marcus Aurelius are instances of men, who, by the strength of philosophy, having entirely composed their minds, and subdued their passions, are celebrated for good husbands; notwithstanding the first was yoked with Xantippe, and the other with Faustina. If the wedded pair would but habituate themselves for the first year to bear with one another's faults, the difficulty would be pretty well conquered. This mutual sweetness of temper and complacency was never recommended in the nuptial ceremonies among the heathens, who, when they sacrificed to one at that solemnity, always tore out the gall from the entrails of the victim, and cast it behind the altar.

'I shall conclude this letter with a passage out of Dr. Plot's Natural History of Staffordshire, not only as it will serve to fill up your present paper, but, if I find myself in the humour, may give rise to another; I having by me an old register belonging to the place hereunder mentioned.

"Sir Philip de Somerville held the manors of Whichenovre, Scirescot, Ridware, Netherton, and Nowlee, all in the county of Stafford, of the Earls of Lancaster, by this memorable service.—The said Sir Philip shall find, maintain, and sustain, one bacon-sitch, hanging in his hall at Whichenovre ready arrayed all times of the year but in Lent, to be given to every man or woman married, after the day and the year of their marriage be past, in form following * :

* There was a similar institution at Dunmow in Essex.

"In the reign of Hen. III. (says Leland, in his "Itinerary") Rob. Fitz Walter, Lord of Woodham, re-edified the decayed priory of Dunmow, which one Jugs, a devout and religious woman, his ancestor, had buydied. In which priory rose a custom instituted by him or some of his successors, with an intention, it has been said, to convince the nuns, viz. that marriage was not such a state of felicity as was oddly conceived by unmarried people, that he which rejected him not of his marriage, sleeping or waking, in a year and a day, might come lawfully to Dunmow, and claim a gammon of bacon; and this custom continued until the

"Whenever that any one such before named will come to inquire for the bacon, in their own person, they shall come to the bailiff, or to the porter of the lordship of Whichenovre, and shall say to them in the manner as ensueth :

'Bailiff, or porter, I do you to know, that I am come for myself, to demand one bacon flyke hanging in the hall of the Lord of Whichenovre, after the form thereunto belonging.'

"After which relation, the bailiff or porter shall assign a day to him, upon promise by his faith to return, and with him to bring twain of his neighbours. And in the meantime the said bailiff shall take with him twain of the freeholders of the lordship of Whichenovre, and they three shall go to the manor of Rudlowe, belonging to Robert Knightleye, and there shall summon the aforesaid Knightleye, or his bailiff, commanding him to be ready at Whichenovre the day appointed, at prime of day, with his carriage, that is to say, a horse and a saddle, a sack and a pryke, for to convey the said bacon and corn a journey out of the county of Stafford, at his costages. And then the said bailiff shall, with the said freeholders, summon all the tenants of the said manor, to be ready at the day appointed at Whichenovre, for to do and perform the services which they owe to the bacon. And at the day assigned, all such as owe services to the bacon shall be ready at the gate of the manor of Whichenovre, from the sun-rising to noon, attending and awaiting for the coming of him who fetcheth the bacon. And when he is come, there shall be delivered to him and his fellows, chapelets, and to all those which shall be there, to do their services due to the bacon. And they shall lead the said demandant with trumps and tabors, and other manner of minstrelay, to the hall door, where he shall find the lord of Whichenovre, or his steward, ready to deliver the bacon in this manner :

"He shall inquire of him which demandeth the bacon, if he have brought twain of his neighbours with him : which must answer, 'they be here ready.' And then the steward shall cause these two neighbours to swear, if the said demandant be a wedded man, or have been a man wedded; and if since his marriage one year and a day be past;

dissolution of the house*, when as other abbies were suppressed in the tyeme of Hen. VIII. and the bacon was delivered with such solemnity and triumph as they of the priory and townsmen could make.

The claimant was to make oath before the prior of the convent, and the whole town, kneeling in the church-yard on two sharp-pointed stones, &c.

The form of the oath was as follows :

'You shall swear by custom of confession
If ever you made nuptial transgression,
Be you either married man or wyfe,
By household brawls or contentious strife;
Or otherwyse at bed or at boord
Offend each other in deed or word :
Or synce the parish clerk said amen,
You wish yourselves unmarried agen;
Or in a twelvemonth's tyeme and a day
Repented not in thought any manner of way ;
But continued true and just in desyre,
As when you join'd hands in the holy quyre :
If to these conditions without all fear,
Of your own accord you will freely swear;
You shall of our bacon of Dunmowe receive,
And bear it from hence with love and good leave.
For this our custome of Dunmowe well known,
Though the pastime be ours, the bacon's your own.'

* The custom continues to the present time; and claims are occasionally made; though not so frequently as, for the honour of Hymen, we believe they might be, were every qualified couple aware of the custom, and disposed to avail themselves of it.

and if he be a freeman or a villain*. And if his said neighbours make oath that he hath for him all these three points rehearsed, then shall the bacon be taken down and brought to the hall door, and shall there be laid upon one half quarter of wheat, and upon one other of rye. And he that demandeth the bacon shall kneel upon his knee, and shall hold his right hand upon a book, which book shall be laid upon the bacon and the corn, and shall make oath in this manner:

‘Hear ye, Sir Philip de Somerville, lord of Whichenovre, mayntener and gyver of this baconne: that I A sithe I wedded B my wife, and sithe I had hyrn my kepying, and at my wylle, by a year and a day after our marriage, I would not have chaunged for none other; farer ne fowler; richer ne pourer; ne for none other descended of greater lynage; sleeping ne waking, at noo tyme. And if the seyd B were sole, and I sole, I would take her to be my wife before all the wymen of the worlde, of what condicions soever they be, good or evyll; as help me God and his seyntes, and this flesh and all fleshes.’

‘And his neighbours shall make oath, that they trust verily he hath said truly. And if it be found by his neighbours before named, that he be a freeman, there shall be delivered to him half a quarter of wheat and a cheese; and if he be a villain, he shall have half a quarter of rye without cheese. And then shall Knightleye, the lord of Rudlow, be called for, to carry all these things tofore rehearsed; and the said corn shall be laid on one horse and the bacon above it: and he to whom the bacon appertaineth shall ascend upon his horse, and shall take the cheese before him, if he have a horse. And if he have none, the lord of Whichenovre shall cause him to have one horse and saddle, to such time as he be passed his lordship; and so shall they depart the manor of Whichenovre with the corn and the bacon, tofore him that hath won it, with trumpets, taboretts, and other manner of minstrelsy. And all the free tenants of Whichenovre shall conduct him to be passed the lordship of Whichenovre. And then shall they all returne, except him to whom appertaineth to make the carriage and journey without the county of Stafford, at the costs of his lord of Whichenovre.’

Nº 608. MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1714.

— *Perjuria ridet amantum.*

— OVID. Ars Am. l. ver. 633.

— Forgiving with a smile
The perjuries that easy maids beguile.
— DRYDEN.

‘MR. SPECTATOR,

‘According to my promise I herewith transmit to you a list of several persons, who from time to time demanded the flitch of bacon of Sir Philip de Somerville, and his descendants; as it is preserved in an ancient manuscript under the title of “The Register of Whichenovre-hall, and of the bacon flitch there maintained.”

‘In the beginning of this record is recited the law or institution in form, as it is already printed in your last paper: to which are added two by-laws, as a comment upon the general law, the substance whereof is, that the wife shall take the same

* That is, as the words then meant, ‘a free man or a servant.’

oath as the husband, *mutatis mutandis*; and as the judges shall, as they think meet, interrupt or cross-examine the witnesses. After this proceeds the register in manner following:

“Aubry de Falstaff, son of Sir John Falstaff, Kt. with dame Maude his wife, were the first that demanded the bacon, he having bribed twise his father’s companions to swear falsely in his behalf, whereby he gained the flitch: but he and his said wife falling immediately into a dispute, the said bacon should be dressed, it was by order of the judges taken from him, and hung up as in the hall.

“Allison, the wife of Stephen Freckle, brought her said husband along with her, and set forth a good conditions and behaviour of her consort, adding withal that she doubted not but that he was ready to attest the like of her, his wife; whereupon the said Stephen, shaking his head, she turned as upon him, and gave him a box on the ear.

“Philip de Waverland, having laid his hand upon the book, when the clause, “were I sole and she sole,” was rehearsed, found a secret composition rising in his mind, and stole it off again.

“Richard de Loveless, who was a courtier, and a very well-bred man, being observed to be silent at the words “after our marriage,” was thereupon required to explain himself. He replied, by saying very largely of his exact complaisance to his wife as a lover; and alleged that he had not in the least disoblighed his wife for a year and a day before marriage, which he hoped was the same thing.

“Rejected.

“Joceline Jolly, Esq. making it appear, by a questionable testimony, that he and his wife were preserved full and entire affection for the space of the first month, commonly called the honey-moon, he had in consideration thereof one rather better upon him.

“After this, says the record, many years passed over before any demandant appeared at Whichenovre-hall; insomuch that one would have thought that the whole country were turned Jews, so little was their affection to the flitch of bacon.

“The next couple enrolled had like to have married it, if one of the witnesses had not departed that dining on a Sunday with the demandant, whose wife had sat below the squire’s lady at church, and the said wife dropped some expressions, as if she thought her husband deserved to be knighted; in which he returned a passionate pink! the jury, taking the premises into consideration, declared for aforesaid behaviour to imply an unwarrantable ambition in the wife, and anger in the husband.

“It is recorded as a sufficient disqualification of a certain wife, that, speaking of her husband, she said “God forgive him.”

“It is likewise remarkable that a couple were rejected upon the deposition of one of their neighbours, that the lady had once told her husband, “It was her duty to obey;” to which he replied, “O, my dear! you are never in the wrong!”

“The violent passion of one lady for her husband, the turning away of the old house-maid by another, a tavern-bill torn by the wife, and a tailor’s bill torn by the husband; a quarrel about the kissing-crust; the missing of dinners, and coming in late of supper, and many several articles which occasioned the rejection of some scores of demandants, whose names are recorded in the aforesaid register.

“Without enumerating other particulars, I shall content myself with observing, that the sentence pronounced against one Gertrude Pouch: a

ut "he might have had bacon to his eggs, if he did not bitherto scolded his wife when they were erboiled." And the deposition against Dorothy little runs in these words, "that she had so far arped the dominion of the coal fire, (the stirring hereof her husband claimed to himself) that by r good-will she never would suffer the poker out her hand."

"I find but two couples in this first century that ere successful; the first was a sea-captain and his ife, who since the day of their marriage had not en one another till the day of the claim. The cond was an honest pair in the neighbourhood; e husband was a man of plain good sense and a aceable temper; the woman was dumb."

* 609. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1714.

Farrego libelli.

JUV. Sat. l. ver. 86.

The miscellaneous subjects of my book.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

I HAVE for some time desired to appear in your aper, and have therefore chosen a day * to steal to the Spectator, when I take it for granted you ill not have many spare minutes for speculations f your own. As I was the other day walking ith an honest country gentleman, he very often as expressing his astonishment to see the town so ightly crowded with doctors of divinity; upon hich I told him he was very much mistaken if he ook all those gentlemen he saw in scarfs to be ersons of that dignity; for that a young divine, fter his first degree in the university, usually comes ither only to show himself; and, on that occasion, is apt to think he is but half equipped with a gown nd cassock for his public appearance, if he hath ot the additional ornament of a scarf of the first agnitude to entitle him to the appellation of Doctor from his landlady and the boy at Child's. Now since I know that this piece of garniture is ooked upon as a mark of vanity or affectation, as it is made use of among some of the little spruce adventures of the town, I should be glad if you would give it a place among those extravagancies you have justly exposed in several of your papers, being very well assured that the main body of the clergy, both in the country and the universities, who are almost to a man untainted with it, would be very well pleased to see this venerable foppery well exposed. When my patron did me the honour to take me into his family (for I must own myself of this order), he was pleased to say he took me as a friend and companion; and whether he looked upon the scarf like the lace and shoulder-knot of a footman, as a badge of servitude and dependence, I do not know, but he was so kind as to leave my wearing of it to my own discretion; and, not having any just title to it from my degrees, I am content to be without the ornament. The privileges of our nobility to keep a certain number of chaplains are undisputed, though perhaps not one in ten of those reverend gentlemen have any relation to the noble families their scarfs belong to; the right generally of creating all chaplains, except the domestic (where there is one), being nothing more than the perquisite of a steward's place, who, if he happens to outlive any considerable number

of his noble masters, shall probably, at one and the same time, have fifty chaplains, all in their proper accoutrements, of his own creation; though perhaps there hath been neither grace nor prayer said in the family since the introduction of the first coronet.

'I am, &c.'

* MR. SPECTATOR,

'I wish you would write a philosophical paper about natural antipathies, with a word or two concerning the strength of imagination. I can give you a list, upon the first notice, of a rational china cup, of an egg that walks upon two legs, and a quart pot that sings like a nightingale. There is in my neighbourhood a very pretty prattling shoulder of veal, that squalls out at the sight of a knife. Then, as for natural antipathies, I know a general officer who was never conquered but by a smothered rabbit; and a wife that domineers over her husband by the help of a breast of mutton. A story that relates to myself on this subject may be thought not unentertaining, especially when I assure you that it is literally true. I had long made love to a lady, in the possession of whom I am now the happiest of mankind, whose hand I should have gained with much difficulty, without the assistance of a cat. You must know then that my most dangerous rival had so strong an aversion to this species, that he infallibly swooned away at the sight of that harmless creature. My friend Mrs. Lucy, her maid, having a greater respect for me and my purse than she had for my rival, always took care to pin the tail of a cat under the gown of her mistress, whenever she knew of his coming; which had such an effect, that, every time he entered the room, he looked more like one of the figures in Mrs. Salmon's wax-work * than a desirable lover. In short, he grew sick of her company: which the young lady taking notice of (who no more knew why than he did), she sent me a challenge to meet her in Lincoln's-inn chapel, which I joyfully accepted; and have, amongst other pleasures, the satisfaction of being praised by her for my stratagem.

'I am, &c.'

* From the Hoop.

'TOM NIMBLE.'

* MR. SPECTATOR,

'THE virgins of Great Britain are very much obliged to you for putting them upon such tedious drudgeries in needle-work as were fit only for the Hilpas and the Nilpas that lived before the flood. Here is a stir indeed with your histories in embroidery, your groves with shades of silk and streams of mohair! I would have you to know, that I hope to kill a hundred lovers before the best housewife in England can stitch out a battle; and do not fear but to provide boys and girls much faster than your disciples can embroider them. I love birds and beasts as well as you, but am content to fancy them when they are really made. What do you think of gilt leather for furniture? There is your pretty hangings for a chamber; and, what is more, our own country is the only place in Europe where work of that kind is tolerably done†. Without minding your musty lessons, I

* An exhibition then to be seen near St. Dunstan's-church, Fleet-street; but which toward the close of the century, was removed to the opposite side of the way, somewhat nearer to Temple-bar.

† About this time there was a celebrated manufactory of tapestry at Chelsea.

* The day of the coronation of King George I.

am this minute going to Paul's church-yard to bespeak a screen and a set of hangings; and am resolved to encourage the manufacture of my country.

'Yours,
'CLEORA.'

Nº 610. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1714.

*Sic, cum transierint mei
Nullo cum strepitu dies,
Plebeius moriar senex,
Illi mors gravis incubat,
Qui, notus nimis omnibus,
Ignotus moritur sibi.*

SENECA.

Thus, when my fleeting days, at last,
Unheeded, silently are past,
Calmly I shall resign my breath,
In life unknown, forgot in death;
While he, o'ertaken unprepared,
Finds death an evil to be fear'd,
Who dies, to others too much known,
A stranger to himself alone.

I HAVE often wondered that the Jews should contrive such a worthless greatness for the Deliverer whom they expected, as to dress him up in external pomp and pageantry, and represent him to their imaginations as making havoc amongst his creatures, and actuated with the poor ambition of a Cæsar or an Alexander. How much more illustrious does he appear in his real character, when considered as the author of universal benevolence among men, as refining our passions, exalting our nature, giving us vast ideas of immortality, and teaching us a contempt of that little showy grandeur wherein the Jews made the glory of their Messiah to consist!

'Nothing,' says Longinus, 'can be great, the contempt of which is great.' The possession of wealth and riches cannot give a man a title to greatness, because it is looked upon as a greatness of mind to condemn these gifts of fortune, and to be above the desire of them. I have therefore been inclined to think that there are greater men who lie concealed among the species, than those who come out and draw upon themselves the eyes and admiration of mankind. Virgil would never have been heard of, had not his domestic misfortunes driven him out of his obscurity, and brought him to Rome.

If we suppose that there are spirits, or angels, who look into the ways of men, as it is highly probable there are, both from reason and revelation; how different are the notions which they entertain of us, from those which we are apt to form of one another! Were they to give us in their catalogue of such worthies as are now living, how different would it be from that which any of our own species would draw up!

We are dazzled with the splendour of titles, the ostentation of learning, the noise of victories; they, on the contrary, see the philosopher in the cottage, who possesses his soul in patience and thankfulness, under the pressures of what little minds call poverty and distress. They do not look for great men at the head of armies, or among the pomps of a court, but often find them out in shades and solitudes, in the private walks and by-paths of life. The evening's walk of a wise man is more illustrious in their sight than the march of a general at the head of an hundred thousand men. A contemplation of God's works; a voluntary act of justice to our detriment; a generous concern for the good of mankind; tears that are shed in silence for the mi-

tery of others; a private desire or temptation broken and subdued; in short, an unfeigned exercise of humility, or any other virtue, are such actions as are glorious in their sight, and draw men great and reputable. The most famous men are often looked upon with pity, with contempt, or with indignation; whilst those who are most obscure among their own species are regarded with love, with approbation, and esteem.

The moral of the present speculation annexed to this; that we should not be led away by censures and applauses of men, but consider a figure that every person will make at that time when 'Wisdom shall be justified of her children' and nothing pass for great or illustrious which is not an ornament and perfection to human nature.

The story of Gyges, the rich Lydian monarch, is a memorable instance to our present purpose. The oracle, being asked by Gyges, who was the happiest man, replied Aglaüs. Gyges, who expected to have heard himself named on this occasion, was much surprised, and very curious to know who this Aglaüs should be. After much inquiry he was found to be an obscure countryman, who employed all his time in cultivating a garden, and a few acres of land about his house.

Cowley's agreeable relation of this story closes this day's speculation.

'Thus Aglaüs (a man unknown to men,
But the gods knew, and therefore loved him then
Thus liv'd obscurely then without a name,
Aglaüs, now consigu'd to eternal fame.
For Gyges, the rich king, wicked and great,
Presum'd at wise Apollo's Delphic seat,
Presum'd to ask, O thou, the whole world's eye,
Seest thou a man that happier is than I?
The god, who seem'd to flatter man, reply'd,
Aglaüs happier is. But Gyges cry'd,
In a proud rage, who can that Aglaüs be?
We've heard as yet of no such king as he.
And true it was, through the whole earth around.
No king of such a name was to be found.
Is some old hero of that name alive,
Who his high race does from the gods derive?
Is it some mighty gen'ral that has done
Wonders in fight, and godlike honours won?
Is it some man of endless wealth? and he
None, none of these. Who can this Aglaüs be?
After long search and vain inquiries past,
In an obscure Arcadian vale at last,
(Th' Arcadian life has always shady been)
Near Sopho's town (which he but once has seen)
This Aglaüs, who monarch's envy drew,
Whose happiness the gods stood witness to,
This mighty Aglaüs was lab'ring found,
With his own hands, in his own little ground.

'So, gracious God, (if it may lawful be,
Among those foolish gods to mention thee)
So let me act, on such a private stage,
The last dull scenes of my declining age;
After long toils and voyages in vain,
This quiet port let my towe'd vessel gain;
Of heav'nly rest this earnest to me bring,
Let my life sleep, and learn to love her end.'

Nº 611. MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1714.

*Perfidus! sed duris gemis te condidisse barcos
Caucasus, Hircanæque adnervatus abena tyn*
VING. Æt. IV. c. 14.

Perfidious man! thy parent was a rook,
And fierce Hircanian tynns gave thee such.

I AM willing to postpone every thing, to do the least service for the deserving and undervalued. Accordingly I have caused the following letter

* Cowley's Works, 8vo. edit. 1710, vol. II. p. 12

inserted in my paper the moment that it came my hands, without altering one tittle in an account which the lady relates so handsomely herself.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I FLATTER myself you will not only pity, but, if possible, redress a misfortune myself and several others of my sex lie under. I hope you will not be offended, nor think I mean by this to justify my own imprudent conduct, or expect you should. O! I am sensible how severely, in some of your former papers, you have reproved persons guilty of the like mismanagements. I was scarce sixteen, and, I may say without vanity, handsome, when seduced by a false perjured man; who, upon promise of marriage, rendered me the most unhappy of women. After he had deluded me from my parents, who were people of very good fashion, less than three months he left me. My parents could not see nor hear from me; and, had it not been for a servant who had lived in our family, I must certainly have perished for want of bread. However, it pleased Providence, in a very short time, to alter my miserable condition. A gentleman saw me, liked me, and married me. My parents were reconciled; and I might be as happy in the change of my condition, as I was before miserable, but for some things, that you shall know, which are insupportable to me; and I am sure you have so much honour and compassion as to let those persons know, in some of your papers, how much they are in the wrong. I have been married near five years, and do not know that in all that time I ever went abroad without my husband's leave and approbation. I am obliged, through the importunities of several of my relations, to go abroad oftener than suits my temper. Then it is I labour under insupportable agonies. That man, or rather monster, haunts every place I go to. Base villain! by reason I will not admit his nameous wicked visits and appointments, he strives all the ways he can to ruin me. He left me destitute of friend or money, nor ever thought me worth inquiring after, till he unfortunately happened to see me in a front-box, sparkling with jewels. Then his passion returned. Then the hypocrite pretended to be a penitent. Then he practiced all those arts that helped before to undo me. I am not to be deceived a second time by him. I hate and abhor his odious passion; and, as he plainly perceives it, either out of spite or diversion he makes it his business to expose me. I never fail seeing him in all public company, where he is always most industriously spiteful. He hath, in short, told all his acquaintance of our unhappy affair; they tell theirs; so that it is no secret among his companions, which are numerous. They to whom he tells it, think they have a title to be very familiar. If they bow to me, and I out of good manners return it, then I am pestered with freedoms that are no way agreeable to myself or company. If I turn my eyes from them, or seem displeased, they sour upon it, and whisper the next person; he his next; till I have at last the eyes of the whole company upon me. Nay, they report abominable falsehoods, under that mistaken notion, "She that will grant favours to one man will to a hundred." I beg you will let those who are guilty know how ungenerous this way of proceeding is. I am sure he will know himself the person aimed at, and perhaps put a stop to the insolence of others. Cursed is the fate of unhappy women! that men may boast and glory in those things that we must think of with shame and hor-

ror! You have the art of making such odious customs appear detestable. For my sake, and, I am sure, for the sake of several others who dare not own it, but, like me, lie under the same misfortune, make it as infamous for a man to boast of favours, or expose our sex, as it is to take the lie or a box on the ear, and not resent it.

Your constant reader,

and admirer,

LESBIA.

P. S. I am the more impatient under this misfortune, having received fresh provocation, last Wednesday, in the Abbey.

I entirely agree with the amiable and unfortunate Lesbia, that an insult upon a woman in her circumstances is as infamous in a man, as a tame behaviour when the lie or a buffet is given; which truth I shall beg leave of her to illustrate by the following observation.

It is a mark of cowardice passively to forbear resenting an affront, the resentment of which would lead a man into danger; it is no less a sign of cowardice to affront a creature that hath not power to avenge itself. Whatever name therefore this ungenerous man may bestow on the helpless lady he hath injured, I shall not scruple to give him, in return for it, the appellation of coward.

A man, that can so far descend from his dignity as to strike a lady, can never recover his reputation with either sex, because no provocation is thought strong enough to justify such treatment from the powerful towards the weak. In the circumstances in which poor Lesbia is situated, she can appeal to no man whatsoever to avenge an insult, more grievous than a blow. If she could open her mouth, the base man knows that a husband, a brother, a generous friend, would die to see her righted.

A generous mind, however enraged against an enemy, feels its resentments sink and vanish away when the object of its wrath falls into its power. An estranged friend, filled with jealousy and discontent towards a bosom acquaintance, is apt to overflow with tenderness and remorse, when a creature that was once dear to him undergoes any misfortune. What name then shall we give to his ingratitude, who (forgetting the favours he solicited with eagerness, and received with rapture) can insult the miseries that he himself caused, and make sport with the pain to which he owes his greatest pleasure? There is but one being in the creation whose province it is to practise upon the imbecilities of frail creatures, and triumph in the woes which his own artifices brought about; and we well know, those who follow his example will receive his reward.

Leaving my fair correspondent to the direction of her own wisdom and modesty; and her enemy, and his mean accomplices, to the compunction of their own hearts; I shall conclude this paper with a memorable instance of revenge, taken by a Spanish lady upon a guilty lover, which may serve to show what violent effects are wrought by the most tender passion, when soured into hatred; and may deter the young and wary from unlawful love. The story, however romantic it may appear, I have heard affirmed for a truth.

Not many years ago an English gentleman, who, in a rencounter by night in the streets of Madrid, had the misfortune to kill his man, fled into a church-porch for sanctuary. Leaning against the door he was surprised to find it open, and a glim-

mering light in the church. He had the courage to advance towards the light; but was terribly startled at the sight of a woman in white, who ascended from a grave with a bloody knife in her hand. The phantom marched up to him, and asked him what he did there. He told her the truth, without reserve, believing that he had met a ghost; upon which she spoke to him in the following manner: 'Stranger, thou art in my power: I am a murderer as thou art. Know then, that I am a nun of a noble family. A base perjured man undid me, and boasted of it. I soon had him dispatched; but, not content with the murder, I have bribed the sexton to let me enter his grave, and have now plucked out his false heart from his body; and thus I use a traitor's heart.' At these words she tore it in pieces, and trampled it under her feet.

* Yesterday was published, Mr. Steele's Apology for himself and his writings; occasioned by his expulsion from the house of commons.

Nº 612. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1714.

*Murranum hic, alavos et trorum antiqua sonantem
Nominat, per regesque actum genus omne Latinos,
Præcipitæ scopulo, atque ingentis turbine saxi
Excussit, quondamque solo.*

VIRG. Æn. xii. ver. 529.

Murranus, boasting of his blood, that springs
From a long royal race of Latian kings,
Is by the Trojan from his chariot thrown,
Crush'd with the weight of an unwieldy stone.
DRYDEN.

It is highly laudable to pay respect to men who are descended from worthy ancestors, not only out of gratitude to those who have done good to mankind, but as it is an encouragement to others to follow their example. But this is an honour to be received, not demanded, by the descendants of great men: and they, who are apt to remind us of their ancestors, only put us upon making comparisons to their own disadvantage. There is some pretence for boasting of wit, beauty, strength, or wealth, because the communication of them may give pleasure or profit to others; but we can have no merit, nor ought we to claim any respect, because our fathers acted well, whether we would or no.

The following letter ridicules the folly I have mentioned, in a new, and, I think, not disagreeable light.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'WERE the genealogy of every family preserved, there would probably be no man valued or despised on account of his birth. There is scarce a beggar in the streets, who would not find himself lineally descended from some great man; nor any one of the highest title, who would not discover several base and indigent persons among his ancestors. It would be a pleasant entertainment to see one pedigree of men appear together, under the same characters they bore when they acted their respective parts among the living. Suppose therefore a gentleman, full of his illustrious family, should, in the same manner as Virgil makes Æneas look over his descendants, see the whole line of his progenitors pass in a review before his eyes—with how many varying passions would he behold shepherds and soldiers, statesmen and artificers, princes and beggars, walk in the procession of five thousand years! How would his heart sink or flutter at the several sports of fortune in a scene so diversified

with rage and purple, handicraft tools and robes, ensigns of dignity and emblems of decay! And how would his fears and apprehensions, transports and mortifications, succeed one another as the line of his genealogy appeared bright or obscure!

'In most of the pedigrees hung up in old mansion-houses, you are sure to find the first in the catalogue a great statesman, or a soldier with a glorious commission. The honest artificer that begot him, and all his frugal ancestors before him, are torn off from the top of the register; and you are not left to imagine that the noble founder of a family ever had a father. Were we to trace our boasted lines further backwards, we should find them in a mob of tradesmen, or a crowd of rascals, without hope of seeing them emerge again: as unlike the old Apian way, which, after having run many miles in length, loses itself in a bog.

'I lately made a visit to an old country gentleman, who is very far gone in this sort of family madness. I found him in his study perusing an old register of his family, which he had just then discovered, as it was branched out in the form of a tree, upon a skin of parchment. Having the honour to have some of his blood in my veins, he permitted me to cast my eye over the bough of this venerable plant; and asked my advice as to reforming of some of the superfluous branches.

'We passed slightly over three or four of our immediate forefathers, whom we knew by tradition, but were soon stopped by an alderman of London, who I perceived made my kinsman's heart go pit-a-pat. His confusion increased when he found the alderman's father to be a grazier; but he recovered his fright upon seeing justice of the quorum at the end of his title. Things went on pretty well as we threw our eyes occasionally over the tree, when unfortunately he perceived a merchantman perched on a bough, who was said greatly to have increased the estate; he was just going to cut him off if he had not seen great after the manner of his son; who was recorded to have mortgaged one of the manors his honest father had purchased. A weaver, who was burnt for his religion in the reign of Queen Mary, was pruned away without mercy; as was likewise a yeoman, who died of a fall from his own cart. But great was our triumph in one of the blood who was beheaded for high treason, which nevertheless was not a little alleviated by another of our ancestors who was hanged for stealing of sheep. The expectations of my good name were wonderfully raised by a match into the family of a knight; but, unfortunately for us, the branch proved barren: on the other hand, Mary the milk-maid, being twined round a bough, flourished out into so many shoots, and bore so much fruit, that the old gentleman was quite out of countenance. To comfort me under this disgrace, he singled out a branch ten times more fruitful than the other, which he told me he valued more than any in the tree, and bade me be of good comfort. This enormous bough was a graft out of a Welsh heiren, with so many Ap's upon it that it might have made a little grove by itself. From the trunk of the pedigree, which was chiefly composed of labourers and shepherds, arose a large sprout of farmers; this was branched out into many men, and ended in a sheriff of the county. One was knighted for his good service to the crown in bringing up an address. Several of the names that seemed to disparage the family, being looked upon as mistakes, were lopped off as rotten or superfluous; as, on the contrary, so small number appear

without any titles, my cousin, to supply the defect of the manuscript, added *esp.* at the end of of them.

The tree, so pruned, dressed, and cultivated, within a few days, transplanted into a large of vellum, and placed in the great hall, where practises the veneration of his tenants every Sun-morning, while they wait till his worship is to go to church; wondering that a man who is many fathers before him, should not be made light, or at least a justice of the peace.

¶ 613. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1714.

— *Studiis florentem ignobilis ott.*
VIRG. Georg. iv. ver. 564.

Affecting studies of less noisy praise.
DRYDEN.

I reckoned a piece of ill-breeding for one man to gross the whole talk to himself. For this reason I keep three visiting days in the week, I content now and then to let my friends put word. There are several advantages hereby using both to my readers and myself. As, first, the great and modest writers have an opportunity of getting into print; again, the town enjoys the pleasure of variety; and posterity will see the humour of the present age, by the help of these little lights private and domestic life. The benefits I receive from thence are such as these; I gain more for future speculations; pick up hints which Irove for the public good; give advice; redress wrongs; and, by leaving commodious spaces between the several letters that I print, furnish a Spectator, with little labour and great ostension.

MR. SPECTATOR,
I WAS mightily pleased with your speculation of lay. Your sentiments are noble, and the whole laid up in such a manner as cannot but strike every reader. But give me leave to make a remark; that while you write so pathetically contentment and a retired life, you soothe the passion of melancholy, and depress the mind from its truly glorious. Titles and honours are the reward of virtue; we therefore ought to be affected with them: and though light minds are too much seduced up with exterior pomp, yet I cannot see why I am not as truly philosophical, to admire the glow-ruby, or the sparkling green of an emerald, as the fainter and less permanent beauties of a rose or carnation. If there are men of extraordinary capacities who lie concealed from the world, I should not ascribe it to them as a blot in their characters did I believe it owing to the meanness of their nature rather than of their spirit. Cowley, who the story of Aglaüs with so much pleasure, no stranger to courts nor insensible of praise.

"What shall I do to be for ever known,
And make the age to come my own!"

the result of a laudable ambition. It was not after frequent disappointments that he termed himself the melancholy Cowley; and he praised himself when he despaired of shining in a court. The soul of a man is an active principle. He, therefore, who withdraws himself from the scene where he has played his part, ought to be hissed at the stage, and cannot be deemed virtuous, because he refuses to answer his end. I must own I am

fired with an honest ambition to imitate every illustrious example. The battles of Blenheim and Ramillies have more than once made me wish myself a soldier. And, when I have seen those actions so nobly celebrated by our poets, I have secretly aspired to be one of that distinguished class. But in vain I wish, in vain I pant with the desire of action. I am chained down in obscurity, and the only pleasure I can take is in seeing so many brighter geniuses join their friendly lights, to add to the splendour of the throne. Farewell then, dear Spec, and believe me to be, with great emulation, and no envy,

Your professed admirer,
'WILL HOPELESS.'

'SIR, Middle Temple, Oct. 26, 1714.

'THOUGH you have formerly made eloquence the subject of one or more of your papers, I do not remember that you ever considered it as possessed by a set of people, who are so far from making Quintilian's rules their practice, that, I dare say for them, they never heard of such an author, and yet are no less masters of it than Tully or Demosthenes among the ancients, or whom you please among the moderns. The persons I am speaking of are our common beggars about this town; and, that what I say is true, I appeal to any man who has a heart one degree softer than a stone. As for my part, who do not pretend to more humanity than my neighbours, I have oftentimes gone from my chambers with money in my pocket, and returned to them not only penniless, but destitute of a farthing, without bestowing of it any other way than on these seeming objects of pity. In short, I have seen more eloquence in a look from one of those despicable creatures than in the eye of the fairest she I ever saw, yet no one a greater admirer of that sex than myself. What I have to desire of you is, to lay down some directions in order to guard against these powerful orators, or else I know nothing to the contrary but I must myself be forced to leave the profession of the law, and endeavour to get the qualifications necessary to that more profitable one of begging. But, in whichever of these two capacities I shine, I shall always desire to be your constant reader, and ever will be

Your most humble servant,
'J. R.'

'SIR,

'URON reading a Spectator last week, where Mrs. Fanny Fickle submitted the choice of a lover for life to your decisive determination, and imagining I might claim the favour of your advice in an affair of the like, but much more difficult nature, I called for pen and ink, in order to draw the characters of seven humble servants, whom I have equally encouraged for some time. But alas! while I was reflecting on the agreeable subject, and contriving an advantageous description of the dear person I was most inclined to favour, I happened to look into my glass. The sight of the small-pox, out of which I am just recovered, tormented me at once with the loss of my captivating arts and my captives. The confusion I was in, on this unhappy unseasonable discovery, is inexpressible. Believe me, sir, I was so taken up with the thoughts of your fair correspondent's case, and so intent on my own design, that I fancied myself as triumphant in my conquests as ever.

'Now, sir, finding I was incapacitated to amuse myself on that pleasing subject, I resolved to

apply myself to you, or your casuistical agent, for advice in my present circumstances. I am sensible the tincture of my skin, and the regularity of my features, which the malice of my late illness has altered, are irrecoverable; yet do not despair but that loss, by your assistance, may in some measure be repairable, if you will please to propose a way for the recovery of one only of my fugitives.

One of them is in a more particular manner beholden to me than the rest: he, for some private reasons, being desirous to be a lover incognito, always addressed me with billet-doux, which I was so careful of in my sickness, that I secured the key of my love magazine under my head, and, hearing a noise of opening a lock in my chamber, endangered my life by getting out of bed, to prevent, if it had been attempted, the discovery of that amour.

I have formerly made use of all those artifices which our sex daily practises over yours, to draw, as it were undesignedly, the eyes of a whole congregation to my pew; I have taken a pride in the number of admirers at my afternoon levee; but am now quite another creature. I think, could I regain the attractive influence I once had, if I had a legion of suitors I should never be ambitious of entertaining more than one. I have almost contracted an antipathy to the trifling discourses of impertinent lovers; though I must needs own I have thought it very odd of late to hear gentlemen, instead of their usual complaisances, fall into disputes before me of politics, or else weary me with the tedious repetition of how thankful I ought to be, and satisfied with my recovery out of so dangerous a distemper: this, though I am very sensible of the blessing, yet I cannot but dislike, because such advice from them rather seems to insult than comfort me, and reminds me too much of what I was; which melancholy consideration I cannot yet perfectly surmount, but hope your sentiments on this head will make it supportable.

To show you what a value I have for your dictates, these are to certify the persons concerned, that unless one of them returns to his colours, if I may so call them now, before the winter is over, I will voluntarily confine myself to a retirement, where I will punish them all with my needle. I will be revenged on them by decyphering them on a carpet, humbly begging admittance, myself scornfully refusing it. If you disapprove of this, as savouring too much of malice, be pleased to acquaint me with a draught you like better, and it shall be faithfully performed.

By the unfortunate
MONIMIA.

Nº 614. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1714.

*Si nixi non animo fixum immotumque sederet,
Ne cui me vinclo vellem socure jugari,
Postquam primus amor decipiam morte fefellit;
Si non peritum thalami, tuncque fuisset;
Aut uni forsam potui succumbere culy.*

VIRG. *Æn. iv.* ver. 15.

— Were I not resolv'd against the yoke
Of hapless marriage; never to be cur'd
With second love, so fatal was the first;
To this one error I might yield again.

DIREN.

THE following account hath been transmitted to me by the love-casualist * :

* See Nos. 591, 602, 603, 642, and 625.

MR. SPECTATOR,

HAVING in some former papers taken care two states of virginity and marriage, as willing that all people should be served in turn, I this day drew out my drawer of letters where I met with several cases, to each of which I have returned satisfactory answers by the Spectator. The cases are as follow :

Q. Whether Amoret be bound by a perjury to Philander, made during her married life?

Q. Whether Sempronia, having faithfully kept a promise to two several persons during her sickness of her husband, is not thereby liberty to choose which of them she pleases to reject them both for the sake of a new lover?

Cleora asks me, whether she be obliged to continue single according to a vow made to her husband at the time of his presenting her with a diamond necklace; she being informed by a pretty young fellow, of a good comely fellow, such vows are in their nature sinful?

Another inquires, whether she hath not a great deal of merit, who presaves very hard; her husband being irrecoverably gone in a consumption?

An unreasonable creature hath the care to ask, whether it be proper for her to marry a man who is younger than her eldest son?

A scrupulous well-spoken matron, who has a great many good words, only doubts whether she is not obliged in conscience to shut up her marriageable daughters, until such time as they are comfortably disposed of herself?

Sophronia, who seems by her phraseology to be a person of condition, sets forth, whereas she hath a great estate, and is a man, she desires to be informed whether she is not do prudently to marry Camillus, a tall young fellow, who hath no fortune of his own and consequently hath nothing else to do but manage hers.

Before I speak of widows, I cannot but say one thing, which I do not know how to say for; a widow is always more sought after than an old maid of the same age. It is common among ordinary people, for a stale virgin to open a shop in a place where she is not known; the large thumb-ring, supposed to be given by her husband, quickly recommends her to a wealthy neighbour, who takes a liking to the widow, that would have overlooked the spinster.

The truth of it is, if we look into the lives of men, we find, according to the different characters or circumstances wherein they are left, that they may be divided into those who raise love, and those who raise compassion.

But not to ramble from this subject, there are two things in which consists chiefly the glory of a widow—the love of her deceased husband, and the care of her children; to which may be added a third, arising out of the former, such a conduct as may do honour to both.

A widow possessed of all these three qualities makes not only a virtuous but a sublime character.

There is something so great and so glorious in this state of life, when it is accompanied with its virtues, that it is the subject of one of the best among our modern tragedies in the person of a dromache, and has met with an universal and deserved applause, when introduced upon the stage by Mr. Philips.

most memorable widow in history is Queen
 Alesia, who not only erected the famous man-
 n, but drank up the ashes of her dead lord;
 by enclosing them in a nobler monument than
 which she had built, though deservedly es-
 d one of the wonders of architecture.

Her last lady seems to have had a better title to
 and husband than any I have read of, since
 the dust of her first was remaining. Our mo-
 dernoines might think a husband a very bitter
 bit, and would have good reason to complain,
 y might not accept of a second partner, until
 had taken such a troublesome method of losing
 memory of the first.

shall add to these illustrious examples out of
 nt story, a remarkable instance of the deli-
 of our ancestors, in relation to the state of
 widowhood, as I find it recorded in Cowell's In-
 ter. 'At East and West Enborne, in the
 y of Berks, if a customary tenant die, the
 w shall have what the law calls her freebench
 his copyhold lands, *dum sola et casta fuerit*;
 s, while she lives single and chaste; but if she
 in incontinency she forfeits her estate; yet if
 ill come into the court, riding backward upon
 ck ram, with his tail in her hand, and say the
 s following, the steward is bound by the cus-
 to re-admit her to her freebench *;

'Here I am,
 Riding upon a black ram,
 Like a whore as I am;
 And for my *crinum crancum*,
 Have lost my *bincum bancum*;
 And for my tail's game,
 Have done this worldly shame;
 Therefore I pray you, Mr. Steward, let me have my
 land again.'

e like custom there is in the manor of Torre,
 vonsshire, and other parts of the West.
 is not impossible but I may in a little time
 nt you with a register of Berkshire ladies, and
 western dames, who rode publicly upon this
 ion; and I hope the town will be entertained
 a cavalcade of widows +.

15. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1714.

— *Qui Deorum*
Muneribus sapienter uti,
Duramque collet pauperiem pati,
Pejusque letho flagitium timet:
Non ille pro caris amicis
Aut patria timidus perire.

HOR. Od. ix. l. 4. ver. 47.

ho spend their treasure freely, as 'twas giv'n
 y the large bounty of indulgent heav'n:
 bo in a fix'd unalterable state
 Smile at the doubtful tide of fate,
 And scorn alike her friendship and her hate:
 Who poison less than falsehood fear,
 Loth to purchase life so dear;
 ut kindly for their friend embrace cold death,
 eal their country's love with their departing breath.

STEPNEY.

ust be owned that fear is a very powerful
 on, since it is esteemed one of the greatest of
 es to subdue it. It being implanted in us for

re Jacob's Law Dictionary, art. Free-bench.—Frank
 or Free-bench [*Sedes Libera*, or in Law-Latin *Frank-
 ancus*], is that estate in copyhold lands, which the
 being married, a virgin hath after the decease of her
 nd for her dower. Fitzherbert calls this a custom by
 in some cities the wife shall have all the lands of her
 nd for dower.—*Les Termes de la Ley*, edit. 1697, p. 575.
 ee N° 623. The custom in the manors of East and West
 re, of Torre, and other parts in the West of England,
 ind of penance among jocular tenures, to purge the
 e, and has there it seems the force and validity of
 e law. Jacob's Dict. *ut supra*, edit. 1736, in folio.

our preservation, it is no wonder that it sticks close
 to us as long as we have any thing we are willing
 to preserve. But as life, and all its enjoyments,
 would be scarce worth the keeping, if we were
 under a perpetual dread of losing them, it is the
 business of religion and philosophy to free us from
 all unnecessary anxieties, and direct our fear to its
 proper object.

If we consider the painfulness of this passion,
 and the violent effects it produces, we shall see
 how dangerous it is to give way to it upon slight
 occasions. Some have frightened themselves into
 madness, others have given up their lives to these
 apprehensions. The story of a man who grew grey
 in the space of one night's anxiety is very famous.

'O! *non quam longa es, qua facis una senem!*

'A tedious night indeed, that makes a young man old!'

These apprehensions, if they proceed from a con-
 sciousness of guilt, are the sad warnings of reason;
 and may excite our pity, but admit of no remedy.
 When the hand of the Almighty is visibly lifted
 against the impious, the heart of mortal man can-
 not withstand him. We have this passion sublimely
 represented in the punishment of the Egyptians,
 tormented with the plague of darkness, in the apoc-
 rypal book of Wisdom, ascribed to Solomon.

For when unrighteous men thought to oppress
 the holy nation; they being shut up in their houses,
 the prisoners of darkness, and fettered with the
 bonds of a long night, lay there exiled from the
 eternal Providence. For while they supposed to
 lie hid in their secret sins, they were scattered
 under a dark veil of forgetfulness, being horribly
 astonished and troubled with strange apparitions.—
 For wickedness, condemned by her own witness,
 is very timorous, and, being oppressed with con-
 science, always forecasteth grievous things. For
 fear is nothing else but a betraying of the succours
 which reason offereth—For the whole world shineth
 with clear light, and none were hindered in their
 labour. Over them only was spread a heavy night,
 an image of that darkness which should afterwards
 receive them; but yet were they unto themselves
 more grievous than the darkness *.

To fear so justly grounded, no remedy can be
 proposed; but a man (who hath no great guilt
 hanging upon his mind, who walks in the plain
 path of justice and integrity, and yet, either by
 natural complexion, or confirmed prejudices, or
 neglect of serious reflection, suffers himself to be
 moved by this abject and unmanly passion) would
 do well to consider that there is nothing which de-
 serves his fear, but that beneficent Being who is
 his friend, his protector, his father. Were this one
 thought strongly fixed in the mind, what calamity
 would be dreadful? What load can infamy lay
 upon us when we are sure of the approbation of
 Him who will repay the disgrace of a moment with
 the glory of eternity? What sharpness is there in
 pain and diseases, when they only hasten us on to
 pleasures that will never fade? What sting is in
 death, when we are assured that it is only the be-
 ginning of life? A man who lives so as not to fear
 to die, is inconsistent with himself if he delivers
 himself up to any incidental anxiety.

The intrepidity of a just good man is so nobly
 set forth by Horace, that it cannot be too often
 repeated:

'The man resolv'd, and steady to his trust,
 Inflexible to ill, and obstinately just,
 May the rude rabble's insolence despise,
 Their senseless clamours and tumultuous cries.

* *Wisd. xvii. passim.*

The tyrant's fierceness he bequiles,
And the stern brow, and the harsh voice defies,
And with superior greatness smiles.

'Not the rough whirlwind that deforms
Adria's black gulf, and vexes it with storms,
The stubborn virtue of his soul can move;
Not the red arm of angry Jove,
That flings the thunder from the sky,
And gives it rage to roar, and strength to fly.

'Should the whole frame of nature round him break,
In ruin and confusion hurl'd,
He, unconcern'd, would hear the mighty crack,
And stand secure amidst a falling world.'

The vanity of fear may be yet further illustrated if we reflect,

First, What we fear may not come to pass. No human scheme can be so accurately projected, but some little circumstance intervening may spoil it. He who directs the heart of man at his pleasure, and understands the thoughts long before, may by ten thousand accidents, or an immediate change in the inclinations of men, disconcert the most subtle project, and turn it to the benefit of his own servants.

In the next place we should consider, though the evil we imagine should come to pass, it may be much more supportable than it appeared to be. As there is no prosperous state of life without its calamities, so there is no adversity without its benefits. Ask the great and powerful if they do not feel the pangs of envy and ambition. Inquire of the poor and needy if they have not tasted the sweets of quiet and contentment. Even under the pains of body, the infidelity of friends, or the misconstructions put upon our laudable actions; our minds, when for some time accustomed to these pressures, are sensible of secret flowings of comfort, the present reward of a pious resignation. The evils of this life appear like rocks and precipices, rugged and barren at a distance; but at our nearer approach we find little fruitful spots, and refreshing springs, mixed with the harshness and deformities of nature.

In the last place we may comfort ourselves with this consideration, that, as the thing feared may not reach us, so we may not reach what we fear. Our lives may not extend to that dreadful point which we have in view. He who knows all our failings, and will not suffer us to be tempted beyond our strength, is often pleased, in his tender severity, to separate the soul from its body and miseries together.

If we look forward to him for help, we shall never be in danger of falling down those precipices which our imagination is apt to create. Like those who walk upon a line, if we keep our eye fixed upon one point, we may step forward securely; whereas an imprudent or cowardly glance on either side, will infallibly destroy us.

Nº 616. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1714.

Qui bellus homo est, Cottus, pusillus homo est.
MART. Ep. x. l. 1.

A pretty fellow is but half a man.

Cicero hath observed, that a jest is never uttered with a better grace than when it is accompanied with a serious countenance. When a pleasant thought plays in the features before it discovers itself in words, it raises too great an expectation, and loses the advantage of giving surprise. Wit

and humour are no less poorly recommended by levity of phrase, and that kind of language which may be distinguished by the name of *cant*. The rule is never more strong than when it is concerned in gravity. True humour lies in the thought, and arises from the representation of images and circumstances and uncommon lights. A great thought strikes us by the force of its natural weight; and the mirth of it is generally rather than heightened, by that ridiculous phrase which is so much in fashion among the pretence to humour and pleasantry. This tribe of men like our mountebanks; they make a man a jest, putting him in a fantastic habit.

Our little burlesque authors, who are the terror of ordinary readers, generally abound in such pert phrases, which have in them more wit than wit.

I lately saw an instance of this kind of wit, which gave me so lively an idea of it, that I do not forbear begging a copy of the letter from a gentleman who showed it to me. It is written by a country wit, upon the occasion of the royal coronation.

'DEAR JACK,
'Past two o'clock at night,
'I HAVE just left the right worshipful and reverend midons about a sneaker of five gallons. The magistracy was pretty well disguised before I met them the slip. Our friend the alderman was seas over before the bonfire was out. We had us the attorney, and two or three other beggars. The doctor plays least in sight.

'At nine o'clock in the evening we set out for the whore of Babylon. The devil acted by way to a miracle. He has made his fortune by a trick equipped the young dog with a taster apiece. A nest old Brown of England was very drunk. He showed his loyalty to the tune of a hundred rants. The mob drank the king's health on their marrow-bones, in Mother Day's dooble. They whipped half a dozen hogheads. Poor Tom Tyler had to have been demolished with the end of a rocket, that fell upon the bridge of his nose as he was drinking the king's health, and spoked by the mob were very loyal until about midnight when they grew a little matorious for more. They had like to have dumfounded the jester. His clerk came in to his assistance, and laid all down in black and white.

'When I had been buzzed out of my senses, I made a visit to the women, who were guzzling very comfortably. Mrs. Mavorra called the king's English. Clack was the word.

'I forgot to tell thee that every one of them had his hat cocked with a ditch; the women sent us down a cargo of ribbon and more in the occasion.

'Sir Richard, to show his zeal for the Protestant religion, is at the expense of a tar-barrel and ball. I peeped into the knight's great hall, and saw a very pretty bevy of spinsters. Much conflict was amongst them, and ambled as a dance as notably as the best of them.

'May all his majesty's liege subjects, how well as his good people of this his sacred Adieu.'

Nº 617. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1714.

*Torca Mimalloensis impleant cornua bombis,
Et raptum vitulo caput ablatura superbo
Bussaria, et lynceæ Menas flexura corymbis,
Evion ingeminal: reparabilis adsonat echo.*
PERSIUS, Sat. i. ver. 104.

Their crooked horns the Mimalloian crew
With blasts inspir'd; and Bussaria, who slew
The scornful calf, with sword advanc'd on high,
Made from his neck his haughty head to fly.
And Menas, when, with ivy-bridles bound,
She led the spotted lynx, then Evion rung around,
Evion from woods and floods repairing echo's sound. }
DRYDEN.

THERE are two extremes, in the style of humour, one of which consists in the use of that little pert phraseology which I took notice of in my last paper; the other in the affectation of strained and pompous expressions, fetched from the learned languages. The first savours too much of the town; the other of the college.

As nothing illustrates better than example, I shall here present my reader with a letter of pedantic humour, which was written by a young gentleman of the university to his friend, on the same occasion, and from the same place, as the lively epistle published in my last Spectator:

'DEAR CHUM,

'It is now the third watch of the night, the greatest part of which I have spent round a capacious bowl of china, filled with the choicest products of both the Indies. I was placed at a quadrangular table, diametrically opposite to the mace-bearer. The visage of that venerable herald was, according to custom, most gloriously illuminated on this joyful occasion. The mayor and aldermen, those pillars of our constitution, began to totter; and if any one at the board could have so far articulated, as to have demanded intelligibly a reinforcement of liquor, the whole assembly had been by this time extended under the table.

'The celebration of this night's solemnity was opened by the obstreperous joy of drummers, who, with their parchment thunder, gave a signal for the appearance of the mob under their several classes and denominations. They were quickly joined by the melodious clank of marrowbone and cleaver, while a chorus of bells filled up the concert. A pyramid of stack-faggots cheered the hearts of the populace with the promise of a blaze; the guns had no sooner uttered the prologue, but the heavens were brightened with artificial meteors and stars of our own making; and all the High-street lighted up from one end to another with a galaxy of candles. We collected a largess for the multitude, who tipped eleemosynary until they grew exceedingly vociferous. There was a pasteboard pontiff, with a little swarthy demon at his elbow, who by his diabolical whispers and insinuations, tempted his holiness into the fire, and then left him to shift for himself. The mobile were very sarcastic with their clubs, and gave the old gentleman several thumps upon his triple head-piece. Tom Tyler's phiz is something damaged by the fall of a rocket, which hath almost spoiled the gnomon of his countenance. The mirth of the

commons grew so very outrageous, that it found work for our friend of the quorum, who, by the help of his amanuensis, took down all their names and their crimes, with a design to produce his manuscript at the next quarter sessions, &c. &c. &c.'

I shall subjoin to the foregoing piece of a letter the following copy of verses translated from an Italian poet, who was the Cleveland of his age, and had multitudes of admirers. The subject is an accident that happened under the reign of Pope Leo, when a fire-work, that had been prepared upon the castle of St. Angelo, began to play before its time, being kindled by a flash of lightning. The author has written a poem in the same kind of style as that I have already exemplified in prose. Every line in it is a riddle, and the reader must be forced to consider it twice or thrice, before he will know that the Cynic's tenement is a tub, and Bacchus's cast-coat a boghead, &c.

' 'Twas night, and Heav'n, a Cyclops all the day,
And Argus now did countless eyes display;
In every window Rome her joy declares,
All bright, and studded with terrestrial stars.
A blazing chain of lights her roofs entwines,
And round her neck the mingled lustre shines:
The Cynic's rolling tenement conspires,
With Bacchus his cast-coat to feed the fires.

'The pile, still big with undiscover'd shows,
The Tuscan pile did last its freight disclose,
Where the proud tops of Rome's new Ætna rise,
Whence giants sally and invade the skies.

'Whilst now the multitude expect the time,
And their tir'd eyes the lofty mountain climb,
As thousand iron mouths their voices try,
And thunder out a dreadful harmony;
In treble notes the small artillery plays,
The deep-mouth'd cannon bellows in the bass,
The lab'ring pile now heaves, and, having given
Proofs of its travail, sighs in flames to Heaven.

'The clouds envelop'd Heav'n from human sight,
Quench'd ev'ry star, and put out ev'ry light;
Now real thunder grumbles in the skies,
And in disdainful murmur Rome defies;
Nor doth its answer'd challenge Rome decline;
But, whilst both parties in full concert join,
While heav'n and earth in rival peals resound,
The doubtful cracks the hearer's sense confound,
Whether the claps of thunderbolts they hear,
Or else the burst of cannon wounds their ear;
Whether clouds rag'd by struggling metals rent,
Or struggling clouds in Roman metals pent:
But O, my Muse, the whole adventure tell,
As ev'ry accident in order fell.

'Tall groves of trees the Hadrian tow'r surround,
Fictitious trees with paper garlands crown'd,
These know no spring but when their bodies sprout
In fire, and shoot their gilded blossoms out;
When blazing leaves appear above their head,
And into branching flames their bodies spread.
Whilst real thunder splits the firmament,
And heav'n's whole roof in one vast cleft is rent,
The three-fold tongue amidst the rapture lolls,
Then drops, and on the airy turret falls.
The trees now kindle, and the garland burns,
A thousand thunderbolts for one returns!
Brigades of burning archers upward fly,
Bright spears and shining spear-men mount on high,
Flash in the clouds, and glitter in the sky.
A seven-fold shield of spheres doth heaven defend,
And back again the blunted weapons send;
Unwillingly they fall, and, dropping down,
Pour out their souls, their sulph'rous souls, and groan.

'With joy, great sir, we view'd this pompous show,
While Heav'n, that sat spectator still till now,
Itself turn'd actor, proud to pleasure you;

* These verses are translated from the Latin in Strada's *Prousiones Academicæ*, &c. and are an imitation originally of the style and manner of Camillo Querno, surnamed the Arch-poet, who was poet and buffoon to Leo X. and the common butt of that facetious pontiff and his courtiers. See Bayle's Dictionary, art. Leo X. and Seward's *Anecdotes*, vol. iii. edit. 1798. p. 62.

* From the *Armoric chom* (to live together); one that lodges in the same room.

† The tiara, or triple mitre.

And so 'tis fit, when Leo's fires appear,
That Heav'n itself should turn an engineer;
That Heav'n itself should all its wonders show,
And orbs above consent with orbs below.

N° 618. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1714.

— *Neque enim concludere versum
Dirigit esse antis: neque vixit scribat, uti nos,
Sermoni propiora, pulvis hunc esse poetam.*
HOR. Sat. lv. l. l. ver. 40.

'Tis not enough the measur'd feet to close;
Nor will you give a poet's name to those,
Whose humble verse, like mine, approaches prose.

'MR. SPECTATOR,
'You having, in your two last Spectators, given the town a couple of remarkable letters in very different styles, I take this opportunity to offer to you some remarks upon the epistolary way of writing in verse. This is a species of poetry by itself, and has not so much as been hinted at in any of the arts of poetry that have ever fallen into my hands: neither has it in any age, or in any nation, been so much cultivated as the other several kinds of poesy. A man of genius may, if he pleases, write letters in verse upon all manner of subjects that are capable of being embellished with wit and language, and may render them new and agreeable by giving the proper turn to them. But, in speaking at present of epistolary poetry, I would be understood to mean only such writings in this kind as have been in use among the ancients, and have been copied from them by some moderns. These may be reduced into two classes: in the one I shall range love-letters, letters of friendship, and letters upon mournful occasions: in the other I shall place such epistles in verse as may properly be called familiar, critical, and moral; to which may be added letters of mirth and humour. Ovid for the first, and Horace for the latter, are the best originals we have left.

'He, that is ambitious of succeeding in the Ovidian way, should first examine his heart well, and feel whether his passions (especially those of the gentler kind) play easy; since it is not his wit, but the delicacy and tenderness of his sentiments, that will affect his readers. His versification likewise should be soft, and all his numbers flowing and querulous.

'The qualifications requisite for writing epistles, after the model given us by Horace, are of a quite different nature. He that would excel in this kind must have a good fund of strong masculine sense: to this there must be joined a thorough knowledge of mankind, together with an insight into the business and the prevailing humours of the age. Our author must have his mind well seasoned with the finest precepts of morality, and be filled with nice reflections upon the bright and the dark sides of human life; he must be a master of refined railery, and understand the delicacies as well as the absurdities of conversation. He must have a lively turn of wit, with an easy and concise manner of expression: every thing he says must be in a free and disengaged manner. He must be guilty of nothing that betrays the air of a recluse, but appear a man of the world throughout. His illustrations, his comparisons, and the greatest part of his images, must be drawn from common life. Strokes of satire and criticism, as well as panegyric, judiciously thrown in (and as it were by the by) give a wonderful life and ornament to compositions of this kind. But let our poet, while he writes epistles,

though never so familiar, still remember that he writes in verse, and must for that reason take more than ordinary care not to fall into prose: a vulgar diction, excepting where the nature and humour of the thing does necessarily require it. At this point Horace hath been thought by some critics to be sometimes careless, as well as too negligent of his versification: of which he seems to have been sensible himself.

'All I have to add is, that both these manner of writing may be made as entertaining, in this way, as any other species of poetry, if undertaken by persons duly qualified: and the latter sort may be managed so as to become in a peculiar manner instructive. I am, &c.'

I shall add an observation or two to the remarks of my ingenious correspondent; and, in the next place, take notice, that subjects of the most masculine nature are often treated in the epistolary way with advantage, as in the famous epistle of Horace to Augustus. The poet surprises us with his pen and seems rather betrayed into his subject than have aimed at it by design. He appears, like the visit of a king incognito, with a mixture of familiarity and grandeur. In works of this kind, where the dignity of the subject hurries the poet into descriptions and sentiments seemingly unprepared for, by a sort of inspiration, it is usual for him to recollect himself, and fall back gracefully into the natural style of a letter.

I might here mention an epistolary poem, published by Mr. Eusden, on the king's accession to the throne*, wherein, among many other good and beautiful strokes of poetry, his reader may see this rule very happily observed.

N° 619. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1714.

— *dura
Exerce imperia, et ramos compescere fustes.*
VIRG. Georg. ii. ver. 52

— Exert a rigorous sway,
And lop the too luxuriant boughs away.

I HAVE often thought that if the several letters which are written to me under the character of Spectator, and which I have not made use of, were published in a volume, they would not be an unentertaining collection†. The variety of the subjects, styles, sentiments, and informations, which are transmitted to me, would lead a very curious, or very idle, reader, insensibly along through a great many pages. I know some authors who would pick up a secret history out of such materials, and make a bookseller an alderman by the copy‡. I shall therefore carefully preserve the original papers in a room set apart for that purpose, to the end that they may be of service to posterity; but shall at present content myself with owning the receipt of several letters, lately sent to my hands, the authors whereof are impatient for an answer.

Charissa, whose letter is dated from Cornhill desires to be eased in some scruples relating to the

* A letter to Mr. Addison, on the King's accession to the throne.

† They were afterwards published (with Steele's permission) by Charles Lillie, in 2 vols. 8vo. 1725.

‡ We suppose this to have been an allusion to Mr. J. Barber, who had been a bookseller, was at this time a lawyer, and afterwards lord mayor of London.

skill of astrologers.—' Referred to the dumb man for an answer.'

J. C. who proposes a love-case, as he calls it, to the love-casualist, is hereby desired to speak of it to the minister of the parish; it being a case of conscience.

The poor young lady, whose letter is dated October 26, who complains of a harsh guardian, and an unkind brother, can only have my good wishes, unless she pleases to be more particular.

The petition of a certain gentleman, whose name I have forgot, famous for renewing the curls of decayed periwigs, is referred to 'the censor of small wares.'

The remonstrance of T. C. against the profanation of the sabbath by barbers, shoe-cleaners, &c. had better be offered to 'the society of reformers.'

A learned and laborious treatise upon the art of fencing, 'returned to the author.'

To the gentleman of Oxford, who desires me to insert a copy of Latin verses, which were denied a place in the university book. Answer: *Nonum prematur in annum.*

To my learned correspondent who writes against masters' gowns, and poke sleeves, with a word in defence of large scarves. Answer: 'I resolve not to raise animosities amongst the clergy.'

To the lady who writes with rage against one of her own sex, upon the account of party warmth. Answer: 'Is not the lady she writes against reckoned handsome?'

I desire Tom Truelove (who sends me a sonnet upon his mistress, with a desire to print it immediately) to consider that it is long since I was in love.

I shall answer a very profound letter from my old friend the upholsterer, who is still inquisitive whether the king of Sweden be living or dead, by whispering him in the ear, 'that I believe he is alive.'

Let Mr. Dapperwit consider, 'What is that long story of the cuckoldom to me?'

At the earnest desire of Monimia's lover, who declares himself very penitent, he is recorded in my paper by the name of 'The faithful Castilio.'

The petition of Charles Cocksure, which the petitioner styles very reasonable,—'rejected.'

The memorial of Philander, which he desires may be dispatched out of hand, 'postponed.'

I desire S. R. not to repeat the expression 'under the sun,' so often in his next letter.

The letter of P. S. who desires either to have it printed entire, or committed to the flames. 'Not to be printed entire.'

N^o 620. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1714.

Hic vir, hic est, tibi quem promitti sepius audis.
VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 791.

Behold the promis'd chief:

HAVING lately presented my reader with a copy of verses full of the false sublime, I shall here communicate to him an excellent specimen of the rue: though it hath not been yet published, the judicious reader will readily discern it to be the work of a master; and if he hath read that noble poem *On the Prospect of Peace*, he will not be at loss to guess at the author*.

* Tickell. See N^o 523, and N^o 532.

THE ROYAL PROGRESS.

'When Brunswick first appear'd, each honest heart;
Intent on verse, disdain'd the rules of art;
For him the songsters, in unmeasur'd odes,
Debas'd Alcides, and dethron'd the gods;
In golden chains the kings of India led,
Or rent the turban from the Sultan's head.
One, in old fables, and the pagan strain
With nymphs and tritons, waltz him o'er the main;
Another draws fierce Lucifer in arms,
And fills th' infernal region with alarms;
A third awakes some druid, to foretell
Each future triumph, from his dreary cell.
Exploded fancies! that in vain deceive,
While the mind nauseates what she can't believe.
My muse th' expected hero shall pursue
From climate to climate, and keep him still in view:
His shining march describe in faithful lays,
Content to paint him, nor presume to praise;
Their charms, if charms they have, the truth supplies,
And from the theme unlabour'd beauties rise.

'By longing nations for the throne design'd,
And call'd to guard the rights of humankind;
With secret grief his godlike soul repines,
And Britain's crown with joyless lustre shines,
While pray'rs and tears his destin'd progress stay,
And crowds of mourners choke their sov'reign's way.
Not so he march'd when hostile squadrons stood
In scenes of death, and fir'd his generous blood;
When his hot courser paw'd th' Hungarian plain,
And adverse legions stood the shock in vain.
His frontiers past, the Belgian bounds he views,
And crosses the level fields his march pursues.
Here, pleas'd the land of freedom to survey,
He greatly scorns the thirst of boundless away.
O'er the this soil, with silent joy, he spies
Transplanted woods, and borrow'd verdure rise;
Where ev'ry meadow won with toil and blood,
From haughty tyrants, and the raging flood,
With fruits and flowers the careful hand supplies,
And clothes the marshes in a rich disguise.
Such wealth for frugal hands doth Heaven decree,
And such thy gifts, celestial Liberty!
Through stately towns, and many a fertile plain,
The pomp advances to the neighbouring main.
Whole nations crowd around with joyful cries,
And view the hero with insatiate eyes.

'In Haga's towers he waits, till eastern gales
Propitious rise to swell the British sails.
Hither the fame of England's monarch brings
The vows and friendships of the neighb'ring kings;
Mature in wisdom, his extensive mind
Takes in the blended interests of mankind,
The world's great patriot. Calm thy anxious breast,
Secure in him, O Europe, take thy rest;
Henceforth thy kingdoms shall remain confin'd
By rocks and streams, the mounds which Heav'n design'd;
The Alps their new-made monarch shall restrain,
Nor shall thy hills, Pirene, rise in vain.

'But see, to Britain's isle the squadron stand,
And leave the sinking towers and less'ning land.
The royal bark bounds o'er the floating plain,
Breaks through the billows, and divides the main.
O'er the vast deep, great monarch, dart thine eyes,
A watery prospect bounded by the skies:
Ten thousand vessels, from ten thousand shores,
Bring gums and gold, and either India's stores,
Behold the tributes hast'ning to thy throne,
And see the wide horizon all thy own.

'Still is it thine; tho' now the cheerful crew
Hail Albion's cliffs just whitening to the view.
Before the wind with swelling sails they ride,
Till Thames receives them in his opening tide.
The monarch hears the thund'ring peals around
From trembling woods and echoing hills rebound,
Nor misses yet, amid the deaf'ning train,
The roarings of the hoarse resounding main.

'As in the flood he sails, from either side,
He views his kingdom in its rural pride;
A various scene the wide-spread landscape yields,
O'er rich inclosures and luxuriant fields:
A lowing herd each fertile pasture fills,
And distant flocks stray o'er a thousand hills.
Fair Greenwich hid in woods with new delight,
(Shad'd above shade) now rises to the sight;
His woods ordain'd to visit every shore,
And guard the island which they grac'd before.

'The sun, now rolling down the western way,
A blaze of fires, renews the fading day;
Unnumber'd barks the regal barge enfold;
Bright'ning the twilight with its beamy gold;
Less thick the finny shoals, a countless fry,
Before the whale or kingly dolphin fly;
In one vast shout he seeks the crowded strand,
And in a peal of thunder gains the land.

'Welcome, great stranger, to our longing eyes,
Oh! king desir'd, adopted Albion cries,
For thee the east breath'd out a prosperous breeze;
Bright were the suns, and gently swell'd the seas.
Thy presence did each doubtful heart compose,
And factions wonder'd that they once were foes;
That joyful day they lost each hostile name,
The same their aspect, and their voice the same.

'So two fair twins, whose features were design'd
At one soft moment in the mother's mind,
Show each the other with reflected grace,
And the same beauties bloom in either face;
The puzzled strangers which is which inquire;
Delusion grateful to the smiling sire.

'From that fair hill*, where hoary sages boast
To name the stars, and count the heavenly host,
By the next dawn doth great Augusta rise,
Proud town! the noblest scene beneath the skies.
O'er Thames her thousand spires their lustre shed,
And a vast navy hides his ample bed—
A floating forest! From the distant strand
A line of golden cars strikes o'er the land:
Britannia's peers in pomp and rich array,
Before their king, triumphant lead the way.
Far as the eye can reach, the gaudy train,
A bright procession, shines along the plain.

'So haply thro' the heav'n's wide pathless ways
A comet draws a long-extended blaze;
From east to west burns through th' ethereal frame,
And half heav'n's convex glitters with the flame.

'Now to the regal towers securely brought,
He plans Britannia's glories in his thought,
Resumes the delegated power he gave,
Rewards the faithful, and restores the brave.
Whom shall the Muse from out the shining throng
Select, to heighten and adorn her song?
Thee, Halifax. To thy capacious mind,
O man approv'd, is Britain's wealth consign'd.
Her coin (while Nassau fought) debas'd and rude,
By thee in beauty and in truth renew'd,
An arduous work! again thy charge we see,
And thy own care once more returns to thee.
O! form'd in ev'ry scene to awe and please,
Mix wit with pomp, and dignity with ease;
Tho' call'd to shine aloft, thou wilt not scorn
To smile on hearts thyself did once adorn:
For this thy name succeeding time shall praise,
And envy less thy garter than thy bays.

'The muse, if fir'd with thy enlivening beams!
Perhaps shall aim at more exalted themes;
Record our monarch in a nobler strain,
And sing the op'ning wonders of his reign;
Bright Carolina's heavenly beauties trace,
Her valiant consort, and his blooming race.
A train of kings their fruitful love supplies,
A glorious scene to Albion's ravish'd eyes;
Who sees by Brunswick's hand her sceptre sway'd,
And through his line from age to age convey'd,

* Flamstead House on Greenwich-hill.

Nº 621. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1711.

— *Postquam se lucine parvo
Implevit, stellisque vagis intravit, et adde
Fixa polis, vidit quanta sub nocte jaceat
Nostra dice, risitque sui ludibria.*

LUCAN. L. II. VI. 1.

New to the blest abode, with wonder fill'd
The stars and moving planets he beheld;
Then, looking down on the sun's feeble ray,
Survey'd our dusky, faint, imperfect day,
And under what a cloud of night we lay!

BOWLE

THE following letter having in it some observations out of the common road, I shall make it the entertainment of this day.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'THE common topics against the pride of men which are labour'd by florid and declamatory writers, are taken from the baseness of his origin, the imperfections of his nature, or the short duration of those goods in which he makes his boast. They it be true that we can have nothing in us that ought to raise our vanity, yet a consciousness of our merit may be sometimes laudable. The fault therefore lies here: we are apt to pride ourselves in worthless, or perhaps shameful things; and on the other hand count that disgraceful which is a true glory.

'Hence it is that the lovers of praise take many measures to attain it. Would a vain man consult his own heart, he would find that if others know his weaknesses as well as he himself doth, he could not have the impudence to expect the public esteem. Pride therefore flows from want of reflection, and ignorance of ourselves. Knowledge and humility come upon us together.

'The proper way to make an estimate of ourselves, is to consider seriously what it is we value or despise in others. A man who boasts of the goods of fortune, a gay dress, or a new title, is generally the mark of ridicule. We ought therefore not to admire in ourselves what we are ready to laugh at in other men.

'Much less can we with reason pride ourselves in those things, which at some time of our life we shall certainly despise. And yet, if we will, we ourselves the trouble of looking backward and forward on the several changes which we have already undergone, and hereafter must undergo, shall find that the greater degrees of our knowledge and wisdom serve only to show us our own imperfections.

'As we rise from childhood to youth, we look with contempt on the toys and trifles which our hearts have hitherto been set upon. When we advance to manhood, we are held wise, in proportion to our shame and regret for the rashness and extravagance of youth. Old age fills us with serious reflections upon a life mispent in the pursuit of anxious wealth, or uncertain honour. According to this gradation of thought in this life, it may be reasonably supposed that, in a future state, the wisdom, the experience, and the maxims of old age, will be looked upon by a separate spirit with much the same light as an ancient man sees in the little follies and toyings of infants. The pomp, the honours, the policies, and arts of great men, will be thought as trifling as ball-horses, mock battles, or any other sports that we employ all the cunning, and strength, and

on, of rational beings, from four years old to nine or ten.

"If the notion of a gradual rise in beings from the meanest to the most high be not a vain imagination, it is not improbable that an angel looks down upon a man as a man doth upon a creature which approaches the nearest to the rational nature. By the same rule, if I may indulge my fancy in particular, a superior brute looks with a kind of pride on one of an inferior species. If they could reflect, we might imagine, from the gestures of some of them, that they think themselves the sovereigns of the world, and that all things were made for them. Such a thought would not be more absurd in brute creatures than one which men are apt to entertain, namely, that all the stars in the firmament were created only to please their eyes and amuse their imaginations. Mr. Dryden, in his *ble of the Cock and the Fox*, makes a speech for his hero the cock, which is a pretty instance for its purpose:

"Then turning, said to Partlet, 'See; my dear,
How lavish nature hath adorn'd the year;
How the pale primrose and the violet spring,
And birds essay their throats, disus'd to sing:
All these are ours, and I with pleasure see,
Man strutting on two legs and aping me."

"What I would observe from the whole is this, that we ought to value ourselves upon those things only which superior beings think valuable, since it is the only way for us not to sink in our own esteem hereafter.

N^o 622. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1714.

— *Fullentis semita olle.*

HOR. Ep. xviii. l. 1. ver 103.

— A safe private quiet, which betrays
Itself to ease, and cheats away the days.
POOLEY.

MR. SPECTATOR,

As a former speculation you have observed that the greatness doth not consist in that pomp and display wherein the generality of mankind are apt to place it. You have there taken notice that virtue in obscurity often appears more illustrious in the eye of superior beings, than all that passes for honour and magnificence among men.

When we look back upon the history of those who have borne the parts of kings, statesmen, or commanders, they appear to us stripped of those side ornaments that dazzled their contemporaries; and we regard their persons as great or little in proportion to the eminence of their virtues or merits. The wise sayings, generous sentiments, or interested conduct of a philosopher under mean circumstances of life, set him higher in our esteem than the mighty potentates of the earth, when we view them both through the long prospect of many years. Were the memoirs of an obscure man, who had risen up to the dignity of his nature and according to the rules of virtue, to be laid before us, we should find nothing in such a character which might set him on a level with men of the highest stations. The following extract, out of the private papers of an honest country gentleman, will set this matter in a clear light. Your reader will perhaps conceive a greater idea of him from these notions done in secret, and without a witness, than those which have drawn upon them the admiration of multitudes.

MEMOIRS.

"In my twenty-second year I found a violent affection for my cousin Charles's wife growing upon me; wherein I was in danger of succeeding, if I had not upon that account begun my travels into foreign countries.

"A little after my return to England, at a private meeting with my uncle Francis, I refused the offer of his estate, and prevailed upon him not to disinherit his son Ned.

"Mem. Never to tell this to Ned, lest he should think hardly of his deceased father; though he continues to speak ill of me for this very reason.

"Prevented a scandalous law-suit betwixt my nephew Harry and his mother, by allowing her underhand, out of my own pocket, so much money yearly as the dispute was about.

"Procured a benefice for a young divine, who is sister's son to the good man who was my tutor, and hath been dead twenty years.

"Gave ten pounds to poor Mrs. —, my friend H——'s widow.

"Mem. To retrench one dish at my table, until I have fetched it up again.

"Mem. To repair my house and finish my gardens, in order to employ poor people after harvest-time.

"Ordered John to let out goodman D——'s sheep that were pounded by night; but not to let his fellow servants know it.

"Prevailed upon M. T. esq. not to take the law of the farmer's son for shooting a partridge, and to give him his gun again.

"Paid the apothecary for curing an old woman that confessed herself a witch.

"Gave away my favourite dog, for biting a beggar.

"Made the minister of the parish and a whig justice of one mind, by putting them to explain their notions to one another.

"Mem. To turn out Peter, for shooting a doe while she was eating acorns out of his hand.

"When my neighbour John, who hath often injured me, comes to make his request to-morrow:

"Mem. I have forgiven him.

"Laid up my chariot, and sold my horses, to relieve the poor in a scarcity of corn.

"In the same year remitted to my tenants a fifth part of their rents.

"As I was airing to-day I fell into a thought that warmed my heart, and shall, I hope, be the better for it as long as I live.

"Mem. To charge my son in private to erect no monument for me; but not to put this in my last will."

Nº 623. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1714.

*Sed mihi vel tellus optem prius ima dehiscat,
Vel pater omnipotens adigat me fulmine ad umbras,
Fulentes umbras Erebi noctemque profundam,
Arte, pudor, quam te violam, aut tua jura resolvam.
Ille meos, primus qui me sibi junxit, amores
Abstulit; ille habet saxum servetque sepulchro.*
VIRG. Æn. iv. ver. 24.

But first let yawning earth a passage rend,
And let me through the dark abyss descend;
First let avenging Jove, with flames from high,
Drive down this body to the nether sky;
Condemn'd with ghosts in endless night to lie;
Before I break the plighted faith I gave;
No; he who had my vows shall ever have;
For whom I loved on earth I worship in the grave.
DRYDEN.

- I AM obliged to my friend, the love-casuist *, for the following curious piece of antiquity, which I shall communicate to the public in his own words.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

'You may remember that I lately transmitted to you an account of an ancient custom in the manors of East and West Enborne, in the county of Berks, and elsewhere †. "If a customary tenant die, the widow shall have what the law calls her free-bench, in all his copyhold lands, *dum sola et casta fuerit*; that is, while she lives single and chaste; but if she commits incontinency she forfeits her estate; yet if she will come into the court riding backward upon a black ram, with his tail in her hand, and say the words following, the steward is bound by the custom to re-admit her to her free-bench.

"Here I am,
Riding upon a black ram,
Like a whore as I am;
And for my *crinum crancum*,
Have lost my *bincum bancum*;
And for my tail's game,
Have done this worldly shame;
Therefore I pray you, Mr. Steward, let me have my land again."

After having informed you that my Lord Coke observes, that this is the most frail and slippery tenure of any in England, I shall tell you, since the writing of that letter, I have, according to my promise, been at great pains in searching out the records of the black ram; and have at last met with the proceedings of the court baron, held in that behalf, for the space of a whole day. The record saith, that a strict inquisition having been made into the right of the tenants to their several estates, by a crafty old steward, he found that many of the lands of the manor were, by default of the several widows, forfeited to the lord, and accordingly would have entered on the premises upon which the good women demanded the "benefit of the ram." The steward, after having perused their several pleas, adjourned the court to Barnaby-bright ‡, that they might have day enough before them.

'The court being set, and filled with a great concourse of people, who came from all parts to see the solemnity; the first who entered was the widow Frontly, who had made her appearance in the last year's cavalcade. The register observes, that, finding it an easy pad-ram, and foreseeing

she might have further occasion for it, she purchased it of the steward.

'Mrs. Sarah Dainty, relict of Mr. John Dainty who was the greatest prude in the parish, was next in the procession. She at first made some difficulty of taking the tail in her hand; but was observed, in pronouncing the form of penance, to soften the two most emphatical words into *crinum clancum*: but the steward took care to make her speak plain English before he would let her enter her land again.

'The third widow that was brought to the solemnity, being mounted upon a vicious ram, and the misfortune to be thrown by him; upon which she hoped to be excused from going through the rest of the ceremony: but the steward, being conversed in the law, observed very wisely upon an occasion, that the breaking of the rope did not hinder the execution of the criminal.

'The fourth lady upon record was the widow Ogle, a famous coquette, who had kept her score young fellows off and on for the space of twenty years; but having been more kind to her late husband John, she was introduced with the business of all her lovers about her.

'Mrs. Sable appearing in her weeds, who was very new and fresh, and of the same colour as her whimsical palfrey, made a very decent term to the solemnity.

'Another, who had been summoned to make her appearance, was excused by the steward, upon knowing in his heart that the good squire had had qualified her for the ram.

'Mrs. Quick, having nothing to object against the indictment, pleaded her belly. But she remembered that she made the same excuse the year before. Upon which the steward observed, that she might so contrive it, as never to do the duty of the manor.

'The widow Fidget, being cited into court, insisted that she had done no more since the death of her husband than what she used to do in the last time; and withal desired Mr. Steward to take his own wife's case if he should chance to do so before her.

'The next in order was a dowager of a corpulent make, who would have been excused, had not finding any ram that was able to carry her upon which the steward commanded her penance, and ordered her to make her entry upon a black ox.

'The widow Maskwell, a woman who had lived with a most unblemished character, was turned off her old chambermaid in a pet, and that revengeful creature brought in upon the same ram nine times the same day.

'Several widows of the neighbourhood were brought upon their trial, showed that they held the manor, and were discharged accordingly.

'A pretty young creature who came in the procession came ambling in with so bewitching a look, that the steward was observed to cast a shadow upon her, and married her within a month of the death of his wife.

'N. B. Mrs. Touchwood appeared, and served her summons, but had nothing laid to her charge; she being lived irreproachable since the death of her husband, who left her a widow in the sixth year of her age.

* See Nos. 591, 602, 605, 614, and 625.

† See Nº 614.

‡ June 11th; nearly the longest day in the year.

* I am, &c.

Nº 624. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1714.

*Audire, atque legem jubeo componere, quisquis
Ambitione mala, aut argenti palliat amore,
Quisquis luxuria*

HOR. Sat. lib. 1. 2. ver. 77.

Sit still, and hear, those whom proud thoughts do swell,
Those that look pale by loving coin too well;
Whom luxury corrupts.

CREECH.

MANKIND is divided into two parts, the busy and the idle. The busy world may be divided into the virtuous and the vicious. The vicious again into the covetous, the ambitious, and the sensual. The idle part of mankind are in a state inferior to any of these. All the other are engaged in the pursuit of happiness, though often misplaced, and are therefore more likely to be attentive to such means as shall be proposed to them for that end. The idle, who are neither wise for this world nor the next, are emphatically called by Doctor Tillotson 'fools at large.' They propose to themselves an end, but run adrift with every wind. Advice therefore would be but thrown away upon them, since they would scarce take the pains to read it, shall not fatigue any of this worthless tribe with long harangue; but will leave them with this short saying of Plato, that 'labour is preferable to idleness, as brightness to rust.'

The pursuits of the active part of mankind are either in the paths of religion and virtue; or, on the other hand, in the roads to wealth, honours, or pleasure. I shall, therefore, compare the pursuits of avarice, ambition, and sensual delight, with their opposite virtues; and shall consider which of these principles engages men in a course of the greatest labour, suffering, and assiduity. Most men, in their cool reasonings, are willing to allow that a course of virtue will in the end be rewarded the most amply; but represent the way to it as rugged and narrow. If therefore it can be made appear, that men struggle through many troubles to be miserable, as they do to be happy, my readers may perhaps be persuaded to be good when they find they shall lose nothing by it.

First, for avarice. The miser is more industrious than the saint: the pains of getting, the fears of losing, and the inability of enjoying his wealth, have been the mark of satire in all ages. Were it repentance upon his neglect of a good bargain, or sorrow for being over-reached, his hope of improving a sum, and his fear of falling into want, directed to their proper objects, they would make many different Christian graces and virtues. He may apply to himself a great part of Saint Paul's catalogue of sufferings. 'In journeying often; in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils among false brethren. In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often.'—'At how much less expense might he 'lay up to himself treasures in heaven?' Or, if I may in this place be allowed to add the saying of a great philosopher, he may 'provide such possessions as fear neither arms, nor men, nor Jove himself.'

In the second place, if we look upon the toils of ambition in the same light as we have considered those of avarice, we shall readily own that far less trouble is requisite to gain lasting glory than the power and reputation of a few years; or, in other words, we may with more ease deserve honour than obtain it. The ambitious man should remember

Cardinal Wolsey's complaint, 'Had I served God with the same application wherewith I served my king, he would not have forsaken me in my old age.' The cardinal here softens his ambition by the specious pretence of 'serving his king': whereas his words, in the proper construction, imply, that, if instead of being acted * by ambition he had been acted by religion, he should now have felt the comforts of it, when the whole world turned its back upon him.

Thirdly, let us compare the pains of the sensual with those of the virtuous, and see which are heavier in the balance. It may seem strange, at the first view, that the men of pleasure should be advised to change their course, because they lead a painful life. Yet when we see them so active and vigilant in quest of delight; under so many disquiet, and the sport of such various passions; let them answer, as they can, if the pains they undergo do not outweigh their enjoyments. The infidelities on the one part between the two sexes, and the caprices on the other, the debasement of reason, the pangs of expectation, the disappointments in possession, the stings of remorse, the vanities and vexations attending even the most refined delights, that make up this business of life, render it so silly and uncomfortable, that no man is thought wise until he hath got over it, or happy, but in proportion as he hath cleared himself from it.

The sum of all is this. Man is made an active being. Whether he walks in the paths of virtue or vice he is sure to meet with many difficulties to prove his patience and excite his industry. The same, if not greater labour, is required in the service of vice and folly as of virtue and wisdom; and he hath this easy choice left him, whether, with the strength he is master of, he will purchase happiness or repentance.

Nº 625. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1714.

De tenero meditatur unguis.

HOR. Od. vi. 1. 3. ver. 23.

Love, from her tender years, her thoughts employ'd.

THE love-casualist † hath referred to me the following letter of queries, with his answers to each question, for my approbation. I have accordingly considered the several matters therein contained, and hereby confirm and ratify his answers, and require the gentle querist to conform herself thereto.

'SIR,

'I was thirteen the 9th of November last, and must now begin to think of settling myself in the world, and so I would humbly beg your advice, what I must do with Mr. Fondle, who makes his addresses to me. He is a very pretty man, and hath the blackest eyes and whitest teeth you ever saw. Though he is but a younger brother, he dresses like a man of quality, and nobody comes into a room like him. I know he hath refused great offers, and if he cannot marry me he will never have any body else. But my father hath forbid him the house, because he sent me a copy

* For actuated.

† See Nos. 591, 602, 605, 614, and 623.

of verses; for he is one of the greatest wits in town. My eldest sister, who with her good will would call me Miss as long as I live, must be married before me they say. She tells them that Mr. Fondle makes a fool of me, and will spoil the child, as she calls me, like a confident thing as she is. In short, I am resolved to marry Mr. Fondle, if it be but to spite her. But, because I would do nothing that is imprudent, I beg of you to give me your answers to some questions I will write down, and desire you to get them printed in the Spectator, and I do not doubt but you will give such advice, as, I am sure, I shall follow.

'When Mr. Fondle looks upon me for half an hour together, and calls me an angel, is he not in love?'

Answer, No.

'May not I be certain he will be a kind husband, that has promised me half my portion in pin-money, and to keep me a coach and six in the bargain?'

No.

'Whether I, who have been acquainted with him this whole year almost, am not a better judge of his merit than my father and mother, who never heard him talk but at table?'

No.

'Whether I am not old enough to choose for myself?'

No.

'Whether it would not have been rude in me to refuse a lock of his hair?'

No.

'Should not I be a very barbarous creature if I did not pity a man who is always sighing for my sake?'

No.

'Whether you would not advise me to run away with the poor man?'

No.

'Whether you do not think, that if I will not have him, he will drown himself?'

No.

'What shall I say to him the next time he asks me if I will marry him?'

No.

The following letter requires neither introduction nor answer.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'I WONDER that in the present situation of affairs, you can take pleasure in writing any thing but news; for, in a word, who minds any thing else? The pleasure of increasing in knowledge, and learning something new every hour of life, is the noblest entertainment of a rational creature. I have a very good ear for a secret, and am naturally of a communicative temper; by which means I am capable of doing you great services in this way. In order to make myself useful, I am early in the antichamber, where I thrust my head into the thick of the press, and catch the news at the opening of the door, while it is warm. Sometimes I stand by the beef-eaters, and take the buzz as it passes by me. At other times I lay my ear close to the wall, and suck in many a valuable whisper, as it runs in a straight line from corner to corner. When I am weary with standing, I repair to one of the neighbouring coffee-houses, where I sit sometimes for a whole day, and have the news as it comes from court fresh and fresh. In short, sir, I spare no pains to know how the world goes. A piece of news loses its flavour when it hath

been an hour in the air. I love, if I may so call it, to have it fresh from the tree; and to deliver my friends before it is faded. Accordingly, expences in coach-hire make no small article: as you may believe when I assure you that I am away from coffee-house to coffee-house, and to stall the Evening Post by two hours. There is a certain gentleman, who hath given me the slip two or thrice, and hath been beforehand with me in Child's. But I have played him a trick. I have purchased a pair of the best coach-horses I can buy for money, and now let him outstrip me if he can. Once more, Mr. Spectator, let me advise you to deal in news. You may depend upon my assistance. But I must break off abruptly, as I have twenty letters to write.

'Yours, in haste,

'TMO. QUINSTER.

N° 626. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1734

— Dulcique animas moritate lencho.

OID. Met. l. 4. vs. 3.

With sweet novelty your taste I'll please.

EUSDEN.

I HAVE seen a little work of a learned man, consisting of extemporary speculations, which were their birth to the most trifling occurrences of life. His usual method was, to write down any subject that started in his mind, which arose in his mind upon sight of any odd gesticulation in a man, any musical mimicry of reason in a beast, or whatever appeared remarkable in any object of the visible creation. He was able to moralize upon a tobacco-box, would flourish eloquently upon a tacket of a pair of ruffles, and draw practical inferences from a full-bottomed periwig. This I thought fit to mention, by way of excuse for my ingenious correspondent who hath introduced the following letter by an image which, I will beg leave to call him, is too ridiculous in so serious and solid a speculation.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'WHEN I have seen young pam playing her was gambols, and with a thousand antic shapes enjoying her own gaiety at the same time that she declines, while the old grannum hath set by with the most exemplary gravity, unmoved at all that passed. It hath made me reflect what should be the division of humours so opposite in two creatures, between whom there was no visible difference but that of age; and I have been able to reduce into nothing else but the force of novelty.

'In every species of creatures, those who have been least time in the world appear best pleased with their condition: for, besides that the newcomer the world hath a freshness on it that strikes the sense after a most agreeable manner, and itself, unattended with any great variety of comments, excites a sensation of pleasure; but, as it advances, every thing seems to wither, the are disgusted with their old entertainments, and existence turns flat and insipid. We may exemplified in mankind: the child, let him be freed from pain, and gratified in his change of toys, is diverted with the smallest trifle. Nothing but the mirth of the boy but a little punishment or refinement. The youth must have more violent pressures to employ his time; the man loves the labour of an active life, devoted to the pursuit of

ambition; and, lastly, old age, having lost its capacity for these avocations, becomes its own inportable burthen. This variety may in part be counted for by the vivacity and decay of the culties; but I believe is chiefly owing to this, that the longer we have been in possession of being, the less sensible is the gust we have of it; and more it requires of adventitious amusements to relieve us from the satiety and weariness it brings along with it.

And as novelty is of a very powerful, so is it of most extensive influence. Moralists have long since observed it to be the source of admiration, which lessens in proportion to our familiarity with objects, and upon a thorough acquaintance is utterly extinguished. But I think it hath not been commonly remarked, that all the other passions depend considerably on the same circumstances. What is it but novelty that awakens desire, enhances delight, kindles anger, provokes envy, inspires horror? To this cause we must ascribe it, that love languishes with fruition, and friendship itself is recommended by intervals of absence: once monsters, by use, are beheld without loathing, and the most enchanting beauty without rapture. That emotion of the spirits, in which passion consists, is usually the effect of surprise, and, as long as it continues, heightens the agreeable or disagreeable qualities of its object; but as this emotion ceases (and it ceases with the novelty) things appear in another light, and affect us even less than might be expected from their proper energy, for having moved us too much before.

It may not be an useless inquiry, how far the love of novelty is the unavoidable growth of nature, and in what respects it is peculiarly adapted to the present state. To me it seems impossible that a reasonable creature should rest absolutely satisfied in any acquisitions whatever, without endeavouring further; for, after its highest improvements, the mind hath an idea of an infinity of things still behind worth knowing, to the knowledge of which therefore it cannot be indifferent; as by climbing up a hill in the midst of a wide plain a man hath his prospect enlarged, and, together with that, the bounds of his desires. Upon his account, I cannot think he detracts from the state of the blessed, who conceives them to be perpetually employed in fresh searches into nature, and to eternally advancing into the fathomless depths of the divine perfections. In this thought there is nothing but what doth honour to these glorified spirits, provided still it be remembered, that their desire of more proceeds not from their disrelishing what they possess; and the pleasure of a new enjoyment is not with them measured by its novelty (which is a thing merely foreign and accidental) but by its real intrinsic value. After an acquaintance of many thousand years with the works of God, the beauty and magnificence of the creation fills them with the same pleasing wonder and profound awe which Adam felt himself seized with as he first opened his eyes upon this glorious scene. Truth captivates with unborrowed charms, and whatever hath once given satisfaction will always do it. In all which they have manifestly the advantage of us, who are so much governed by sickly and changeable appetites, that we can with the greatest coldness behold the stupendous display of Omnipotence, and be in transports at the puny essays of human skill; throw aside speculations of the sublimest nature and vastest importance into some obscure corner of the mind, to make room for new notions of no consequence at all are

even tired of health, because not enlivened with alternate pain; and prefer the first reading of an indifferent author to the second or third perusal of one whose merit and reputation are established.

Our being thus formed serves many useful purposes in the present state. It contributes not a little to the advancement of learning; for, as Cicero takes notice, that which makes men willing to undergo the fatigues of philosophical disquisitions, is not so much the greatness of objects as their novelty. It is not enough that there is field and game for the chase, and that the understanding is prompted with a restless thirst of knowledge, effectually to rouse the soul, sunk into the state of sloth and indolence; it is also necessary that there be an uncommon pleasure annexed to the first appearance of truth in the mind. This pleasure being exquisite for the time it lasts, but transient, it hereby comes to pass that the mind grows into an indifference to its former notions, and passes on after new discoveries, in hope of repeating the delight. It is with knowledge as with wealth, the pleasure of which lies more in making endless additions than in taking a review of our old store. There are some inconveniences that follow this temper, if not guarded against, particularly this, that through a too great eagerness of something new, we are many times impatient of staying long enough upon a question that requires some time to resolve it; or, which is worse, persuade ourselves that we are masters of the subject before we are so, only to be at the liberty of going upon a fresh scent: in Mr. Locke's words, "we see a little, presume a great deal, and so jump to the conclusion."

A further advantage of our inclination for novelty, as at present circumstantiated, is, that it annihilates all the boasted distinctions among mankind. Look not up with envy to those above thee! Sounding titles, stately buildings, fine gardens, gilded chariots, rich equipages, what are they? They dazzle every one but the possessor: to him that is accustomed to them they are cheap and regardless things: they supply him not with brighter images, or more sublime satisfactions, than the plain man may have, whose small estate may just enable him to support the charge of a simple unencumbered life. He enters heedless into his rooms of state, as you or I do under our poor sheds. The noble paintings and costly furniture are lost on him; he sees them not: as how can it be otherwise, when by custom, a fabric, infinitely more grand and finished, that of the universe, stands unobserved by the inhabitants, and the everlasting lamps of heaven are lighted up in vain, for any notice that mortals take of them! Thanks to indulgent nature, which not only placed her children originally upon a level, but still, by the strength of this principle, in a great measure preserves it, in spite of all the care of man to introduce artificial distinctions.

To add no more—is not this fondness for novelty, which makes us out of conceit with all we already have, a convincing proof of a future state? Either man was made in vain, or this is not the only world he was made for: for there cannot be a greater instance of vanity than that to which man is liable, to be deluded from the cradle to the grave with fleeting shadows of happiness. His pleasures, and those not considerable neither, die in the possession, and fresh enjoyments do not rise fast enough to fill up half his life with satisfaction. When I see persons sick of themselves any longer than they are called away by something that is of force to chain down the present thought; when I see them hurry from country to town, and then from the

town back again into the country, continually shifting postures, and placing life in all the different lights they can think of; "surely," say I to myself, "life is vain, and the man beyond expression stupid or prejudiced, who from the vanity of life cannot gather that he is designed for immortality *."

[GROVE.]

N° 627. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1714.

*Tantum inter densas umbrosa cacumina fagos
Assidue veniebat; ibi hæc incondita solus
Montibus et sylvis studio jactabat inani.*

VIRG. Ecl. li. ver. 3.

He, underneath the beechen shade alone,
Thus to the woods and mountains made his moan.
DRYDEN.

THE following account, which came to my hands some time ago, may be no disagreeable entertainment to such of my readers as have tender hearts, and nothing to do.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

A FRIEND of mine died of a fever last week, which he caught by walking too late in a dewy evening amongst his reapers. I must inform you that his greatest pleasure was in husbandry and gardening. He had some humours which seemed inconsistent with that good sense he was otherwise master of. His uneasiness in the company of women was very remarkable in a man of such perfect good breeding; and his avoiding one particular walk in his garden, where he had used to pass the greatest part of his time, raised abundance of idle conjectures in the village where he lived. Upon looking over his papers we found out the reason, which he never intimated to his nearest friends. He was, it seems, a passionate lover in his youth, of which a large parcel of letters he left behind him are a witness. I send you a copy of the last he ever wrote upon that subject, by which you will find that he concealed the true name of his mistress under that of Zelinda.

"A LONG month's absence would be insupportable to me, if the business I am employed in were not for the service of my Zelinda, and of such a nature as to place her every moment in my mind. I have furnished the house exactly according to your fancy, or, if you please, my own; for I have long since learned to like nothing but what you do. The apartment designed for your use is so exact a copy of that which you live in, that I often think myself in your house when I step into it, but sigh when I find it without its proper inhabitant. You will have the most delicious prospect from your closet-window that England affords: I am sure I should think it so, if the landscape that shows such variety did not at the same time suggest to me the greatness of the space that lies between us.

"The gardens are laid out very beautifully; I have dressed up every hedge in woodbines, sprinkled bowers and arbours in every corner, and made a little paradise around me; yet I am still like the first man in his solitude, but half blessed without a partner in my happiness. I have directed one walk to be made for two persons, where

I promise ten thousand satisfactions to myself in your conversation. I already take my evening turn in it, and have worn a path upon the edge of this little alley, while I soothed myself with the thought of your walking by my side. I have had many imaginary discourses with you in the retirement; and when I have been weary have sat with you in the midst of a row of jessamines. So many expressions of joy and rapture I see in those silent conversations have made me for some time the talk of the parish; but a neighbouring young fellow, who makes love to the farmer's daughter, hath found me out, and made my case known to the whole neighbourhood.

"In planting of the fruit-trees, I have not forgot the peach you are so fond of. I have made a walk of elms along the river side, and intend to sow all the place about with cowslips, which I hope you will like as well as that I have heard you talk of by your father's house in the country.

"Oh! Zelinda, what a scheme of delight have I drawn up in my imagination! What day-dream do I indulge myself in! When will the six weeks be at an end, that lie between me and my promised happiness!

"How could you break off so abruptly in your last, and tell me you must go and dress for my play? If you loved as I do, you would find more company in a crowd than I have in solitude.

"I am, &c.

"On the back of this letter is written, in the hand of the deceased, the following piece of history.

"MEM. Having waited a whole week for an answer to this letter, I hurried to town, where I found the perfidious creature married to my rival. I will bear it as becomes a man, and endeavour to find out happiness for myself in that retirement which I had prepared in vain for a false and ungrateful woman."

"I am, &c.

N° 628. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1714.

Labitur et labitur in cuncta volubilis ævus.
HOL. Ep. ii. l. i. ver. 2.

It rolls, and rolls, and will for ever roll.

* MR. SPECTATOR,

THERE are none of your speculations which please me more than those upon infinitude and eternity. You have already considered that part of eternity which is past, and I wish you would give your thoughts upon that which is to come.

Your readers will perhaps receive greater pleasure from this view of eternity than the former, since we have every one of us a concern in that which is to come; whereas a speculation on that which is past is rather curious than useful.

Besides, we can easily conceive it possible for successive duration never to have an end; though as you have justly observed, that eternity can never have a beginning is altogether inconceivable; that is, we can conceive an eternal course which may be, though we cannot an eternal action which hath been; or, if I may use the philosophical terms, we may apprehend a possible though not an actual eternity.

"This notion of a future eternity, which is

* Dr. Johnson thought this essay one of the finest pieces in the English language.—Boswell's Life of Johnson, vol. iii. p. 32. 3d edit.

real to the mind of man, is an unanswerable argument that he is a being designed for it; especially we consider that he is capable of being virtuous & vicious here: that he hath faculties improvable & all eternity; and, by a proper or wrong employment of them, may be happy or miserable throughout that infinite duration. Our idea indeed of this eternity is not of an adequate or fixed nature, but is perpetually growing and enlarging itself over the object, which is too big for human comprehension. As we are now in the beginnings of existence, so shall we always appear to ourselves as if we were for ever entering upon it. After a million or two of centuries, some considerable things, already past, may slip out of our memory; which, if it be not strengthened in a wonderful manner, may possibly forget that ever there was a man or planets; and yet, notwithstanding the long time that we shall then have run, we shall still imagine ourselves just starting from the goal, and find no proportion between that space which we know had a beginning and what we are sure will never have an end.

But I shall leave this subject to your management, and question not but you will throw it into such lights as shall at once improve and entertain your reader.

I have, inclosed, sent you a translation * of the speech of Cato on this occasion, which hath accidentally fallen into my hands, and which, for consistency, purity, and elegance of phrase, cannot be sufficiently admired.

ACT V. SCENE I.

CATO solus, &c.

*' Sic, sic se habere rem necesse prorsus est,
Ratione vincis, do lubens manus, Plato.
Quid enim dedisset, quæ dedit frustra nihil,
Eternitatis insitam cupidinem
Natura? Quorum hæc dulcia exspectatio;
Viteque non splendida melioris sitis?
Quid vult tibi aliud, tunc redeundi in nihil
Horror, sub timis quemque agens præcordiis?
Cur terris in se refugit anima, cur tremis
Altonda, quoties, morte ne percat, timet?
Particula nempe est cuique nascenti indita
Divinior; quæ corpus incolens agit;
Hominique succinit, tuas est æternitas.
Eternitas! O lubricum nimis aspecti,
Mistumque dulci gaudium formidine!*

*' Quæ demigrabitur aliis hinc in corpora?
Quæ terra mos incognita? Quis orbis novus
Manet incolendus? Quanta erit mutatio!
Hæc intuenti spatia mihi quæquæ patent
Immensa: sed caliginosa nox premit;
Nec luce clara vult videri singula.
Figendus hic pes; certa sunt hæc hæc hactenus;
Si quod gubernet numen humanum genus,
(At, quod gubernet, eue clamant omnia)
Virtute non gaudere certe non potest:
Nec esse non beata, qua gaudet, potest.
Sed qua beata sede? Quove in tempore?
Hæc quanta terra, tota est Caesaris.
Quid dubius heret animus usque adeo? Brevis
Ilic modum hic omnem impedit. Arma en induor.
[Emi manum admoveo.
In utramque partem facta; quæque vim inferant,
Et quæ propulsi! Dexterâ intentat necem;
Vitam sinistra: vulnus hæc dabit manus;
Altera medellam vulneris: hic ad exitum*

*Deduxit, actu simplici; hæc votant mori.
Oscula ridet anima mucronis minas,
Enasque strictos, interire necita.
Extinguit ætas sidera diuturnior:
Elate languens ipse sol obcurtus
Emittit orbis conuascens jubar:
Natura et ipsa sentit quondam vices
Elatis; annis ipsa deficient gratia:
At tibi juvenis, at tibi immortalitas:
Tibi parva diuini est vita. Perment mutuis
Elementa ossa et interibunt icibus.
Tu permanbis sola semper integra,
Tu cuncta rerum quæquæ, cuncta naufraga,
Jam portu in ipso tuto, contemplabere.
Compagis rupta, corrumpent in se invicem,
Orbesque fractis ingerentur orbibus;
Illas tu sedebis extra fragmina.'*

ACT V. SCENE I.

CATO alone, &c.

*' IT must be so—Plato, thou reason'st well—
Else whence this pleasing hope, this fond desire,
This longing after immortality?
Or whence this secret dread and inward horror,
Of falling into nought? Why shrinks the soul
Back on herself, and starts at destruction?
Thou the divinity that stirs within us;
Thou Heaven itself that points out an hereafter,
And intimates eternity to man.
Eternity! thou pleasing, dreadful thought!*

*' Through what variety of untry'd being,
Thro' what new scenes and changes must we pass!
The wide, th' unbounded prospect lies before me;
But shadows, clouds, and darkness, rest upon it.
Here will I hold. If there's a Power above us,
(And that there is all Nature cries aloud
Through all her works) he must delight in virtue;
And that which he delights in must be happy.
But when, or where!—This world was made for Cæsar.
I'm weary of conjectures—This must end them
[Laying his hand on his sword.*

*' Thus am I doubly arm'd; my death and life,
My bane and antidote are both before me.
This in a moment brings me to an end;
But this informs me I shall never die.
The soul, secur'd in her existence, smiles
At the drawn dagger, and defies its point.
The stars shall fade away, the sun himself
Grow dim with age, and nature sink in years;
But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,
Unhurt amidst the war of elements,
The wrecks of matter, and the crush of worlds.'*

Nº 629. MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1714.

*— Exspertur quid concedatur in illos,
Quorum Flaminia tegitur cinis, atque Latina.
JUV. Sat. I. ver. 170.*

*— Since none the living dare implead,
Arraign them in the persons of the dead.
DRYDEN.*

NEXT to the people who want a place, there are none to be pitied more than those who are solicited for one. A plain answer with a denial in it is looked upon as pride, and a civil answer as a promise.

Nothing is more ridiculous than the pretensions of people upon these occasions. Every thing a man hath suffered, whilst his enemies were in play, was certainly brought about by the malice of the opposite party. A bad cause would not have been lost, if such an one had not been upon the bench; nor a profligate youth disinherited, if he had not got drunk every night by toasting an outed ministry. I remember a tory, who, having been fined in a court of justice for a prank that deserved the pillory, desired upon the merit of it to be made a justice of peace when his friends came into power; and shall never forget a whig criminal, who, upon being indicted for a rape, told his friends, ' You

* This was done by Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Bland, formerly head master of Eton school, then provost of the college there, and dean of Durham.

Cato (says Dr. Johnson) was translated by Salvini into Italian, and acted at Florence; and by the Jesuits of St. Omer's into Latin, and played by their pupils. Of this version a copy was sent to Mr. Addison: it is to be wished that it could be found, for the sake of comparing their version of the soliloquy with that of Bland.* Dr. Johnson's Lives of English Poets, vol. II. p. 361, 8vo. edit. 1796.

see what a man suffers for sticking to his principles.'

The truth of it is, the sufferings of a man in a party are of a very doubtful nature. When they are such as have promoted a good cause, and fallen upon a man undeservedly, they have a right to be heard and recompensed beyond any other pretensions. But when they rise out of rashness or indiscretion, and the pursuit of such measures as have rather ruined than promoted the interest they aim at, which hath always been the case of many great sufferers, they only serve to recommend them to the children of violence or folly.

I have by me a bundle of memorials presented by several cavaliers upon the restoration of King Charles II. which may serve as so many instances to our present purpose.

Among several persons and pretensions recorded by my author, he mentions one of a very great estate, who, for having roasted an ox whole, and distributed a hoghead upon King Charles's birthday, desired to be provided for as his majesty in his great wisdom should think fit.

Another put in to be Prince Henry's governor, for having dared to drink his health in the worst of times.

A third petitioned for a colonel's commission, for having cursed Oliver Cromwell, the day before his death, on a public bowling-green.

But the most whimsical petition I have met with is that of B. B. esq. who desired the honour of knighthood, for having cuckolded Sir T. W. a notorious roundhead.

There is likewise the petition of one who, having let his beard grow from the martyrdom of King Charles the First until the restoration of King Charles the Second, desired in consideration thereupon to be made a privy-counsellor.

I must not omit a memorial setting forth, that the memorialist had, with great dispatch, carried a letter from a certain lord to a certain lord, wherein, as it afterwards appeared, measures were concerted for the restoration, and without which he verily believes that happy revolution had never been effected; who thereupon humbly prays to be made postmaster-general.

A certain gentleman, who seems to write with a great deal of spirit, and uses the words gallantry and gentleman-like very often in his petition, begs that (in consideration of his having worn his hat for ten years past in the loyal cavalier-cock, to his great danger and detriment) he may be made a captain of the guards.

I shall close my account of this collection of memorials with the copy of one petition at length, which I recommend to my reader as a very valuable piece.

'The Petition of E. H. Esq.'

'HUMBLY SHOWNETH,

'That your petitioner's father's brother's uncle, Colonel W. H. lost the third finger of his left-hand at Edgehill fight.

'That your petitioner, notwithstanding the smallness of his fortune (he being a younger brother), always kept hospitality, and drank confusion to the roundheads in half a score bumpers every Sunday in the year, as several honest gentlemen (whose names are under-written) are ready to testify.

'That your petitioner is remarkable in his country, for having dared to treat Sir P. P. a cursed requadrator, and three members of the assembly of

divines, with brawn and minced pies upon one year's day.

'That your said humble petitioner hath been five times imprisoned in five several courts, for having been a ringleader in five different riots, into which his zeal for the royal cause hath carried him, when men of greater estates had not the courage to rise.

'That he the said E. H. hath had six deaths, four-and-twenty boxing matches in defence of his majesty's title; and that he received such a blow upon the head at a bonfire in Stratford-upon-Avon, as he hath been never the better for from that time to this.

'That your petitioner hath been so far from improving his fortune, in the late damnable manner that he verily believes, and hath good reason to imagine, that if he had been master of an estate, he had infallibly been plundered and sequestered.

'Your petitioner, in consideration of his merits and sufferings, humbly requests that he may have the place of receiver of the taxes, collector of the customs, clerk of the peace, deputy-lieutenant, or whatsoever else he shall be thought qualified for. And your petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

Nº 630. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1740.

Proste linguis

HON. Od. l. 1. 3. vers.

With mute attention wait.

HAVING no spare time to write any thing of my own, or to correct what is sent me by others, I have thought fit to publish the following letters.

'SIR,

'Oxford, November 2

'If you would be so kind to me, as to suggest that satisfaction, which the learned world must receive in reading one of your speculations, by publishing this endeavour, you will very much oblige and improve one, who has the boldness to beg that he may be admitted into the number of your correspondents.

'I have often wondered to hear men of good sense and good-nature profess a dislike to music when at the same time they do not scruple to say that it has the most agreeable and improving influences over their minds: it seems to me an unaccountable contradiction, that those persons should have an indifference for an art which raises in them such a variety of sublime pleasures.

'However, though some few, by their own and the unreasonable prejudices of others, may be led into a distaste for those musical societies which are erected merely for entertainment, yet sure I am venture to say that no one can have the least reason for disaffection to that solemn kind of concert which consists of the praises of our Creator.

'You have, I presume, already perceived in this an argument upon this occasion, which some of us have successfully advanced upon a much greater stage: that musical sacrifice and adoration has claim a place in the laws and customs of the most distinguished nations, as the Grecians and Romans of the present, the Jews and Christians of the sacred world, as they all unanimously agree in this as they disagree in all other parts of their economy.

'I know there are not wanting some who are of opinion that the pompous kind of music which is used in foreign churches, is the most excellent, and most affects our senses. But I am swayed by an

augment to the modesty which is observed in the usual part of our devotions. Methinks there is something very laudable in the custom of a voluntary before the first lesson; by this we are supposed to be prepared for the admission of those divine truths which we are shortly to receive. We are not to cast all worldly regards from off our hearts, tumults within are then becalmed, and there could be nothing near the soul but peace and tranquillity. So that in this short office of praise a man is raised above himself, and is almost lost ready amidst the joys of futurity.

'I have heard some nice observers frequently commend the policy of our church in this particular, that it leads us on by such easy and regular methods that we are perfectly deceived into piety. When the spirits begin to languish, (as they too often) with a constant series of petitions she takes care to allow them a pious respite, and relieves them with the raptures of an anthem. Nor can I doubt that the sublimest poetry, softened in the most moving strains of music, can never fail of ennobling or exalting the soul to any pitch of devotion. Who can hear the terrors of the Lord of hosts described in the most expressive melody, without being awed into a veneration? Or who can hear the kind and endearing attributes of a merciful father, and not be softened into love towards him?

'As the rising and sinking of the passions, the soft or noble hints into the soul, is the natural privilege of music in general, so more particularly of that kind which is employed at the altar. Those impressions which it leaves upon the spirits are more deep and lasting, as the grounds upon which it receives its authority are founded more upon reason. It diffuses a calmness all around, it makes us drop all those vain or immodest thoughts which would be an hindrance to us in the performance of that great duty of thanksgiving*, which, as we are informed by our Almighty Benefactor, is the most acceptable return which he made for those infinite stores of blessings which he daily condescends to pour down upon his creatures. When we make use of this pathetic method of addressing ourselves to him, we can scarce contain our raptures! The heart is warmed with a sublimity of goodness! We are all piety and all love!

'How do the blessed spirits rejoice and wonder to behold unthinking man prostrating his soul to his great Sovereign in such a warmth of piety as they themselves might not be ashamed of!

'I shall close these reflections with a passage taken out of the third book of Milton's Paradise Lost, where those harmonious beings are thus nobly carried:

"Then crown'd again, their golden harps they took,
Harps ever tun'd, that, glittering by their side,
Like quivers hung, and with pæanlike sweet
Of charming symphony they introduce
The sacred song, and waken raptures high:
No one exempt, no voice but well could join
Melodious part—such concord is in heaven!"

'MR. SPECTATOR,

THE town cannot be unacquainted that in divers arts of it there are vociferous sets of men who are called Rattling Clubs; but what shocks me most is,

* The day before this paper was published, a proclamation was issued for a thanksgiving for King George's accession, to be observed January 29th.

they have now the front to invade the church, and institute those societies there, as a clan of them have in late times done, to such a degree of insolence as has given the partition where they reside in a church near one of the city gates, the denomination of the Rattling Pew. These gay fellows, from humble lay professions, set up for critics without any tincture of letters or reading, and have the vanity to think they can lay hold of something from the parson which may be formed into ridicule.

'It is needless to observe, that the gentlemen who every Sunday have the hard province of instructing these wretches in a way they are in no present disposition to take, have a fixed character for learning and eloquence, not to be tainted by the weak efforts of this contemptible part of their audiences. Whether the pulpit is taken by these gentlemen or any strangers their friends, the way of the club is this: if any sentiments are delivered too sublime for their conception; if any uncommon topic is entered on, or one in use new modified with the finest judgment and dexterity; or any controverted point be never so elegantly handled: in short, whatever surpasses the narrow limits of their theology, or is not suited to their taste, they are all immediately upon the watch, fixing their eyes upon each other with as much warmth as our gladiators of Hockley-in-the-Hole, and waiting like them for a bit; if one touches, all take fire, and their nodules instantly meet in the centre of the pew; then, as by beat of drum, with exact discipline, they rear up into a full length of stature, and with odd looks and gesticulations confer together in so loud and clamorous a manner, continued to the close of the discourse, and during the after-psalm, as is not to be silenced but by the bells. Nor does this suffice them, without aiming to propagate their noise through all the church, by signals given to the adjoining seats, where others designed for this fraternity are sometimes placed upon trial to receive them.

'The folly as well as rudeness of this practice is in nothing more conspicuous than this, that all that follows in the sermon is lost; for, whenever our sparks take alarm, they blaze out and grow so tumultuous that no after-explanation can avail, it being impossible for themselves or any near them to give an account thereof. If any thing really novel is advanced, how averse soever it may be to their way of thinking, to say nothing of duty, men of less levity than these would be led by a natural curiosity to hear the whole.

'Laughter, where things sacred are transacted, is far less pardonable than whining at a conventicle; the last has at least a semblance of grace, and where the affectation is unseen may possibly imprint wholesome lessons on the sincere; but the first has no excuse, breaking through all the rules of order and decency, and manifesting a remissness of mind in those important matters which require the strictest composure and steadiness of thought: a proof of the greatest folly in the world.

'I shall not here enter upon the veneration due to the sanctity of the place, the reverence owing the minister, or the respect that so great an assembly as a whole parish may justly claim. I shall only tell them, that, as the Spanish cobbler, to reclaim a profligate son, bid him have some regard to the dignity of his family, so they as gentlemen (for we citizens assume to be such one day in a week) are bound for the future to repent of, and abstain from, the gross abuses here mentioned, whereof they have

been guilty in contempt of heaven and earth, and contrary to the laws in this case made and provided.

' I am, sir,
' Your very humble servant,
' R. M.'

Nº 651. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1714.

Simplex munditiis

HOR. Od. v. l. 1. ver. 5.

Charms neat without the help of art.
CREECH.

I HAD occasion to go a few miles out of town, some days since, in a stage coach, where I had for my fellow travellers a dirty beau, and a pretty young quaker woman. Having no inclination to talk much at that time, I placed myself backward, with a design to survey them, and pick a speculation out of my two companions. Their different figures were sufficient of themselves to draw my attention. The gentleman was dressed in a suit, the ground whereof had been black, as I perceived from some few spaces that had escaped the powder, which was incorporated with the greatest part of his coat: his periwig, which cost no small sum*, was after so slovenly a manner cast over his shoulders, that it seemed not to have been combed since the year 1712; his linen, which was not much concealed, was daubed with plain Spanish from the chin to the lowest button; and the diamond upon his finger (which naturally dreaded the water) put me in mind how it sparkled amidst the rubbish of the mine where it was first discovered. On the other hand, the pretty quaker appeared in all the elegance of cleanliness. Not a speck was to be found upon her. A clear, clean, oval face, just edged about with little thin plaits of the purest cambric, received great advantages from the shade of her black hood; as did the whiteness of her arms from that sober-coloured stuff in which she had clothed herself. The plainness of her dress was very well suited to the simplicity of her phrases; all which, put together, though they could not give me a great opinion of her religion, they did of her innocence.

This adventure occasioned my throwing together a few hints upon cleanliness, which I shall consider as one of the half-virtues, as Aristotle calls them, and shall recommend it under the three following heads; as it is a mark of politeness; as it produces love; and as it bears analogy to purity of mind.

First, It is a mark of politeness. It is universally agreed upon, that no one, unadorned with this virtue, can go into company without giving a manifest offence. The easier or higher any one's fortune is, this duty rises proportionably. The different nations of the world are as much distinguished by their cleanliness as by their arts and sciences. The more any country is civilized, the more they consult this part of politeness. We need but compare our ideas of a female Hottentot and an English beauty to be satisfied of the truth of what hath been advanced.

In the next place, cleanliness may be said to be the foster-mother of love. Beauty indeed most commonly produces that passion in the mind, but cleanliness preserves it. An indifferent face and person, kept in perpetual neatness, hath won many

a heart from a pretty slattern. Age itself is unamiable, while it is preserved clean and allied: like a piece of metal constantly kept clean and bright; we look on it with more pleasure on a new vessel that is cankered with rust.

I might observe further, that as cleanliness renders us agreeable to others, so it makes us agreeable to ourselves: that it is an excellent preserver of health; and that several vices, destructive to mind and body, are inconsistent with the habit*. But these reflections I shall leave to the pleasure of my readers, and shall observe, in the next place, that it bears a great analogy with purity of mind, and naturally inspires refined sentiments and passions.

We find from experience, that through the prevalence of custom the most vicious actions are to their horror by being made familiar to us. On the contrary, those who live in the neighbourhood of good examples, fly from the first appearance of what is shocking. It fares with us much after the same manner as our ideas. Our senses, which are the inlets to all the images conveyed to the mind, can only transmit the impression of such things usually surround them. So that pure and virtuous thoughts are naturally suggested to the mind, those objects that perpetually encompass us, as they are beautiful and elegant in their kind.

In the east, where the warmth of the climate makes cleanliness more immediately necessary than in colder countries, it is made one part of religion: the Jewish law, and the Mahometan which in some things copies after it, is filled with bathings, purifications, and other rites of the same nature. Though there is the above-mentioned convenient reason to be assigned for these ceremonies, the chief intention undoubtedly was to typify outward purity and cleanliness of heart by those outward washings. We read several injunctions of this kind in the book of Deuteronomy, which confirm this truth; and which are but ill accounted for by saying as some do, that they were only instituted for convenience in the desert, which otherwise cannot have been habitable for so many years.

I shall conclude this essay with a story which I have somewhere read in an account of Mahomet's superstitions.

A dervise of great sanctity one morning had the misfortune, as he took up a crystal cup which was consecrated to the prophet, to let it fall upon the ground and dash it in pieces. His son coming some time after, he stretched out his hand to rebuke him, as his manner was every morning; but the youth going out stumbled over the threshold and broke his arm. As the old man wondered at these events a caravan passed by in its way from Mecca. The dervise approached it to beg a blessing; but as he stroked one of the holy camels, he received a kick from the beast that sorely bruised him. His sorrow and amazement increased upon him, as he recollected that, through hurry and inadvertence, he had that morning come abroad without washing his hands.

* The royal society, in 1776, adjudged Opley's note, that famous circumnavigator Captain Cook, for his neglect of his ship's crew in their voyage round the world. John Pringle, in his anniversary discourse when the note was given, had the following remarkable passage:

' It is well known, how much cleanliness conduces to health; but it is not so obvious, how much it also tends to good order and other virtues. That diligent effort is persuaded—that such men as he could labour to be so cleanly that they were disposed to be of themselves, more at the same time more sober, more orderly, and more attentive to their duty.'

* A fine wig in those days would often cost 40 guineas.

N° 632. MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1714.

— *Explebo numerum, reddarq; tenebris.*
VIRG. *Æn.* vi. ver. 545.

— the number I'll complete,
Then to obscurity well pleas'd retreat.

THE love of symmetry and order, which is natural to the mind of man, betrays him sometimes into very whimsical fancies. 'This noble principle,' says a French author, 'loves to amuse itself on the most trifling occasions. You may see a profound philosopher,' says he, 'walk for an hour together in his chamber, and industriously treading, at every step, upon every other board in the flooring. Every reader will recollect several instances of this nature without my assistance. I think it was regorio Leti, who had published as many books as he was years old *; which was a rule he had laid down and punctually observed to the year of his death. It was, perhaps, a thought of the like nature which determined Homer himself to divide each of his poems into as many books as there are letters in the Greek alphabet. Herodotus has in the same manner adapted his books to the number of the muses, for which reason many a learned man hath wished there had been more than nine of that sisterhood.

Several epic poets have religiously followed Virgil as to the number of his books; and even Milton is thought by many to have changed the number of his books from ten to twelve for no other reason; as Cowley tells us, it was his design, had he finished his *Davidis*, to have also imitated the *Eneid* in this particular. I believe every one will agree with me that a perfection of this nature hath no foundation in reason; and, with due respect to these great names, may be looked upon as something whimsical.

I mention these great examples in defence of my bookseller, who occasioned this eighth volume of the Spectator, because, as he said, he thought seven a very odd number. On the other side several grave reasons were urged on this important subject; as, in particular, that seven was the precise number of the wise men, and that the most beautiful constellation in the heavens was composed of seven stars. This he allowed to be true, but still insisted that seven was an odd number: suggesting at the same time, that if he were provided with a sufficient stock of leading papers, he should find friends ready enough to carry on the work. Having by this means got his vessel launched and set afloat, he hath committed the steering of it, from me to him, to such as he thought capable of conducting it.

The close of this volume, which the town may now expect in a little time, may possibly ascribe each sheet to its proper author †.

It were no hard task to continue this paper a

* This writer used to boast that he had been the author of a book and the father of a child for twenty years successively. We know that Dean Swift counted the number of steps that he made from London to Chelsea. And it is told and demonstrated in the "Parentalia," that Matthew (Bishop of Ely) walked round the earth while a prisoner in the Tower of London, where he lay near eighteen years.

† This promise seems to have been forgotten; so that as to most of the papers in this eighth volume, (having no signatures) no satisfactory account can be given of the persons by whom they were written.

considerable time longer by the help of large contributions sent from unknown hands.

I cannot give the town a better opinion of the Spectator's correspondents than by publishing the following letter, with a very fine copy of verses upon a subject perfectly new.

'MR. SPECTATOR, 'Dublin, Nov. 30, 1714.
'You lately recommended to your female readers the good old custom of their grandmothers, who used to lay out a great part of their time in needle work. I entirely agree with you in your sentiments, and think it would not be of less advantage to themselves and their posterity, than to the reputation of many of their good neighbours, if they passed many of those hours in this innocent entertainment which are lost at the tea-table. I would, however, humbly offer to your consideration the case of the poetical ladies; who, though they may be willing to take any advice given them by the Spectator, yet cannot so easily quit their pen and ink as you may imagine. Pray allow them, at least now and then, to indulge themselves in other amusements of fancy when they are tired with stooping to their tapestry. There is a very particular kind of work, which of late several ladies here in our kingdom are very fond of, which seems very well adapted to a poetical genius; it is the making of grottos. I know a lady who has a very beautiful one, composed by herself; nor is there one shell in it not stuck up by her own hands. I here send you a poem to the fair architect, which I would not offer to herself until I knew whether this method of a lady's passing her time were approved of by the British Spectator; which, with the poem, I submit to your censure, who am,

'Your constant reader,
'and humble servant,
'A. B.'

TO MRS. —, ON HER GROTTTO.

'A Grotto so complete, with such design,
What hands, Calypso, could have form'd but thine?
Each chequer'd pebble, and each shining shell,
So well proportion'd, and dispos'd so well,
Surprising lustre from thy thought receive,
Assuming beauties more than nature gave.
To her their various shapes and glossy hue,
Their curious symmetry they owe to you.
Not fam'd Amphion's lute, whose powerful call
Made willing stones dance to the Theban wall,
In more harmonious ranks could make them fall.
Not evening cloud a brighter arch can show,
Nor richer colours paint the heavenly bow.

'Where can unpolis'd nature boast a piece
In all her mossy cells exact as this?
At the gay party-colour'd scene we start,
For chance too regular, too rude for art.

'Charm'd with the sight, my ravish'd breast is fir'd
With hints like those which ancient bards inspir'd;
All the feign'd tales by superstition told,
All the bright train of fabled nymphs of old,
Th'enthusiastic Muse believes are true,
Thinks the spot sacred, and its genius you.
Lost in wild rapture would she fain disclose
How by degrees the pleasing wonder rose;
Industrious in a faithful verse to trace
The various beauties of the lovely place:
And while she keeps the glowing word in view,
Through every maze thy artful hand pursue.

'O, were I equal to the bold design,
Or could I boast such happy art as thine!
That could rude shells in such sweet order place,
Give common objects such uncommon grace!
Like them my well-chos'n words in every line,
As sweetly temper'd should as sweetly shine.
So just a fancy should my numbers warm,
Like the gay piece should the description charm,
Then with superior strength my voice I'd raise,
The echoing grotto should approve my lays,
Pleas'd to reflect the well-sung founder's praise.'

N° 633. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1714.

Omnia profecto cum se a caelestibus rebus refert ad humanas excelsius magnificentiusque et dicet et sentiet.
CICERO.

The contemplation of celestial things will make a man both speak and think more sublimely and magnificently when he descends to human affairs.

THE following discourse is printed as it came to my hands, without variation.

Cambridge, Dec. 11.

'It was a very common inquiry among the ancients, why the number of excellent orators, under all the encouragements the most flourishing states could give them, fell so far short of the number of those who excelled in all other sciences. A friend of mine used merrily to apply to this case an observation of Herodotus, who says, that the most useful animals are the most fruitful in their generation; whereas the species of those beasts that are fierce and mischievous to mankind are but scarcely continued. The historian instances in a hare, which always either breeds or brings forth; and a lioness, which brings forth but once, and then loses all power of conception. But leaving my friend to his mirth, I am of opinion that in these latter ages we have greater cause of complaint than the ancients had. And since that solemn festival is approaching *, which calls for all the power of oratory, and which affords as noble a subject for the pulpit as any revelation has taught us, the design of this paper shall be to show that our moderns have greater advantages towards true and solid eloquence than any which the celebrated speakers of antiquity enjoyed.

'The first great and substantial difference is, that their common-places, in which almost the whole force of amplification consists, were drawn from the profit or honesty of the action, as they regarded only this present state of duration. But Christianity, as it exalts morality to a greater perfection, as it brings the consideration of another life into the question, as it proposes rewards and punishments of a higher nature and a longer continuance, is more adapted to affect the minds of the audience, naturally inclined to pursue what it imagines its greatest interest and concern. If Pericles, as historians report, could shake the firmest resolutions of his hearers, and set the passions of all Greece in a ferment, when the present welfare of his country, or the fear of hostile invasions, was the subject; what may be expected from that orator who warns his audience against those evils which have no remedy, when once undergone, either from prudence or time? As much greater as the evils in a future state are than these at present, so much are the motives to persuasion under Christianity greater than those which mere moral considerations could supply us with. But what I now mention relates only to the power of moving the affections. There is another part of eloquence which is indeed its masterpiece; I mean the marvellous, or sublime. In this the Christian orator has the advantage beyond contradiction. Our ideas are so infinitely enlarged by revelation, the eye of reason has so wide a prospect into eternity, the notions of a Deity are so worthy and refined, and the accounts we have of a state of happiness or misery so clear and evident, that the contemplation of

* Christmas.

such objects will give our discourse a noble tone, an invincible force, beyond the power of any human consideration. Truly requires in his orator some skill in the nature of heavenly matters, because, says he, his mind will become more extensive and unconfined; and when he descends to treat of human affairs, he will both think and write in a more exalted and magnificent manner. For the same reason that excellent masters have recommended the study of those great and glorious mysteries which revelation has discovered to us; to which the noblest parts of this system of the world are as much inferior as the creature is less excellent than its Creator. The wisest and most knowing among the heathens had very few and imperfect notions of a future state. They indeed some uncertain hopes, either received by tradition, or gathered by reason, that the crimes of virtuous men would not be determined by separation of soul and body: but they either believed a future state of punishment and reward, upon the same account that Apelles painted Antigonus with one side only towards the specter, that the loss of his eye might not cast a blot upon the whole piece: so these represented the condition of man in its fairest view, and endeavoured to conceal what they thought was a deformity to human nature. I have often observed that whenever the above-mentioned orator in philosophical discourses is led by his argument to the mention of immortality, he seems like one awaked out of sleep; roused and alarmed with the dignity of the subject, he stretches his imagination to conceive something uncommon, and with the greatness of his thoughts, casts, as it were, a firm round the sentence. Uncertain and unsettled as he was, he seems fixed with the contemplation of it. And nothing but such a glorious prospect could have forced so great a lover of truth as he was to declare his resolution never to part with his promise of immortality, though it should be proved to be an erroneous one. But had he lived to see this: Christianity has brought to light, how would he have lavished out all the force of eloquence: those noblest contemplations which human nature is capable of, the resurrection and the judgment that follows it! How had his breast glowed with pleasure, when the whole compass of eternity is open and exposed to his view! How would his imagination have hurried him on in the pursuit of the mysteries of the incarnation! How would he have entered, with the force of lightning, into the affections of his hearers, and fixed their attention, in spite of all the opposition of corrupt nature, upon those glorious themes which his eloquence has painted in such lively and lasting colours!

'This advantage Christians have; and I was with no small pleasure I lately met with a fragment of Longinus, which is preserved, as a testimony of that critic's judgment, at the beginning of a manuscript of the New Testament in the Vatican library. After that author has numbered in the most celebrated orators among the Greeks, he says, "add to these Paul of Tarsus, the patron of an opinion not yet fully proved." As a candid impartial critic, he judges in favour of the promoter and preacher of it. To me it seems the latter part of his judgment adds great weight to his opinion of St. Paul's abilities, since, notwithstanding all the prejudice of opinions directly opposite, he is constrained to acknowledge the merit of the apostle. And no doubt such as Longinus describes St. Paul, such he appeared to the inhabitants of

in countries which he visited and blessed with his doctrines he was divinely commissioned to teach. Sacred story gives us, in one circumstance, convincing proof of his eloquence, when the men of Lystra called him Mercury, "because he was chief speaker," and would have paid divine worship to him, as to the God who invented and aided over eloquence. This one account of our title sets his character, considered as an orator only, above all the celebrated relations of the life and influence of Demosthenes and his contemporaries. Their power in speaking was admired and ravished the hearers, but still it was but the voice of man, not the voice of God. What advantage then had St. Paul above those of Greece or Rome? I confess I can ascribe this excellence to nothing but the power of the doctrines delivered, which may have still the same influence on his hearers; which have still the power, even preached by a skilful orator, to make us speak out in the same expressions as the disciples who met our Saviour in their way to Emmaus made use of; "Did not our hearts burn within us when talked to us by the way, and while he opened us the scriptures?" I may be thought bold in my judgment by some, but I must affirm that no orator has left us so visible marks and footsteps in his eloquence as our apostle. It may perhaps be wondered at that, in his reasonings upon idolatry at Athens, where eloquence was born and flourished, he confines himself to strict argument only; but my reader may remember what many authors of the best credit have assured us, that all attempts on the affections and strokes of oratory were expressly forbidden by the laws of that country in courts of judicature. His want of eloquence therefore here was the effect of his exact conformity to the laws; but his discourse on the resurrection to the Corinthians, his harangue before Agrippa upon his own conversion, and the necessity of it to others, are truly great, and may serve as full samples to those excellent rules for the sublime, which the best of critics has left us. The sum of this discourse is, that our clergy have no further look for an example of the perfection they may give at than to St. Paul's harangues; that when, under the want of several advantages of nature, as he himself tells us, was heard, admired, and made a standard to succeeding ages by the judgements of a different persuasion in religion; I trust our clergy may learn that, however instructive their sermons are, they are capable of receiving a great addition; which St. Paul has given them a noble example of, and the Christian religion has enriched them with certain means of attaining to.

[DR. FEARCE, afterwards Bp. of Rochester.]

Nº 634. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1714.

Ὁ ὀλιγίστων βούληται ὀλίγους θύειν.

SOCRATES, apud XEN.

The fewer our wants, the nearer we resemble the gods.

was the common boast of the heathen philosophers, that, by the efficacy of their several doctrines, they made human nature resemble the divine. How much mistaken soever they might be in several means they proposed for this end, it is at least owned that the design was great and glorious.

ous. The finest works of invention and imagination are of very little weight when put in the balance with what refines and exalts the rational mind. Longinus excuses Homer very handsomely, when he says the poet made his gods like men, that he might make his men appear like the gods. But it must be allowed that several of the ancient philosophers acted as Cicero wishes Homer had done: they endeavoured rather to make men like gods than gods like men.

According to this general maxim in philosophy, some of them have endeavoured to place men in such a state of pleasure, or indolence at least, as they vainly imagined the happiness of the Supreme Being to consist in. On the other hand, the most virtuous sect of philosophers have created a chimerical wise man, whom they made exempt from passions and pain, and thought it enough to pronounce him all-sufficient.

This last character, when divested of the glare of human philosophy that surrounds it, signifies no more than that a good and wise man should so arm himself with patience, as not to yield tamely to the violence of passion and pain; that he should learn so to suppress and contract his desires as to have few wants; and that he should cherish so many virtues in his soul as to have a perpetual source of pleasure in himself.

The Christian religion requires that, after having framed the best idea we are able of the divine nature, it should be our next care to conform ourselves to it as far as our imperfections will permit. I might mention several passages in the sacred writings on this head, to which I might add many maxims and wise sayings of moral authors among the Greeks and Romans.

I shall only instance a remarkable passage, to this purpose, out of Julian's *Cæsars* *. That emperor having represented all the Roman emperors, with Alexander the Great, as passing in review before the gods, and striving for the superiority, lets them all drop, excepting Alexander, Julius Cæsar, Augustus Cæsar, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, and Constantine. Each of these great heroes of antiquity lays in his claim for the upper place; and, in order to it, sets forth his actions after the most advantageous manner. But the gods, instead of being dazzled with the lustre of their actions, inquire by Mercury into the proper motive and governing principle that influenced them throughout the whole series of their lives and exploits. Alexander tells them that his aim was to conquer; Julius Cæsar, that his was to gain the highest post in his country; Augustus, to govern well; Trajan, that his was the same as that of Alexander, namely, to conquer. The question, at length, was put to Marcus Aurelius, who replied, with great modesty, that it had always been his care to imitate the gods. This conduct seems to have gained him the most votes and best place in the whole assembly. Marcus Aurelius, being afterwards asked to explain himself, declares, that, by imitating the gods, he endeavoured to imitate them in the use of his understanding and of all other faculties; and, in particular, that it was always his study to have as few wants as possible in himself, and to do all the good he could to others.

Among the many methods by which revealed religion has advanced morality, this is one, that it has given us a more just and perfect idea of that Being whom every reasonable creature ought to imitate. The young man, in a heathen comedy, might

* Spanheim, *Les Cæsars de L'Empereur Julien*, 4to. 1726.

justify his lewdness by the example of Jupiter; as, indeed, there was scarce any crime that might not be countenanced by those notions of the deity which prevailed among the common people in the heathen world. Revealed religion sets forth a proper object for imitation in that Being who is the pattern, as well as the source, of all spiritual perfection.

While we remain in this life we are subject to innumerable temptations, which, if listened to, will make us deviate from reason and goodness, the only things wherein we can imitate the Supreme Being. In the next life we meet with nothing to excite our inclinations that doth not deserve them. I shall therefore dismiss my reader with this maxim, viz. 'Our happiness in this world proceeds from the suppression of our desires, but in the next world from the gratification of them.'

[The Author uncertain.]

Nº 635. MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1714.

Sentio te sedem hominum ac domum contemplari; que et tibi parva (ut est) ita videtur, hæc cælestia semper spectato; illa humana contemnito.

CICERO Somn. Scip.

I perceive you contemplate the seat and habitation of men; which, if it appears as little to you as it really is, fix your eyes perpetually upon heavenly objects, and despise earthly.

THE following essay comes from the ingenious author of the letter upon Novelty, printed in a late Spectator*: the notions are drawn from the Platonic way of thinking; but, as they contribute to raise the mind, and may inspire noble sentiments of our own future grandeur and happiness, I think it well deserves to be presented to the public.

Is the universe be the creature of an intelligent mind, this mind could have no immediate regard to himself in producing it. He needed not to make trial of his omnipotence to be informed what effects were within its reach; the world, as existing in his eternal idea, was then as beautiful as now it is drawn forth into being; and in the immense abyss of his essence are contained far brighter scenes than will be ever set forth to view; it being impossible that the great Author of nature should bound his own power by giving existence to a system of creatures so perfect that he cannot improve upon it by any other exertions of his almighty will. Between finite and infinite there is an unmeasured interval not to be filled up in endless ages; for which reason the most excellent of all God's works must be equally short of what his power is able to produce as the most imperfect, and may be exceeded with the same ease.

This thought hath made some imagine (what it must be confessed is not impossible) that the unfathomed space, is ever teeming with new births the younger still inheriting a greater perfection than the elder. But, as this doth not fall within my present view, I shall content myself with taking notice, that the consideration now mentioned proves undeniably, that the ideal worlds in the Divine understanding yield a prospect incomparably more ample, various, and delightful, than

* Nº 626.

any created world can do: and that therefore it is not to be supposed that God should make a world merely of inanimate matter, however diversified or inhabited only by creatures of a higher order than brutes, so the end for which he creates his reasonable offspring is the contemplation of his works, the enjoyment of himself, and in that he happy; having, to this purpose, endowed with correspondent faculties and desires. He can have no greater pleasure from a bare review of his works than from the survey of his own idea; but we may be assured that he is well pleased in satisfaction derived to beings capable of it, as for whose entertainment he hath erected the immense theatre. Is not this more than an intimation of our immortality? Man, who, when considered as on his probation for a happy existence here, is the most remarkable instance of Divine wisdom, if we cut him off from all relation to eternity, the most wonderful and unaccountable creation in the whole creation. He hath capacities to lodge a much greater variety of knowledge than he will be ever master of, and an unsatisfied curiosity to tread the secret paths of nature and providence: but with this, his organs, in their present structure, are rather fitted to serve the necessity of a vile body, than to minister to his understanding; and, from the little spot to which he is chained, he can frame but wandering guesses concerning the innumerable worlds of light that encompass him, which, though in themselves of a prodigious extent, do but just glimmer in the remote spaces of the heavens; and when, with a great deal of toil and pains, he hath laboured a little way up the ascent of truth, and beholds with pity the growing multitude beneath, in a moment his feet slip, and he tumbles down headlong into the grave.

Thinking on this, I am obliged to believe: justice to the Creator of the world, that there is another state when man shall be better suited to contemplation, or rather have it in his power to remove from object to object, and from world to world; and be accommodated with some, or other helps, for making the quickest and most amazing discoveries. How doth such a genius as Sir Isaac Newton, from amidst the darkness that involves human understanding, break forth, as appear like one of another species! The vast machine we inhabit lies open to him; he seems unacquainted with the general laws that govern it; and while with the transport of a philosopher he beholds and admires the glorious work, is capable of paying at once a more devout and more rational homage to his Maker. But, how narrow is the prospect even of such a mind! And how obscure, to the compass that is taken by the ken of an angel, or of a soul that hath escaped from its imprisonment in the body! For my part, I freely indulge my soul in the consideration of its future grandeur; it pleases me to think that I, who know so small a portion of the works of the Creator, and with slow and painful steps creep up and down on the surface of this globe, shall at long shoot away with the swiftness of imagination, trace out the hidden springs of nature's operations, be able to keep pace with the heavenly bodies in the rapidity of their career, be a spectator of a long chain of events in the natural and artificial worlds, visit the several apartments of the creation, know how they are furnished and how inhabited, comprehend the order, and measure the magnitudes and distances of those orbs, that to us seem disposed without any regularity, and set all in the same circle; observe the

undance of the darts of each system, and (if our minds are big enough to grasp the theory) of the several systems upon one another, from whence results the harmony of the universe. In eternity a great deal may be done of this kind. I find it of use to cherish this generous ambition; for, besides the secret refreshment it diffuses through my soul, it engages me in an endeavour to improve my faculties, as well as to exercise them conformably to the rank I now hold among reasonable beings, and I hope I have of being once advanced to a morealted station.

The other, and the ultimate end of man, is the enjoyment of God, beyond which he cannot form a wish. Dim at the best are the conceptions we have of the Supreme Being, who, as it were, keeps his creatures in suspense, neither discovering nor hiding himself; by which means, the libertine hath a handle to dispute his existence, while the most ardent to speak him fair, but in their hearts prefer every trifling satisfaction to the favour of their Maker, and ridicule the good man for the singularity of his choice. Will there not a time come when the free-thinker shall see his impious schemes overturned, and be made a convert to the faith he hates? When deluded mortals shall be convinced of the folly of their pursuits; and the wise, who followed the guidance of Heaven, and, scorning the blandishments of sense, and the sordid bribery of the world, aspired to a celestial abode, shall stand possessed of their utmost wish in the vision of the Creator? Here the mind heaves a thought now and then towards him, and hath some transient glances of his presence: when in the instant it thinks itself to have the object hold, the object eludes its expectations, and falls back tired and baffled to the ground. Doubtless there is some more perfect way of con-

versing with heavenly beings. Are not spirits capable of mutual intelligence, unless immersed in bodies, or by their intervention? Must superior natures depend on inferior for the main privilege of sociable beings, that of conversing with, and knowing each other? What would they have done had matter never been created? I suppose, not have lived in eternal solitude. As incorporeal substances are of a nobler order, so be sure their manner of intercourse is answerably more expeditious and intimate. This method of communication we call intellectual vision, as somewhat analogous to the sense of seeing, which is the medium of our acquaintance with this visible world. And in some such way can God make himself the object of immediate intuition to the blessed; and as he can, it is not improbable that he will, always condescending, in the circumstances of doing it, to the weakness and proportion of finite minds. His works but faintly reflect the image of his perfections; it is a second-hand knowledge: to have a just idea of him it may be necessary to see him as he is. But what is that? It is something that never entered into the heart of man to conceive; yet what we can easily conceive, will be a fountain of unspeakable and everlasting rapture. All created glories will fade and die away in his presence. Perhaps it will be my happiness to compare the world with the fair exemplar of it in the Divine Mind; perhaps, to view the original plan of those wise designs that have been executing in a long succession of ages. Thus employed in finding out his works, and contemplating their Author, how shall I fall prostrate and adoring, my body swallowed up in the immensity of matter, my mind in the infinitude of his perfections!

[GROVE.]

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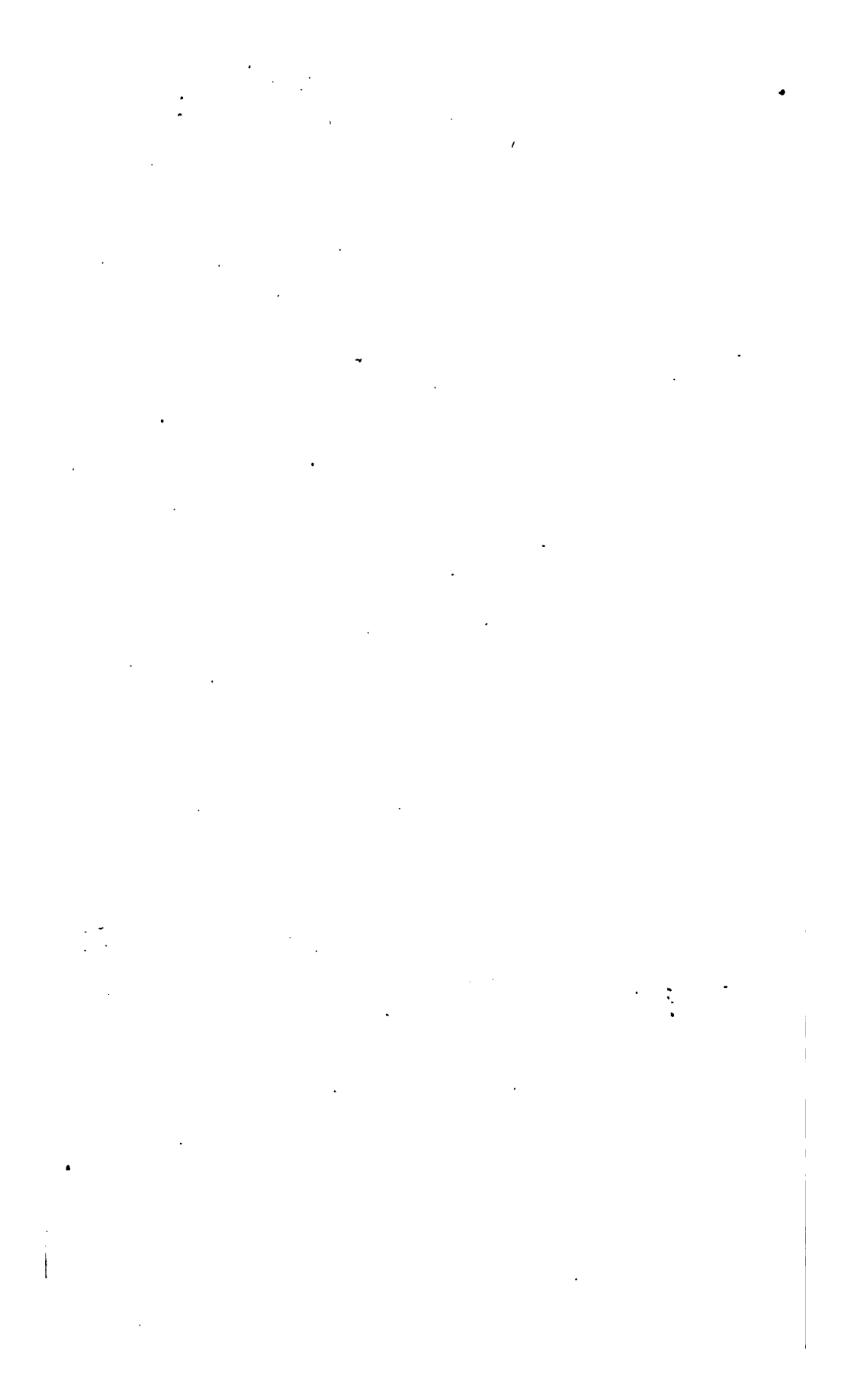
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